

FALL/WINTER 2014, ISSUE 14

APPI PLANNING

Alberta Professional Planners Institute

# Journal

## Retaining What Matters

- + **Parking Lots: Where Design is Failing Us**
- + **CIP Changes & Impacts on Affiliates**
- + **What's with the Food Truck Obsession?**

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The *APPI Planning Journal* Committee is anxious to hear your feedback. Please submit any comments you may have about this issue to [appi.journal@gmail.com](mailto:appi.journal@gmail.com). Your comments, suggestions and feedback are critical for the *Journal's* continued improvement and for us to provide the best possible publication that meets the expectations of our readers.

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## Journal Submissions

We are always looking for articles for future issues of the *Planning Journal*. Submit an article or idea at any time and a member of the *Journal* Committee will help you through the process of getting it published.

Potential subject areas we are interested in receiving article submissions on include:

- sustainability initiatives
- member accomplishments
- member research
- community development projects
- urban design
- student experiences
- innovative ideas
- planning successes

We are also interested in articles on any other topics that would be of value to the planning community. For more information, please contact the *APPI Planning Journal* Committee at [appi.journal@gmail.com](mailto:appi.journal@gmail.com) or 780-435-8716.

## Acknowledgements

The *APPI Planning Journal* Committee would like to acknowledge and thank the APPI Administrative Staff, MaryJane Alanko and Vicki Hackl. Your continued assistance is greatly appreciated!

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COVER IMAGE SOURCE: Leitch Collieries, Alberta Culture 2012





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SOURCE: Brookside Residential

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SOURCE: Ann Peters



SOURCE: Wikimedia Commons



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## Message from the President

September always feels like a time of renewal, a new year, and a new beginning. While I can attribute the feeling to my school years, it seems to hold true for the hustle and bustle around APPI's fall activities as well. In September our events committees had their new schedules in place, the conference committee put the final touches on our annual conference, plans for World Town Planning Day were underway, members were being trained for Discipline Committee work, and APPI Council was exploring budget considerations for 2015.

APPI Council met in Yellowknife for a planning social and our September meeting. Other planning socials and Council meetings are scheduled for locations across Alberta throughout this term including: Kananaskis, Lethbridge, Calgary and Edmonton; times and locations are available on our website. We will also be hosting a meet and greet with the University of Alberta and University of Calgary students. We hope to see you at the planning socials or the student meet and greets. If you have any items that you wish to have Council address on a future meeting agenda, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Fall is also a time of renewal at CIP. Over the summer, CIP members from across Canada voted on the Articles of Continuance, resulting in a very important change that was announced in Fredericton, New Brunswick, at the annual conference. CIP will now be known as the *Canadian Institute of Planning*, marking a philosophical shift in terms of the Institute's interests and goals. With this change in name, CIP will be

updating its bylaws, which will propose changes to governance and operations. Past President and APPI representative on CIP Council, Beth Saunders, provides an insightful article on the changes in this edition of the Journal.

With our annual conference recently behind us, the focus on the Lifecycle of a Planner also drew on a seasonal theme. Thanks to organizers and presenters the conference was insightful, educational, and entertaining. I look forward to the next edition of the Journal that will feature articles provided by the session presenters and will come out just as winter begins to settle in.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eleanor Mohammed". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'E' and 'M'.

Eleanor Mohammed, RPP, MCIP  
APPI President

# Message from the Journal Committee

Every fall the Journal Committee gets together for a strategy session that starts with looking back to see if we accomplished what we set out to do. We also take time to recognize other achievements, that came about fortuitously. Back in October 2013, we set out to achieve a number of things, among them producing one issue dedicated to the annual APPI conference, one issue with a theme, and one 'variety' issue. This is the issue of the Journal that lets us cross off the last item on our to-do list. It brings together several articles that we had squirrelled away, with a few that came about through the mother of invention. We think it's created an interesting and eclectic package – a reminder for us all that leaving room for spontaneity and happenstance can be a good plan.

APPI represents the most geographically dispersed group of planners in Canada. Although the 'A' stands for Alberta, our Institute thinks outside the box, and our members include planners living in the Northwest Territories and in Nunavut. Geography does not define nor confine us, and the interview with Harry Harker in this issue provides good evidence of this. Similarly, time sets no boundaries and this issue features a look at contemporary food trucks and makes a case for the contribution of heritage conservation to place making.

By the time you read this issue, the Journal Committee will be putting together the 2014 conference issue! Issue #15, with its focus on the learning and mentoring journey of a planner, will include contributions from planners of all ages and with a variety of planning interests. But then what?

Over the past 5 years (the first issue of the Journal came out in 2009) members of the committee have tried various ways of encouraging more APPI members to contribute articles. When we last did a survey of the membership in 2012, we also tried to find out what holds people back. The most common reason people cited for not

submitting articles is a lack of time. However, with the introduction of Continuous Professional Learning credits in 2013, one can now find that writing an article will be time well spent, both for the Author as well as for our readers. Once we know that you are interested in contributing an article, we assign one of our Journal Committee members to keep in touch with you (to keep the pressure on if that helps you!). We are flexible (if you can't commit to a deadline but you are willing to let us add your article to our reserves for future use in the Journal), and we can also suggest options for the type or style of article that best suits your style. If you find yourself ruminating on an idea over the winter months, or if you experience a spell of spontaneous inspiration in the spring, think about putting it in writing! To quote former APPI President Gary Buchanan from his introduction to our issue #1, "(the Journal) . . . relies on the voluntary development and contribution of worthy articles that raise awareness, stimulate the imagination and encourage 'pushing the envelope' in our practices". Why not think about how can you contribute to pushing our envelope?



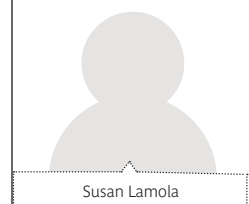
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# Ideas Exchange

## Innovation through a Design Co-opetition in Southeast Calgary

Perry + Associates  
SOURCE: Brookside Residential

### OVERVIEW

In the spirit of devising an Area Structure Plan (ASP) that is unique to Calgary and complements the location and character of the area, the Rangeview Landowners, consisting of Brookfield Residential, Danube Farming, Ollerenshaw Ranch Ltd. (Section 23), and the Trafford Family initiated a Design Co-opetition. The Co-opetition was aimed to produce, test and compare alternative urban design ideas and concepts through a process that worked to engage all key stakeholders. The Design Co-opetition was the unique engagement tool that created not only synergies with stakeholders but brought together the different owners as a united landowner group to engage in the possibilities of what could be designed on their lands.

*The Design Co-opetition was truly designed to be a friendly process that aspired to coalesce the preferred elements from each of the three plans that could then be further examined as part of the ASP process.*

### WHAT IS A DESIGN CO-OPETITION?

A Design Co-opetition can be best described as cooperative competition designed to bring about inventive and practical ideas. For Rangeview, the Design Co-opetition was unique because it encouraged the participants who analyzed three submissions to select their favoured ideas from each design, rather than evaluating each design individually. In essence it was an Ideas Exchange. The Design Co-opetition was truly designed to be a friendly process that aspired to coalesce the

preferred elements from each of the three plans that could then be further examined as part of the ASP process.

The Landowners wished to generate ideas from a range of stakeholders to ensure that Rangeview would maximize its connections to neighbouring amenities and honor the legacy of the land through creating a strong sense of place and timeless feel. CIVITAS, Design Workshop, and Perry + Associates, three internationally renowned design teams and their local partners, were invited to submit their ideas and concepts for the area that would inform an approach for developing a new type of community in Calgary's southeast quadrant.

### THE PROCESS

The Co-opetition provided the opportunity to engage stakeholders and the public early on in the planning process and allow their thoughts to help shape ideas for the area. Like many processes it was iterative in nature and the ever growing list of stakeholders and City staff support helped shape the end result of an Ideas Exchange.

The process was undertaken and completed within three months with the Open House occurring early in the fourth month.

The Design Brief provides the critical background on the project and familiarity with the City of Calgary policies and guidelines. The Brief set the stage for the sessions as well as the Open House that followed.

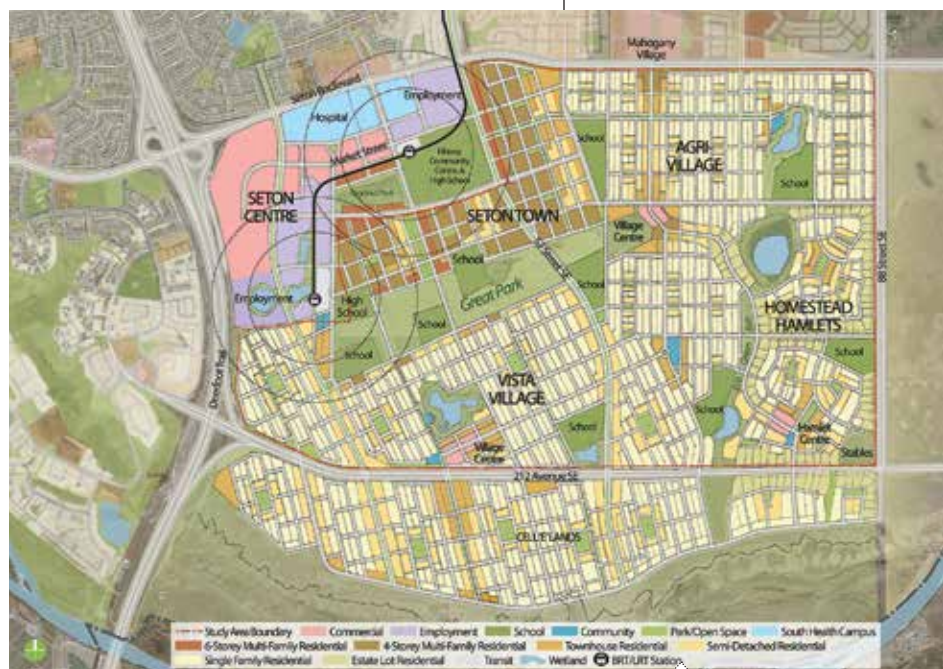
Session 1 and Session 2 presentations included a design rationale with key guiding principles, an overview of the design concept and an overview of specific ideas or areas within the concept. Through introducing the design concepts midway through the process, the participants were able to reflect and consider the key ideas over the period of time leading up to the third and final session.

Session 3, known as the Ideas Exchange included many key members of the land development and planning community in Alberta. The Landowners, project team, design teams, City staff, non-governmental organizations, local community associations, provincial authorities and many other stakeholders were invited to participate in the exchange of ideas after the design presentations by the firms. The ideas were exchanged through a facilitated question and answer period and also collected through the

Ideas Exchange Questionnaire at the end of the session. The one-on-one conversations between attendees of the Exchange displayed a high level of excitement around the design concepts and the design co-opetition process as a whole.

The final event of the design co-opetition was a public open house that was held in a neighbouring community. A mix of direct mail, neighbouring community websites and social media were used to promote the Open House and reach area residents. Ideas were displayed on presentation boards and representatives from each of the three firms were on hand to answer any questions that residents had about the planning, urban design and place making concepts that were generated from the Co-opetition.

*The ideas were exchanged through a facilitated question and answer period and also collected through the Ideas Exchange Questionnaire at the end of the session.*



Citivas Plan  
SOURCE: Brookside Residential



## THE PROCESS

### Design Brief

- Parameters of the Co-opetition including Community Principles
- Review of relevant market information
- City policy and direction to the 3 design teams

### Session 1

- Site tour of Rangeview and surrounding communities
- City staff presentations to align roles and responsibilities
- Design firm presentations providing an overview and initial thoughts and learnings to date

### Session 2

- Design team presentations to landowners and City staff
- Feedback loop through collaboration and idea sharing as concepts evolved

### Session 3

- Ideas Exchange
- Ideas were exchanged through presentations followed by a facilitated Q&A and questionnaire
- One-on-one conversations between attendees

### Public Open House

- Direct mail to area residents to invite additional input into the Ideas Exchange
- Held nearby to proposed development
- One-on-one exchange between design teams and the public occurred.

Design Workshop Plan  
SOURCE: Brookside



## SUMMARY

As the Design Co-opetition came to an end, it was clear that competitive, yet collaborative nature of the process resulted in truly innovative ideas for the Rangeview lands. A few of those ideas such as an adaptive grid and incorporation of open spaces can be seen woven into the ASP document and will likely undertake additional review at detailed design. The process also resulted in strengthened relationships and understanding between key stakeholders. ■

**Tara Steell** RPP, MCIP is a Development Manager, Planning with Brookfield Residential in Calgary. She holds a Master of Planning from Queen's University and an undergraduate degree in Management from the University of Lethbridge. Her role at Brookfield includes working with various approving authorities to bring on land for development and to be part of thoughtful planning for those who will live, work and play in Brookfield communities.

**Colton Nickel** is a Development Planner with Brookfield Residential in Calgary. He graduated this past June with his Master's degree in Planning from the University of Calgary and holds an undergraduate degree in Urban Studies. His personal passion is the planning and development of innovative and attractive communities that provide a high quality of life to their residents.

About the Author

*The process also resulted in strengthened relationships and understanding between key stakeholders.*



# Retaining What Matters

## Heritage Conservation & the Planning Profession

The planning profession in Alberta is a busy place to be. It is fast-paced; there are big decisions to be made and lots of them. We deal with a multitude of often competing interests, a stack of rules and regulations and some pretty tight timelines. Under this kind of pressure the 'hard' components of planning (i.e. servicing standards, densities, and levy rates) can take precedence over the 'soft' components (i.e. social well-being, place-making, and aesthetics). It can be tough to defend notions of cultural well-being and sense of place in the face of hard numbers and issues of public safety. But as planners we know that the hard and soft components are both required to make our communities successful places. Heritage conservation is one of those 'soft' elements of planning that can be an afterthought in the planning process but if it is considered too late the impacts can be irreversible. Fortunately there are some simple steps planners can take to ensure that a community's heritage is considered as a part of the planning and development review process.

### WHAT IS HERITAGE CONSERVATION?

Heritage conservation is essentially about protecting places that we value for their intrinsic link to our shared past. Historic resources include the buildings in our communities but also include landscapes, groups of buildings, entire districts,

Aboriginal traditional use sites and palaeontological and archaeological sites. Historic resources are inexplicably tied to the land and represent the natural and cultural history of a landscape that is valued for its ability to link Alberta's past with its present. Heritage conservation can be



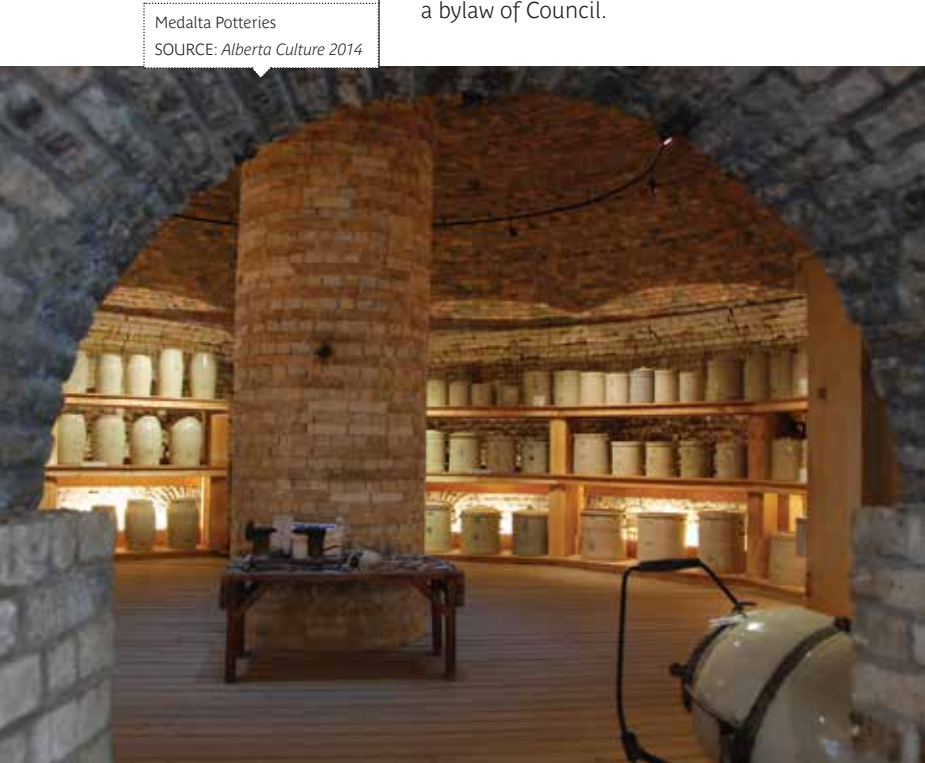
Leitch Collieries  
SOURCE: *Alberta Culture* 2012



Morley Mission  
SOURCE: *Alberta Culture* 2009



Archaeological excavation  
at Hardisty  
SOURCE: Alberta Culture 2011



Medalta Potteries  
SOURCE: Alberta Culture 2014

the foundation for job creation, place-making, community engagement, economic development and extension of building life. The benefits are immense, the costs are obvious. Once neglected, once forgotten, once demolished, a physical link to the past is lost forever.

This is not to say that just because something is old that it is worth protecting; heritage conservation is about identifying those places in a community that best communicate the past and then protecting them through heritage designation. A municipality should work with the public to identify and determine what the significant places are to them. This is known as 'values-based heritage management'. In Alberta, municipalities designate historic places that are of local significance through a bylaw of Council.

### HERITAGE PLANNING RESOURCES

There are two key areas in which heritage planning should occur. The first area involves long-range planning for heritage conservation. This includes identifying the historic resources in your community and putting the necessary policy, processes and programs in place to encourage designation of historic places. The second area is based on regulatory functions. A joint effort between the Government of Alberta and municipalities provides an application review process that ensures proposed developments will not have an undue negative impact on historic resources. Alberta Culture can provide assistance with both of these heritage planning areas. The Historic Places Stewardship Section (HPSS) of Alberta Culture has training and financial resources that can assist municipalities in establishing a heritage conservation program. The Municipal Heritage Partnership Program is specifically designed for municipalities to access the tools to get started ([www.mhpp.ab.ca](http://www.mhpp.ab.ca)). One-on-one training and matching grant funding can be provided to a municipality to undertake a heritage survey (determining what historic places are in the community), a heritage inventory (evaluating which sites are the most important ones) and a heritage management plan (figuring out the planning work such as policy development, processes, forms and bylaws, etc.). HPSS can also provide resources for provincially-designated historic sites and also administers the Alberta Main Street Program (for any municipalities that have a historic commercial main street, the latter program may be of interest to you, visit [www.albertamainstreet.org](http://www.albertamainstreet.org)).

The Land Use Planning Section of Alberta Culture deals with the regulatory process of the Government of Alberta. Alberta Culture, under the Historical Resources Act, has the legislated authority to determine if a development activity is likely to disturb historic resources, such as archaeological, palaeontological, historic structures or Aboriginal traditional use sites. If it is determined that there is the potential to impact historic resources then the Minister can require a developer to undertake studies to determine what impacts are expected to occur. Section 37(3) of the Act allows the Minister

*Historic resources are inexplicably tied to the land and represent the natural and cultural history of a landscape that is valued for its ability to link Alberta's past with its present.*



of Alberta Culture to require a municipality to withhold or suspend a licence, permit, consent or authorization until the Minister is satisfied that any required assessment has been carried out to the Minister's satisfaction. In order to be proactive about these situations, Land Use Planning recommends that municipalities consider including a requirement within their approval process whereby the developer must demonstrate that they have complied with the Act. For example, Alberta Culture has been working closely with the MD of Willow Creek to ensure a proper understanding of the Act and to find opportunities to share information that ensures efficiency within the approval process. Ensuring the integrity of historic resources before, during and after development allows future generations to continue to benefit from Alberta's rich past while realizing future potential.

*A municipality should work with the public to identify and determine what the significant places are to them.*



Magrath Canal Headworks  
SOURCE: Alberta Culture 2008



Calgary Memorial Park Library  
SOURCE: Alberta Culture 2006



Main Street, Olds, 1940  
SOURCE: Collection of Mountain View Museum and Archives



Main Street, Olds, 2009  
SOURCE: Carla Victor



### CASE STUDY – OLDS, ALBERTA

The Town of Olds has taken several actions over the past years to recognize their historic resources. In 2008, Olds began a partnership with Alberta Culture under the Municipal Historic Partnership Program to complete a survey, inventory and management plan. Olds surveyed 115 potential historic resources and evaluated 25 of these sites under an inventory project focusing on its downtown. The management plan identified policy and procedures for undertaking local designations. To date the Town has designated ten Municipal Historic Resources.

In 2011, Olds became an Accredited Alberta Main Street Community under the stewardship

of the Uptowne Olds Committee. Uptowne Olds focuses their efforts on attracting visitors and residents to the downtown, including hosting special events, undertaking streetscape beautification projects and creating opportunities for the historic fabric of Main Street to draw people to the core for shopping, business and residential purposes.

The combined efforts of municipal historic resource designation and the Main Street program are building a reputation for Olds as a place that values and celebrates its past while creating an active and vibrant downtown.



Alberta Wheat Pool grain elevator and bow slope stockyard  
SOURCE: Alberta Culture 2007

### WHAT CAN PLANNERS DO?

Since the responsibility for historic resources exists in separate legislation from the Municipal Government Act, many municipalities are not aware of the responsibilities and opportunities that heritage conservation presents. While the broader theme of a municipality's history and heritage can go well beyond the role of a planning department, the areas discussed in this article should typically be under the guidance of the municipal planning function.

In order to get started, consider the following steps:

- conduct a heritage survey to understand the historic resources in your community,
- build an inventory of the historic resources that would merit designation through a heritage inventory project,
- develop policy and processes for designating and managing historic resources in your community under a heritage management plan,
- develop an understanding of the regulatory requirements that exist under the Historical Resources Act for all developments within the Province and the role that municipalities play,
- throughout all these steps, engage the public, and
- it is also recommended that a committee of Council be established to assist in review of heritage applications and to advise on heritage matters.

To learn more about heritage conservation and the resources available to municipalities please contact the authors directly, visit the websites cited in this article and sign up to RETROactive, the official heritage blog for the province of Alberta, at <http://albertahistoricplaces.wordpress.com>. ■

*Ensuring the integrity of historic resources before, during and after development allows future generations to continue to benefit from Alberta's rich past while realizing future potential.*

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**Anna Curtis** is the Head of the Land Use Planning Section of the Historic Resources Management Branch of Alberta Culture. She can be reached at [anna.curtis@gov.ab.ca](mailto:anna.curtis@gov.ab.ca).

**Michelle Jorgensen** joined the Community Services Department of the Town of Olds as Heritage Advisor in 2013. A long-time resident of the Olds area, Michelle was Program Coordinator for the Mountain View Museum & Archives in Olds, prior to commencing her position with the Town. She can be reached at [mjorgensen@olds.ca](mailto:mjorgensen@olds.ca).

About the Authors



# Parking Lots

## Where design is failing us

SOURCE: iStockphoto

Ever since I became a mother, my perception of life in general has changed completely, and more specifically, my perception of space and urban design has been changed. A designer attempts to fulfill user needs by imagining their experience within a particular space. The challenge, however, is how to consider those perspectives of a space that may never have been experienced by that particular designer (e.g., a mobility-challenged person trying to maneuver across a city). This is without a doubt a difficult task, and probably a main reason why certain users are too often neglected in the design of spaces and even of cities themselves. Pedestrians are far too often one such neglected user within our cities.

Parking lots are one of those spaces that put pedestrians at a particular disadvantage since parking lots are specifically designed for vehicles. However, the fact is that every driver starts and finishes a trip from a parking lot as a pedestrian, therefore parking lots should also be designed with that pedestrian motion in mind. Another consideration is that as a mother, the interaction with space as a pedestrian is different. For instance, when walking alone it is easier to avoid barriers and obstacles, but with two kids and a stroller, that interaction changes completely.

As we leave the cozy environment of our vehicles and start walking in a parking lot, it often feels like one becomes a bowling pin waiting to be knocked over! The risk of this happening can unfortunately increase dramatically with kids. Finding a spot near an entrance to a destination is usually a stroke of luck, especially during the winter season. Typically, however, the only parking spots located close to entrances tend to be rightly designated for those with mobility challenges. This gives pause for thought - to a certain extent, parking lot design inadequacies can actually



incapacitate their very users and make them somehow weaker. By extension, based on numerous user experiences, many spaces in cities are indeed difficult to enjoy because they actually make us feel threatened and inadequate.

Out of the many types of spaces within the city, parking lots are a constant in Fort McMurray, Alberta where I live. Arguing against the need for parking is futile with the vehicle-dependent lifestyles that most of us have created for ourselves. Driving is a preferred option due to the potential for extremely cold winter season temperatures, the different travel patterns of most of the population, and the sad fact that public transit is not a very popular mobility choice.<sup>1</sup>

In an aerial image of Fort McMurray it is clear how the vehicle-dependent lifestyle affects the urban space and the use of land. It is unbelievable how the perspective changes by seeing Fort McMurray's urban core from above. In all directions surface lots occupy valuable pieces of land. Parking lots not only under-utilize valuable land but their actual design is completely inadequate for their users.

It is evident that the approach to urban parking design has to change in order to serve all users of the space and to actually justify the use of the valuable pieces of land that they are occupying. In an era of "carbon footprinting" it is unbelievable that parking lots are still designed in the same way, just maximizing the number of parking slots and ensuring ease of maintenance. The sin of our generation is that we settle for the same expansive, impervious, dull asphalt surfaces as we did 30 years ago.

Common shortfalls of parking lot design include:

- Circulation for pedestrians or vehicles is difficult mainly due to the lack of site design;
- Pedestrian and vehicular circulation is intermixed and the lack of clear pedestrian paths creates a safety concern;
- Grading is often inadequate, creating surfaces that flood after rains and become a slipping hazard in wintertime;
- Shelter from poor weather is non-existent, and
- Landscaped areas are insufficient in size and in design to support the growth of healthy trees and other vegetation.

Relatively simple design considerations can be used to create parking lots that are easier to navigate by pedestrians and vehicles alike. Basic



Fort McMurray Aerial Downtown  
SOURCE: Wikimedia Commons

*Driving is a preferred option due to the potential for extremely cold winter season temperatures, the different travel patterns of most of the population, and the sad fact that public transit is not a very popular mobility choice.*



Eco Parking  
SOURCE: Wikimedia Commons

site design with well-defined and barrier-free pedestrian paths is a starting point. Parking lots should be easily accessible by multiple-users (e.g., pedestrians, bicycles, personal vehicles, delivery vehicles, fire trucks, etc.) and by different means of transportation, by providing comfortable driving, walking and strolling conditions that actually focus on providing a service to the user. Spaces that serve their main purpose (e.g., parking a vehicle) but are also equipped to guide the user comfortably to the end of their journey should be at the heart of parking lot design.

#### FOOTNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo has been working towards a series of changes to increase transit ridership; most of these initiatives are still a work in progress. Ross, Myra. (2011). Sustainability in Motion – The greening of Wood Buffalo one bus at the time. Big Spirit Magazine. Issue 5. 8-13.

SOURCE: Wikimedia Commons



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Toronto City Planning. (2013). *Design Guidelines for 'Greening' Surface Parking Lots*. Toronto: Toronto City Planning.

Fort McMurray is evolving within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo with new urban policies and initiatives that will allow for parking lots to become an opportunity and actually create spaces that serve the public. The recently approved City Centre Land Use Bylaw is changing the way parking lots are designed, by including policies that guide the location of these spaces and include design guidelines that will actually help make them more pedestrian friendly.

Parking lots can become better spaces; spaces that are innovative and that can respond to changes in the urban form over time. Facilities like bus stops, drop off areas, park-n-rides, bicycle parking, electric car charging stations, among others, can actually be easily located in parking lots without sacrificing the parking lot's main purpose and at the same time make better use of the land.

Parking lots can be transformed into sustainable spaces! For instance:

- Storm water can be recycled to irrigate enhanced parking lot area landscaping which can be enjoyed while parking vehicles and/or walking to destinations;

- Solar panel canopies can provide energy to charge electric-vehicle batteries, and also help in providing pedestrian shelter from rain, sleet, and snow;
- Improved pavement design that uses recycled and potentially permeable materials.

It can easily be argued – why do all of this for a parking lot? It comes down to the under utilization of these spaces and the inhospitable urban realm that they create. It is time to treat parking lots as an integral part of the urban scape and design them as we design architecture and streets. The benefits for improved design are many - and will satisfy all stakeholders. But more importantly we have a civic responsibility to shape the future and actually envision what we want from our cities and our city spaces. ■

**Isela Contreras-Dogbe**, RPP, MCIP has a Bachelor's degree in Architecture and a Master's in Infrastructure Planning from the University of Stuttgart. She became a Registered Professional Planner from the Province of Alberta in 2012. She has been working as a Planner in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo since 2008.

About the Author

# CIP Realigns:

## A Proposal to Evolve into an Organization of Organizations

When the world changes around you, you have a choice: pretend its not happening; fight it; or step into the changing world and find your place. The Canadian Institute of Planning (CIP) and the Provincial and Territorial Institutes and Associations (PTIAs)<sup>1</sup> that regulate the planning profession across Canada have created an energizing partnership over the last several months to discern how all the organizations are evolving and the forms of relationship that will best serve professional planners and the national public interest.

Here is a metaphor I use to understand how things have changed. Over the last decade, the children, the 'affiliates' have matured. In most jurisdictions across Canada, the PTIAs have the responsibility to regulate the profession through provincial legislation. Through Planning for the Future and the establishment of the Professional Standards Board, we have learned that the PTIAs, in their various stages of development, are responsible for member certification and accreditation. They are standing on their own, working to coordinate their standards through the Professional Standards Committee.<sup>2</sup>

Where CIP used to spend a lot of energy on member certification and accreditation, it no longer has that role. It officially belongs with PTIAs.

In Alberta, for example, the roles and responsibilities of APPI are defined by the Government of Alberta, through the Professional and Occupational Associations and Registration Act, and the Alberta Professional Planner Regulation.<sup>3</sup>

APPI must:

1. Maintain a register of Registered Professional Planners and Candidate Members
2. Establish a Registration Committee that approves all applications to become a Registered Professional Planner or Candidate Members

*Where CIP used to spend a lot of energy on member certification and accreditation, it no longer has that role. It officially belongs with PTIAs.*

3. Establish a Practice Review Committee to look at educational standards and experience requirements for registration; assess and develop continuing education programs; evaluate standards of practice; and may conduct the review of the practice of a regulated member
4. Establish a Discipline Committee to respond to written complaints made against a Registered Professional Planner (in Alberta) or Candidate Member. This may result in cancellation of membership or suspension.

In addition to the above context, the new Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act requires CIP to submit new Articles of Continuance in 2014 and new bylaws by our Annual General Meeting on June 29, 2015 to meet new federal rules. With this context in mind, the PTIAs and CIP, including academic, student and Fellows' representatives,





SOURCE: iStockphoto

met in January, April and July of 2014 to explore the appropriate roles and responsibilities of CIP and figure out how we can best work together to serve professional planners across Canada and the national public interest. With an unprecedented level of engagement and partnership, CIP and the PTIAs reached the shared conclusion that CIP is about the future of the planning profession; PTIAs are about the planners.

Two things came about as a result of this shared understanding. First, elected representatives of Canada's planning professionals prepared CIPs Articles of Continuance for the wider membership's vote. This involved a 94% approval, of those who voted, of our name change from the Canadian Institute of Planners to the Canadian Institute of Planning, and an updated statement of purpose<sup>4</sup> that would allow either a new organizational structure or the status quo:

*"The primary function of the Canadian Institute of Planning is to promote and advance the value of planning in Canada. In addition, the Canadian Institute of Planning shall have the following purposes:*

- *To create awareness of the value of planning and the role of the professional planner in representing the public interest;*
- *To serve as a nation-wide forum for knowledge sharing about planning and related issues, in the broadest sense;*
- *To conduct research and advocating positions on planning issues of national significance;*
- *To serve as the voice of Canadian planning nationally and engaging internationally;*
- *To provide services and support to the Provincial and Territorial Institutes and Associations as needed and requested; and*
- *To make CIP's knowledge sharing services available to the broader planning community; and*
- *To accept any gift, endowment or bequest made to or for the institute, upon trust or otherwise."*

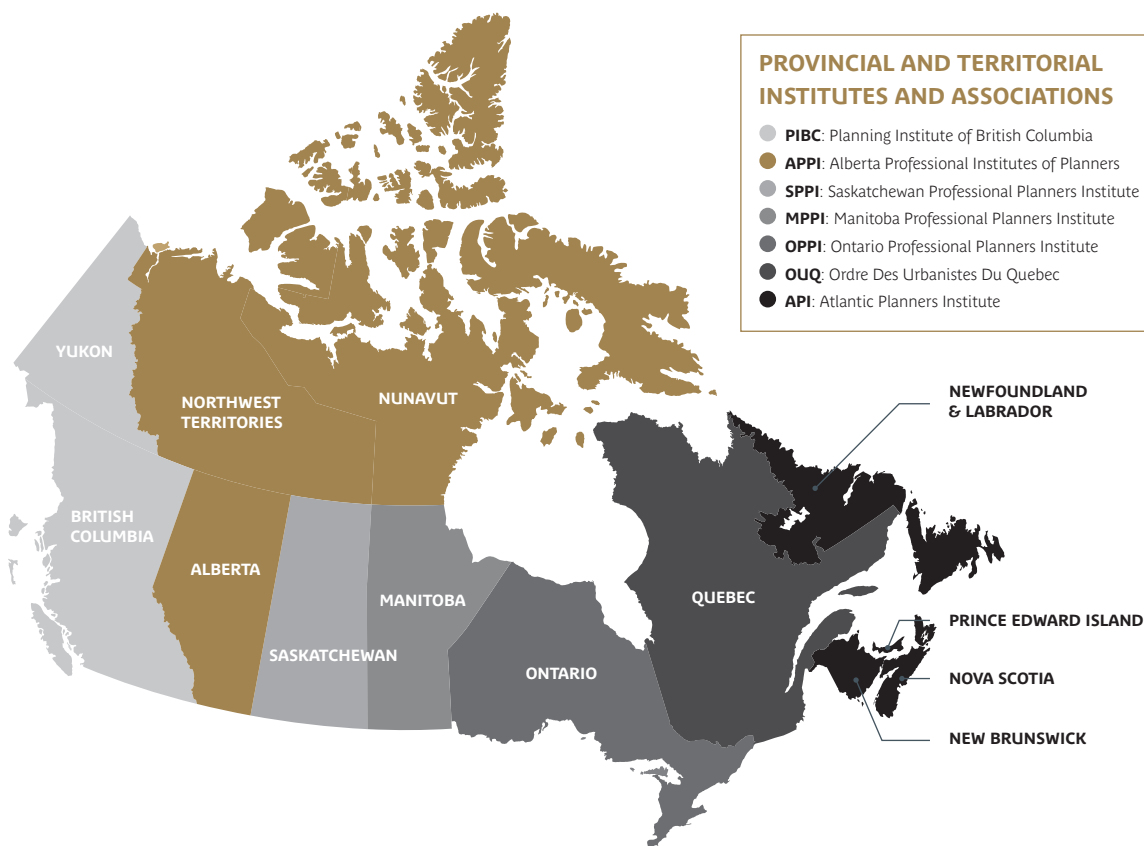
Second, as a result of the strengthened partnership between PTIAs and CIP, we have a governance proposal for you to consider and offer your feedback and ideas for improvement. Our intention is to make the partnership between CIP and the PTIAs explicit and effective; the intention of that is to better serve the planning profession and the national public interest. Tell us if we are on the mark.

Under the approved Articles of Continuance we can maintain the status quo form of CIP, yet we see a way to improve how we serve the national organization by forming an organization of organizations<sup>5</sup> that meets today's good governance practices. We are seeking feedback now, and you will be voting on this proposal or something different following the engagement process and CIP Council review in October.

Here are the highlights of the proposal:

1. Strengthen the national federation by making the roles and responsibilities of CIP and PTIAs clear on paper and in practice. We will do this by:
  - Establishing PTIAs as the voting 'member organizations' through which individual planners become professional planners
  - Increasing guidance to and accountability of CIP's Board of Directors on matters that affect the planning profession nationally, and the national public interest
2. Strengthen the focus of the Board of Directors by:
  - Establishing regular and timely turnover of board members, with cascading three year terms that begin and conclude with CIPs Annual General Meeting
  - Establishing competencies that are expected of board members
  - Selecting a President / Chair of the Board from among the Board of Directors, allowing the Board of Directors to choose an individual that is best able to serve their needs, and those of CIP, at that time
  - Establishing directors-at-large, allowing the Board to select additional Board members to complement their skills and capabilities to achieve its strategic objectives

The energy of our professional organizations has shifted from battling with each other, to working together to serve individual planners, the profession and the public interest. They are prepared to take on increased accountability between and among each other in unprecedented ways. Who PTIAs (and all the member planners) choose to send to the Board of CIP, and how PTIAs choose to participate as owners becomes much more serious. I see that they are prepared to take it on.



#### FOOTNOTES

- 1 As part of our evolving partnership, we have chosen to no longer use the word 'affiliate,' which denotes a superior-subordinate relationship.
- 2 The Professional Standards Committee is comprised of PTIA representatives to coordinate the establishment of common policy across Canada; the Professional Standards Boards, an organization jointly owned by PTIA and CIP, implements policy.
- 3 The Alberta Professional Planner Regulation - <https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/laws/regu/alta-reg-115-2010/latest/alta-reg-115-2010.html>
- 4 The Articles of Continuance have now been approved by Industry Canada.
- 5 For an example, look to Engineers Canada, an organization of the bodies that regulate the engineering profession across Canada. They are organized in similar fashion to the CIP Realigns proposal, with exception of our separate PSB function. <http://www.engineerscanada.ca/constituent-associations>

It is equally important to recognize in this changing context that we are at this juncture because of the foundational work of earlier generations. We are standing on the capable shoulders of colleagues who have put in decades of good work across Canada ensuring the conditions were in place for the healthy maturing of our Provincial and Territorial Institutes and Associations. The strength of CIP into the future is in these partnerships. Over the course of 2014 we have been working closely with each other to figure this out. Now that we know what we have to propose to you, we ask for your feedback.

Please visit CIP's website and review the material. Please engage in the opportunities to have a discussion with your colleagues and have your say. By the time this is published, a series of national town halls will have been held, events with CIP President Michael Gordon local events and conferences, and a series of local events hosted by PTIAs. If you have missed those, engage in online forums. And you are welcome to approach the three people who have worked most closely on this proposal on behalf of APPI with your comments or questions:

- Beth Sanders MCIP, RPP, (APPI representative to CIP)  
Phone: 780-886-0354 Email: [beth@populus.ca](mailto:beth@populus.ca)
- Eleanor Mohammed MCIP, RPP, (APPI President)  
P: 780-643-6507 E: [eleanor.mohammed@gov.ab.ca](mailto:eleanor.mohammed@gov.ab.ca)
- MaryJane Alanko, (APPI Executive Director)  
P: 780-435.8716 Toll Free: 888-286-8716  
E: [execdir@albertaplanners.com](mailto:execdir@albertaplanners.com)

**Links for more information:** For a more in-depth description of what is proposed: <http://cip-icu.ca/Files/Changes-at-CIP/CIP-Realigns.aspx>. Q and A on CIP's website: <http://cip-icu.ca/Who-We-Are/CIP-Realigns/Frequently-Asked-Questions> ■

As Past President of APPI, Ms. Sanders is APPI representative on CIP Council. For the last four and a half years she has been involved in national efforts to align provincial and territorial standards on member certification and accreditation, and more recently the tough work of working with CIP and PTIAs to figure out what the future holds. As she nears the end of her term on CIP council, she finds the emerging partnership among PTIAs and CIP long overdue and most welcome. Ms. Sanders is president of POPULUS Community Planning Inc., an Edmonton-based consultancy.

About the Author

# Book Review:

## Jan Gehl and Birgitte Svarre *How to Study Public Life* (Island Press, 2013)



SOURCE: Ann Peters

With the rise of social media tools and online platforms for public engagement, more and more of the interaction between planners and the public is taking place in the virtual realm. As such, Jan Gehl and Birgitte Svarre's *How to Study Public Life* serves as a timely reminder that direct observation remains essential to understanding what the public needs from their streets, parks and town squares. Watching how people use – or don't use – public space provides a different type of information than simply asking them what they want, and this book provides all the details required to design a public life study of any scale.

Like Gehl's previous works, colourful photographs and attractive layout make this volume an easy read. While it would certainly appeal to anyone with an interest in urban life, it is ideal for the planning professional. The authors use accessible language and plenty of examples to explain the tools of their trade. An alternative title for this book might have been, as one section is headed, 'Simple Tools Almost For Free.'

The first few chapters introduce the discipline and outline the basic questions that public life research seeks to answer, such as 'Who?' (who uses the space?), and 'How Long?' (time spent either in the space or passing through). The authors provide a brief explanation of eight specific techniques such as 'test walks' and 'keeping a diary.' Chapter Five shows the tools in action with research notes and accompanying photos for over a dozen small studies conducted by Gehl and others, from the 1960s to the present day. Chapter Six offers a more extended discussion of long-term studies such as

Gehl's work in Copenhagen (now over fifty years in the making) and recent efforts in Times Square and Melbourne.

The middle of the book contains a thorough historical overview of public life studies, from the mid-19th century until the present day. While Gehl may not have been the first to practice these techniques, the discipline did not begin in earnest until the 1960s with the publication of Jane Jacob's *The Life and Death of Great American Cities*. The historical summary puts public life studies into context and demonstrates how it complements other approaches to city planning.

One of the overarching themes in Gehl's writing is that people are invariably attracted by the activity of other people, and that the best way to understand human activity is to watch as it unfolds. Considering how popular his ideas have proven to be, it is surprising that Gehl is still one of only a handful of experts in this field. There is nothing complicated or costly about the methods Gehl has shown to be so effective, but public consultation remains far more common than public observation. *How to Study Public Life* shows us peoples' actions often speak louder than their words, and as such public life study remains a critically under utilized tool by our profession. ■

**Karin Kronstal** RPP, MCIP is a Planner in her hometown of the City of Yellowknife, where she enjoys all-weather active transportation.

About the Author





SOURCE: Imai Thomas Welch

Portland, Oregon, is often considered a mecca for studying and understanding trends in urban planning. Although in typical American city-building fashion, the city has an interstate highway surrounding its downtown. Canadian urban planners do not want to emulate the highway infrastructure of Portland, though they seem quite keen on promoting another phenomenon popularized there: The food truck.

I recognize that there are many types of food trucks, and some have been around for a long time – such as coffee trucks driving through industrial areas, or chip trucks parked alongside highways. This new phenomenon of urban food truck; however, is different. I am referring to the brightly coloured cube vans parked in busy places, often where there are already established restaurants.

Food trucks, once severely restricted by municipal bylaws, are finding sympathetic councils liberalizing rules across Alberta to woo them en masse. It seems some view each additional food truck as a notch in the belt of becoming an ultra-urban “live, work, and play” international destination. But does food from a truck taste better than from a proper kitchen? And does their presence add investment into a community?

In discussion with others, it seems that food trucks are appealing for the following reasons:

1. Support for local business/food producers,
2. Maneuverability,
3. The “cool” factor.

*In discussion with others, it seems that food trucks are appealing for the following reasons:*

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- 3. The “cool” factor.*



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*I predict that politicians will soon routinely pose for photo-ops in front of these trucks during elections, replacing the practice of pouring Tim Horton's coffee in front of the media.*

My take on these arguments are as follows:

1. No business shows more commitment to a neighbourhood than those who risk all to establish a traditional bricks and mortar restaurant. Restaurants are almost always run by community members, and food is often locally sourced – we don't need a truck to teach us about sustainability. Food trucks appear hyper-profit driven (spending so much time on marketing and lobbying) even though they, ironically, seem to cater towards the "socially conscious". If a food truck stops going into a struggling neighbourhood, they are further disinvesting in its future: when the going gets tough...





*Investment in a community should be encouraged by businesses, and other redevelopment will follow – creating livable spaces over the long-term.*

*Let's build communities to last.*

why they are considered 'cool', but they are. I predict that politicians will soon routinely pose for photo-ops in front of these trucks during elections, replacing the practice of pouring Tim Horton's coffee in front of the media.

Yes, Portland has introduced several innovative concepts to the rest of us urban planners such as city-sponsored mixed-use developments, new takes on transit, etcetera; however, not everything from Portland should be adopted without critical reflection. We know that we do not like the extensive American highway infrastructure, but I feel that the food truck craze should also hit the road, or at least they should not be preferentially treated by bylaw over traditional restaurants. Municipal councils across Alberta should ratchet up the restrictions on these trucks in favour of those who want to put an actual steak in the community (pun intended). Investment in a community should be encouraged by businesses, and other redevelopment will follow – creating livable spaces over the long-term. Let's build communities to last.

Postscript: Okay, I was trying to be provocative, but it leads to the question: What is the 'value added' found within food trucks? Why are they considered 'cool'? If we can isolate that, perhaps we could apply these principles to other infrastructure. The food truck provides an eerie obsession worthy of further study. ■

2. Why is maneuverability of food a good thing? If food trucks congregate at a local festival, and they intercept us before we can walk to a traditional restaurant, who is winning in this situation? They also often obstruct sidewalks with their customers, and they consume several parking spaces (including for their humming diesel generators) at the busiest-of-busy times.
3. People tend to point to the general 'cool factor' of food trucks. In my opinion they are not cool. I do not like that there are no washrooms for customers (or for the food handlers), and I feel that they are typically overpriced (shouldn't a truck that doesn't pay property taxes pass the savings to the customers?). I can't explain

**Jon Dziadyk**, RPP, MCIP has been an Alberta professional planner for eight years, prior to which he extensively travelled. He is also the author of the eBook novel *Murder By Pizza* where he provides further commentary on the importance of local restaurants to build community identity. The novel is available at [www.murderbypizza.com](http://www.murderbypizza.com), and he can be reached at [jon.dziadyk@gmail.com](mailto:jon.dziadyk@gmail.com) for discussion.

About the Author



# Fellow Chat:

## Harker Chats with Parker

Harry Harker, FCIP was inducted as a Fellow of the Institute at the 2014 Annual Conference in Fredericton, N.B.. He recently sat down to talk to Richard Parker RPP, FCIP.

### ***What led you into planning?***

I got into planning in an unusual way. I spent two and a half years with the US Corps of Engineers and wound up dredging harbours in the middle of the crab moulting season. We were using a huge vacuum – sucking up the bottom of the ocean – it killed millions of crabs. Looking at the environmental destruction and lack of care started me thinking that there has to be a better way.

### ***Is that what led you to the University of Alaska?***

I went to the University of Alaska on a recommendation about their environmental engineering program. The first course I took was about community planning and was taught by the only certified planner in the State. I was fascinated - hooked by that first course. When I finished the Masters in Environmental Engineering, my first job was writing environmental impact statements, something new in 1972.

*During this process, my relationship with the Vice President of the Brotherhood shifted my thinking. He talked about the need to do planning in their villages.*

### ***Then you went to the University of Waterloo.***

My intent was to get a PhD in regional planning and start teaching. Working on my dissertation, I spent time in the Yukon, working with First Nations, where I experienced true consensus decision making. The decision making process started with elders, who passed information down to everyone, including the children. Only then was consultation considered complete. Having decisions handed

SOURCE: Harry Harker



down from elected people was foreign to them. During this process, my relationship with the Vice President of the Brotherhood shifted my thinking. He talked about the need to do planning in their villages. This led to me being hired to develop a peer led planning program. We hired some junior planners and First Nations people in training positions. The plan was that over time, the non-natives would step away and leave First Nations planners.

After that, I gave up on an academic career and moved to the Regional District in Cranbrook, BC, from there to land development, then Stanley Associates, and from consulting to Executive Director at the Cariboo College Foundation.

#### ***Planner to Fundraiser, how did that happen?***

When I moved to work in Kamloops in 1980, I got recruited as a volunteer on a sports task force. I raised funds for sports scholarships then turned a hilltop into a sport facility for the Canada Summer Games at no cost to the College. It wasn't land use planning, but I applied good planning principles, came up with a plan, had goals and objectives, broke it down, trained people, and by following planning principles, got to the desired outcome.

#### ***You also seem to have a habit of starting on one job and having it morph into something else.***

It's about shaping a career. Some people look at the job description and think that's what they are supposed to do. I've always thought of a job description as a starting point, and then I ask, what more can I do? This has led me to go sideways and tangentially. It's part of my nature to look for opportunities. As you get skilled, tasks don't take up as much time and you can do more.

#### ***What did you learn when you made the switch from planner to administrator— going from Red Deer County to High River.***

It was an interesting learning process. I had to learn that I was not in planning anymore. I had to limit myself and empower the planners. The next thing I learned was about maintaining a positive relationship with elected officials. Having a relationship helps build the trust you need in order to get your point across. I had to be careful not to get politicians too far into the staff role, but give staff a chance to communicate with politicians in a meaningful way outside of the Council setting.

The third thing I learned was to pick my battles. Professional ethics and standards made me want to charge every hill, but I had to become more strategic - I had to balance the goals of half dozen department heads, keep their staff interested, and work towards making gradual progress.

#### ***Looking into the future, what do you think are the challenges planners face?***

We can talk about what is causing greenhouse gases and lifestyle changes all we want, but the fact is that the planet is changing – and planners are (or should be) at the front line in responding. I'm concerned with how little training we provide on natural systems in planning training programs. Many of our peers don't have a solid understanding of the natural environment but we have to start thinking about it even more now. The other thing that concerns me is that we have very little understanding of fiscal sustainability. There's some great development happening, but what's the cost downstream of maintaining all of the development infrastructure from a tax perspective - Do we have the ability to maintain these very expensive systems?

*There's some great development happening, but what's the cost downstream of maintaining all of the development infrastructure from a tax perspective - Do we have the ability to maintain these very expensive systems?*



SOURCE: Harry Harker

*My feeling is that true engagement requires Council to see everything everyone has contributed. We've got so many ways of having a really positive discussion about the future with so many tools for public engagement now - social media, charrettes - the time has come for us to grow up.*

***If you could change one thing in the Alberta MGA, what would it be and why?***

Rip out the requirement for a public hearing. That's a 1950's approach. We need a public engagement protocol adopted by councils, to suit different communities and situations. As you get into more development and more population, a public hearing is not true public engagement. Way too often planners do informal public engagement because it's good planning, then at an official public hearing you get 25 NIMBY's that control the decisions of Council. We end up with the negative controlling the meeting. My feeling is that true engagement requires Council to see everything everyone has contributed. We've got so many ways of having a really positive discussion about the future with so many tools for public engagement now - social media, charrettes - the time has come for us to grow up.

***Interesting, if you think about what you just described, it's similar to what you experienced in the Yukon – what you learned from the First Nations there.***

You're right, it's that learning back in '76 to '78 that has unconsciously created my interest in where public engagement needs to go. That process produced good answers. ■

**Richard Parker** RPP, FCIP has over 40 years of planning experience in Canada and the United Kingdom. He was elected as a Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Planners in 2002

About the Author



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# In Memory of:

## Denis Cole FCIP, 1919 – 2014

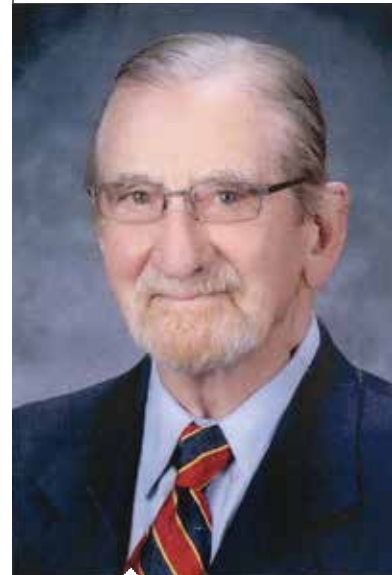
Denis Cole, a Fellow of the Institute since 1994, passed away in Calgary on June 5th, 2014 at the age of 94. Denis was a distinguished Planner and Municipal Administrator, being one of the founding members of what is now APPI in 1962, serving as President of the Institute of Public Administration of Canada in 1979/80, and receiving that organization's Vanier Medal for "Outstanding Contribution to Public Administration" in 1987.

Growing up in England and serving with the Palestine Police during the Second World War, Denis Cole's career in Canada was focused in Alberta where he served in many important roles for over forty years. Starting in 1953, as Director of the fledgling Red Deer Regional Planning Commission, he saw it grow from four to thirty members, before becoming the City of Red Deer's Commissioner for eight years. Denis was instrumental in establishing Red Deer's municipal land bank, which has contributed significantly to the land use fabric of Red Deer and continues to this day. In 1971, Denis moved to Calgary as the Commissioner for Community Development. He became that City's Chief Commissioner in 1973 – a role he served in through the tumultuous oil boom of the late 1970's and early 1980's. Upon retiring from the City in 1981, he continued to serve in planning as a member of the prestigious Alberta Planning Board and as a private consultant and guest lecturer at universities.

Denis Cole was a very principled man who believed public service was a privilege and not just a job. A man of immense integrity, he was respected not only by his staff whom he encouraged and protected professionally, but also by many of the politicians' he worked with stemming from his all-encompassing approach to providing decision makers with the tools and information to make the right decisions. Denis had the ability to provide a framework for positive

political decisions on any issue by impartially identifying realistic options along with a reasoned series of arguments as to the possible implications of choosing one strategy over another.

Denis engendered trust with all those he dealt with through his personality, respect for all viewpoints, and the careful consideration he gave to an issue before responding. When dealing with a contentious issue he always considered the longer term and shorter term impacts of a decision - seven years as well as seven days. This consideration of longer term issues once led to a developer declaring "I would gladly give him an airline ticket anywhere in the world – as long as it was a one way ticket".



SOURCE: Susan Lawson

*Throughout his life Denis was always interested in what was happening both in the city he lived in and the rest of the world.*

Throughout his life Denis was always interested in what was happening both in the city he lived in and the rest of the world. An avid reader, the book by his bedside when he passed away was "*The Next One Hundred Years*" by George Friedman. With Denis's love of life he surely would have enjoyed being around to see if Mr. Friedman's predictions came true. ■

# Working for The City of Calgary works for me because



*"I take pride in working for an organization that is dedicated to helping Calgarians every day."*

**Sarah Hbelchi**

Planner 2, City Wide Policy and Integration



*"I am continuously learning more about the planning profession and I'm able to grow as a planner in a supportive culture."*

**Jamal Ramjohn**

Senior Planner, Local Area Planning and Implementation



*"It offers me a creative, exciting work environment, diverse career opportunities and excellent work-life balance."*

**Lynn McKeown**

Technical Lead Planner, Inspections and Permit Services

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PUBLICATION AGREEMENT NUMBER 41795020

