THE COMMUNICATOR

Alberta Development Officers Association (ADOA) November 2017

In This Issue

- News Update
- Select MGA Amendments Proclaimed
- Spotlight on: 2017 Conference Planning Committee
- Reminders

Winter Issue

2017 Conference Overview

Connect, Communicate, and Collaborate

Location: Westlock
Dates: September 26 – 29

This year's conference had a very high attendance of 138 total registered attendees.

Photo by Katherine Currie: Full house at the conference

We have also received 76 completed survey questionnaires back, which will assist with planning next year's conference.

The conference raised a total of $1,382 from silent auction, which has been donated to Westlock and District Food Bank.

Big thanks to Town of Westlock, Westlock County, Town of Barrhead, and Barrhead County for organizing the conference this year!

Photo by Westlock News: Donation to Westlock and District Food Bank on behalf of ADOA

News Update

We want your recipes!

We are looking for delicious recipes from our members to be featured in our upcoming ADOA recipe book.

Please send us your favourite recipes at admin@adoa.net
Photo submissions are encouraged but optional!

This recipes book will be sold on memory sticks.

Photo by Feinan Long: Easy low sugar blueberry syrup

Find ADOA at…

Modular Housing Association of Prairie Provinces (MHAPP)

ADOA president Terry Topolnitsky has served as a guest judge for this year's MHAPP competition for modular housing design. The awards ceremony will be held at Fantasy Hotel, West Edmonton Mall, on November 23.

Launch of Masters in Urban and Regional Planning program at U of A

This new and exciting program launched in the fall of 2017. The launch was celebrated at Shaw Conference Centre on November 9. ADOA had a guest presence at the ceremony. For more info on the program, please go to the program website.

ALUP program advisory committee meeting

The ADOA president also serves on the Advisory Committee for U of A's Applied Land Use Planning certificate program. The next advisory committee meeting is December 7. For more info on ALUP, please go to the program website.

GRANT INFORMATION:

If you are an ADOA member and looking for assistance in pursuing further education related to your employment and positions as Development Officers, please check out our Grant Application Form to see if you qualify. **Annual application Deadline is August 31, 2018**

Select MGA Amendments Proclaimed

Excerpts from Brownlee LLP's News Bulletin dated Nov 13, 2017

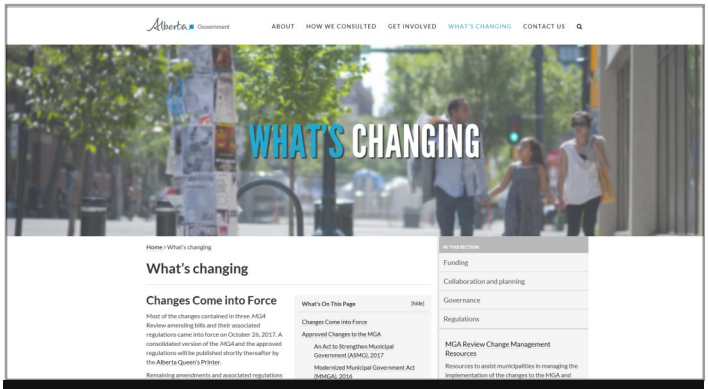
*(Full bulletin can be found on Brownlee's website **here.**)*

On October 26, 2017, the Province approved three Orders in Council, proclaiming the majority of the amendments to the *Municipal Government Act* into force either as of October 26, 2017, January 1, 2018 or April 1, 2018. These amendments are passed through the following three new Acts:

- *Municipal Government Amendment Act*, SA 2015 c 8 (previously Bill 20);
- *Modernized Municipal Government Act*, SA 2016 c 24 (previously Bill 21); and
- *An Act to Strengthen Municipal Government*, SA 2017 c 13 (previously Bill 8)

Some of the notable changes include those made to:

Municipal Purpose
Councillor Code of Conduct
Public Participation
Advertising
Off-site Levies
Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks (ICPs)
Conservation Reserves
Stop Orders and Development Permit Appeals
Development Permit Applications
Hierarchy of Plans
...amongst many others.



Complete MGA changes can be found on https://mgareview.alberta.ca/whats-changing/

In particular, changes have been made to development permit applications, specifically on how to deem it complete (Section 683.1):

- A development authority must within 20 days after receipt of an application for a development permit determine whether the application is complete. This time period may be extended by an agreement in writing between the applicant and development authority, or in accordance with the municipality's land use bylaw.
- If no decision is made within 20 days or within some other time period agreed to, the application is deemed to be complete.
- If the development authority determines that the application is complete, the development authority must issue an acknowledgment that the application is complete.
- If the development authority determines that the application is incomplete, the development authority must issue a notice that the application is incomplete and that any outstanding documents and information referred to in the notice must be submitted by a date set out in the notice or a later date agreed upon in order for the application to be considered complete. If the information is not submitted on or before the set date, the application is deemed refused. In this case, the development authority must issue a notice that the application has been refused and the reason for refusal.
- The 40 day time period during which a development authority must make a decision on the application for a development permit starts from the date of receipt by the applicant of an acknowledgement of completeness issued in accordance with section 683.1 or in accordance with the municipality's land use bylaw.

These amendments to the MGA are significant, and are most likely to affect the regular operations and practices of municipalities.

For a complete list of MGA changes, please go to Alberta government's website here.
Brownlee's Municipal Team members are available for assistance—more info can be found here.

Spotlight on…. 2017 CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The 2017 ADOA conference was held in Town of Westlock from Sept 26 to 29.

The core conference planning committee consisted of wonderful volunteers from Town of Westlock, Westlock County, Barrhead County and Town of Barrhead.

The core planning committee met up 10 times since late 2016 leading up to this year's conference.

Here are some of the good, the challenges, and lessons learned from coordinating a large professional conference:

Q. WHAT WERE SOME OF THE BEST MOMENTS?

It was great getting to know your neighbouring municipalities!
Each planning meeting was held in different municipality in rotation, so you also got to visit their offices and check out their lay of the land.
There were surprisingly a lot of discussion regarding planning and development issues.
Conference planning involved a lot of discussion on which topics and speakers would be put on the conference schedule. It was important to us that we picked topics that were appealing to the general ADOA membership, which meant both urban and rural issues.
Usually brainstorming and choosing topics led to our own discussions on relevant planning and development issues within our municipalities.

Q. WHAT WERE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES?

Coordination was tricky at times.
We worked really well together considering there were 6 core planning committee members across 4 municipalities. However with any planning of large multi-day events, coordination became tricky at times. Ongoing communication is key, but keeping in mind this conference planning was on top of everyone's regular day jobs!
We had an amazingly organized person within the committee who prepared detailed task list at every meeting, which really kept everyone in loop as to what to do and who was going to do them.

Q. ANY LESSONS LEARNED FOR FUTURE CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEES?

Keeping the core committee at around 6 people was the perfect size.
Any more core planning people would have led to trickiness in coordination and management.
There can be definitely more people to assist with various tasks, but the core team should probably be within the range of 4 to 6 people for manageability's sake.

Thank you for organizing a successful conference and best of luck to the new conference committee… next year's conference will be held in Wetaskiwin!

Reminders

ADOA Forum - Subscribe & Connect

Our ADOA Forum is a great tool to get feedback and assistance from your peers on professional planning and development matters. If you would like to gain access or need directions on how to subscribe, please contact Diane Burtnick or check out the instructions from the May 2016 Communicator. This is a Members only forum. To join the conversation follow the above links.

Contributions Wanted

- Topics of concern?
- Have an original article you'd like to have published?

Please make a submission at admin@adoa.net

Recommended Reading

Small is Big: Making the Next Great Small to Mid-Size Downtowns

By: Michael A. von Housen
Published by VIU Press, BC

Small Is Big looks to the future and sees enormous potential in small to mid-size downtowns. This book provides the tools to both develop and implement an action plan for change, and will give you the framework to create a complete and resilient downtown that invites the new economy.

MICHAEL VON HAUSEN is one of the leading urban designers and planners in Canada. He is the president of MVH Urban Planning & Design Inc. and is also an adjunct professor at Simon Fraser University and Vancouver Island University. He is a fellow of the Canadian Institute of Planners and a graduate of Harvard University with a master's in urban design and specialty in real estate development economics. For more about Michael, visit mvhinc.com.

2017- 2018 Board of Directors

Board Member	Role	Municipality	Contact
Terry Topolnitsky	President Education Chair Bylaw and Policy (Co-Chair)	Town of Blackfalds	**terry@blackfalds.com** (403) 885-6237
Jordan Ruegg	Vice President Membership (Co-Chair)	Smoky Lake County	**jruegg@smokylakecounty.ab.ca** (780) 656-3730
Cheryl Callihoo	Past President Bylaw and Policy Chair	Town of Barrhead	**ccallihoo@barrhead.ca** (780) 674-3301
Berni Kuntz	Secretary	Brazeau County	**bkuntz@brazeau.ab.ca** (780) 542-2667
Diane Cloutier	Treasurer Chair Conference Committee Liaison	Lac La Biche County	**diane.cloutier@laclabichecounty.com** (780) 623-6732
Feinan Long	Communications Chair	Parkland County	**flong@parklandcounty.com** (780) 968-8888
Simone Wiley	Communication (Co-Chair)	Town of Westlock	**swiley@westlock.ca** (780) 350-2111
Roger Garnett	Membership Chair Education (Co-Chair)	County of Vermilion River	**rgarnett@county24.com** (780) 846-2244

Diane Burtnick	**Executive Assistant**	**admin@adoa.ca** **(780) 913- 4214**

Contact Us

Send us an e-mail or give us a call for more information about our membership and our non-profit group.

Phone: (780) 913-4214

E-mail: admin@adoa.net

ADOA Office

Diane Burtnick

Visit us on the web at www.adoa.net