

Planning West

Volume 54 • Number 3 • Summer 2012



**PIBC 2012 Annual Conference, Awards,
RPP: Registered Professional Planner,
And more inside...**



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President's Message

by Joan Chess-Woollacott MCIP, RPP

Finally—real summer weather! Hopefully everyone is out in their gardens, on boats and bikes, in canoes and hiking shoes! Congratulations to the 2012 Conference Organizing Committee for a wonderful annual conference in Harrison Hot Springs, and thank you to everyone who joined us and participated. For me highlights included: Leonard Body's advice that the next 365 days will bring even more change, and Richard Bullock's passionate words about agriculture. Another personal highlight was the closing circle—I came away with a deep sense of community as a profession.

There have also been recent changes on PIBC Council. First, on behalf of PIBC Council and all members, I'd like to thank Holly Foxcroft MCIP, RPP—who unfortunately had to leave Council before the end of the current term—for her contributions over the past year, especially heading up the Communications Committee. I'd also like to thank our three student representatives from the past year—Polly Ng (UBC), Daniel Sturgeon (UNBC), and Lee Johnson (SFU), whose terms ended this spring. Thank you all!

You may recall that PIBC's current Strategic Plan includes an ongoing exploration of planning as a profession, including the potential for seeking professional legislation. Stemming in part from the work of PIBC Council's earlier Task Force, this past May, PIBC hosted a day-long 'Think Tank' session of several invited professional members, to consider two crucial issues: the scope of planning practice, and the public interest benefit of professional planners. The members included a cross section of types of planning specialties, gender, years of practice, and geographic regions. I'd like to extend a special thank-you to all the members who participated. The results are being reviewed by the Council Working Group overseeing this issue, and will be reported in the coming months.

PIBC continues to implement the results of the joint national 'Planning for the Future' initiative. As of July 1, we are transitioning to the new membership certification standards and application system. We are in the process of nominating PIBC member participants for the various new national committees of the Professional Standards Board (PSB) who will oversee the new system. In addition we have signed-off on a new formal Agreement amongst CIP and affiliates regarding the oversight and ongoing maintenance of the new membership standards and university program accreditation standards.

Finally, PIBC has received formal notification from the Province of British Columbia that our new protected occupational

title 'Registered Professional Planner' and the accompanying designation 'RPP' have been approved and are now in effect. The title and designation may be used exclusively by full Certified and practicing Fellow members of PIBC. Eligible members are encouraged to begin utilizing the new title and designation right away—it is the exclusive mark of a qualified professional planner. PIBC's new bylaws, adopted by the membership in April, reflect and enable these changes. Many thanks to our capable staff—Dave Crossley and Ryan Noakes—for keeping PIBC on target with implementing these changes. Many other affiliates across the country either already use the 'RPP' designation or are moving in this direction.

I hope everyone enjoys the summer! 🏖️

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Photo Cover: Sandcastle building on the beach at the 2012 PIBC Annual Conference in Harrison Hot Springs. Photo courtesy of Adrian Kopystynski, MCIP, RPP.

Editor's Note

by Siobhan Murphy, MCIP, RPP

Summer! Much of this issue features articles from our annual PIBC conference held in Harrison Hot Springs this year from May 29 – June 2. The theme this year was “Planning on the Edge of Change”, a recognition that the world is becoming a global community and how we as planners are addressing this at the local level.

The cover features one of the entries from the Sand Castle contest (see story on page 6)—the photographer tried to include as many “edges” in the composition to reflect the conference theme. Articles include this year’s award winners for Planning Excellence and respective honourable mentions for each category and the award for Distinguished Professional Contribution (formerly Planner

of the Year). We also feature a snapshot of several sessions, a summary of the plenary speakers and a short, fun piece about the conference from a legal perspective.

There was much, much more to include in this issue, but we didn’t have any more room! Look for articles in the fall on Road Tolling and Planning with First Nations from the PIBC South Coast Chapter. We also have an article on the Vancouver Urban Forum, held in June and hosted by Sam Sullivan which focuses on improving governance and civil society. There will also be a story on the new Childcare Centre at UniverCity (a Living Building!).

See you in the fall! 🏡

PIBC 2012 Conference

PIBC Conference Sessions: A Snapshot

This year’s PIBC Conference was held in Harrison Hot Springs, and featured a full, diverse menu of sessions for planners. There were field trips and a wide range of thought-provoking sessions explored new ideas. Here is a snapshot of some of the sessions.

Professional Ethics: Conflict of Interest

by John Steil, FCIP

This year, the annual session on professional ethics, delivered by John Steil and Eric Vance, focused on conflict of interest. They covered the theoretical nature of conflict of interest, the PIBC Code, and some recent examples of situations involving planners.

Conflict of interest occurs when a planner is involved with multiple interests, one of which could possibly corrupt the motivation for an act in the other. The presence of a conflict is independent for the execution of impropriety. Therefore, a conflict of interest can be discovered and voluntarily defused before corruption occurs.

Conflicts of interest unavoidably arise out of the multiplicity of people and different objectives inherent in the planning process and can arise easily and without ill intent. However, expert and trustworthy judgment is what makes members of a profession useful—as independent advisor to either client or employer. Much of the session was taken up with a provocative discussion based on various scenarios that planners might be faced with that challenge their independence.

As the Code requires full disclosure of a possible conflict of interest arising from the member’s private or professional activities, the intent of these annual ethics discussions is to help planners understand the potential pitfalls and keep them out of trouble.

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PLACE Speak: Claim Your Place, Speak Your Mind

by Siobhan Murphy, MCIP, RPP

How to reach people online where they live?

This session outlined the new PlaceSpeak tool, which is an online public consultation tool that is having a great deal of uptake in a number of communities across BC and in other parts of Canada. Colleen Hardwick, the Founder and CEO, who also has a background in Urban Geography and sat on the City of Vancouver's Development Permit Board, presented the architecture of this tool. Hardwick maintains that the public consultation process is fraught with challenges, that it is difficult retaining public trust over a planning process, ensuring that people are heard, and that everyone has an opportunity for input.

Recognizing that often it is the dissenters that attend public meetings, and that the rest of the constituency often don't attend because they don't have time, or they don't want to put forward an opposing opinion in public; an online tool such as PlaceSpeak can add meaningful responses from many more community residents.

PlaceSpeak has been designed to authenticate people to the place where they live, based on their individual Internet Protocol (IP) address on their computer. Also, it has the anonymity of being online, so that people can express their opinion without fear of reprisal. So people are authenticated to the place where they live, but PlaceSpeak also respects privacy laws, which is a significant concern.

The other component of PlaceSpeak is that it provides a reward. But it's not money or things. Data suggests that people can be rewarded non-monetarily, with stars or icons. This practice is linked to 'gamification' theory and behavioral psychology: people like to be rewarded for input, but they don't need money, they need recognition. Place Speak recently worked with the City of New Westminster on consultation for the City's New Westminster Transportation Plan. The response rate was far greater online than those that completed surveys at the open houses.

Look for a more in-depth article on PlaceSpeak in the Fall issue of *Planning West*.

Protect: Shift into Fifth Gear

Michael Von Hausen, MVH Urban Planning and Design; Peter Fassbender, Mayor-City of Langley, and Gerald Minchuk, Director of Planning and Development

by Rasika Acharya, MCIP, RPP

As a volunteer at this year's PIBC Conference at Harrison Hot Springs, I had the pleasure of mediating this session. The session was divided into two parts, the first being about how to create dynamic downtown areas and the second part was the sharing of a success story of the "Downtown area of the City of Langley". Michael Von Hausen, , started the session with some important urban design techniques that are key to creating dynamic downtown areas, applicable to any city. Some of these core techniques are:

- a) Creating dynamic pedestrian magnets in the downtown (i.e. committing back to the community);
- b) Place-making and creating walkable communities;
- c) Creating a green significant promenade (i.e. bringing back life into the core of the town). He demonstrated these with slides of several case-studies.

Van Hausen further emphasized seven common elements that were successful in creating Langley's downtown area, such as:

- i) Main Street Focus (with space that had angled parking);
- ii) Pedestrian Orientation (street trees and a central space to safely recreate and relax);
- iii) Fun Orientation (with an extension of activities into the sidewalk);
- iv) Commercial Uses (to support the local economy);
- v) Diverse Architectures (genuine diversity in form, massing, colours, materials, textures, not that is mimicked); vi) Big Box Support (e.g. Northfield/ Stapleton);
- vi) Central Common Park Space (with a Public Art and entertainment component);
- vii) Special Place branding (banners, e.g. City of Langley has 'It Is The Place To Be' banners in the downtown area).

He said it is important to showcase "sustainable elements" in the downtown area such as planting water conserving plants, use of solar panels, etc. as it is an important educational component for the citizens. Special effects like proper lighting and pedestrian safety/surveillance have to be integrated into the design.

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Session Snapshot (cont'd)

Following Van Hausen's presentation, City of Langley Mayor Peter Fassbender, gave the listeners a great story of "lessons learned", of how this change came about in the City and why today "it is the place to be". The City of Langley is a small city, 10 square kms in an area on the south of the mighty Fraser River, across the majestic Golden Ears Bridge. In the 1980s, Langley underwent some cosmetic beautification which was then conceived as a revitalization effort. As an on-going initiative by the 1990s, Langley's Concept Plan with Facade Design Guidelines for the downtown area was adopted, followed by a multifaceted approach of marketing the community by 2002. Some of the important additions at that time were the casino, hotel, convention centre, etc. that added to the city's revenue stream. In the last three years, an all-inclusive revitalization plan started with the involvement of MVH Urban Planning & Design Consultants, which was then successfully adopted and implemented.

"Communities are like People, so they lose the personality if you do not create a unique one", said Fassbender. What worked for the City of Langley and what made it a success story? The Mayor highlighted special design opportunities like the 3C strategy: Concentrate; Complement and Connect. A 3-phase innovative approach was applied in the city of Langley: i) Vision; ii) Economic Analysis and iii) Public Realm. The Mayor's story reminded us that if there is a political will, favourable market conditions and citizen involvement, "placemaking" is not challenging at all. In conclusion, some of the important "lessons learned" from this success story are: dream of making your downtown area unique, do a realistic economic analysis, remember the downtown is the heart of any city so it is for the people (i.e. for the pedestrians, for shoppers, for the business community, for the beautiful children who will be tomorrow's leaders and for the seniors whose experiences serve as the backbone of our society), must feel safe and a sense of pride with a public realm that is diverse yet sustainable for future generations.

Protect: Heritage... An Economic Asset?

by *Adrian Kopystynski, MCIP, RPP*

At some point, every planner faces the challenge of convincing a home owner, a downtown business operator or a developer not to tear down, but rather to revitalize a heritage building or a downtown building facade. In the case of a rezoning proposal, after offering bonus density, re-designation, and improvement grants in exchange for "wish list" needs like amenities, infrastructure improvement and park upgrades, there is hardly anything left to "give" to help offset the cost of revitalizing

heritage buildings. The speakers at the session "Heritage... An Economic Asset?" shared some new and innovative ways to help make the revitalization of heritage building more economically viable.

Andrew Young, Community Planner in Coquitlam, compared the relative success of Heritage Conservation Area (HCA) designation and Heritage Revitalization Agreement (HRA) Bylaws. Clayburn Village in Abbotsford, was designated an HCA in 1996. The Clayburn Village HCA includes character guidelines and a permitting process to be followed in the event an identified heritage building in the area is to be altered or renovated. Comparing recent photographs with ones taken about two decades ago revealed many of the buildings have suffered various degrees of deterioration because needed conservation and stabilization work has not been done. Other images showed new infill development is not consistent with the heritage character of Clayburn Village. It was suggested that simple designation of the HCA by Abbotsford offered few incentives for property owners to maintain their buildings or pursue restoration and conservation work. It was also suggested that this lack of care and attention could have been partly remedied by the City by offering financial incentives to property owners, such as temporary tax relief or possibly grants, in return for completing essential maintenance work and more substantial heritage restorations. It was noted too that the development of new homes in the HCA that do not fit in well with the original pioneer homes in the Clayburn Village HCA may be attributable to weak form and character design guidelines that should be re-evaluated.

In contrast, Heritage Revitalization Agreements (HRAs) have been used in Coquitlam to create incentives for the adaptive reuse of existing heritage buildings in its historic Maillardville area. HRAs are contractual agreements negotiated between a property owner and a municipality where a developer can secure benefits in exchange for commitments to revitalize, maintain and protect buildings that have heritage value to the community. One example is the rehabilitation of the Paré family home at 307 Begin Street, one of the key heritage resources near the historic Laval Square in Maillardville. City staff convinced the developer that the building was potentially valuable if additional density on the site could be secured through the use of an HRA. Following negotiations between the developer and the City, construction of a total of 7 residential units was approved on the property including two units in the original residence, a near doubling of the allowed density on the site.

In conclusion it is clear that real estate economics drives and supports the viability of HRAs. In contrast, while the HCA tool helps to provide guidance for the protection and rehabilitation of valued heritage resources it does not on its own include

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Session Snapshot (cont'd)

the financial supports and incentives needed to help ensure the long-term viability of heritage buildings. As with the case of Clayburn, there is little likelihood that HCAs will deliver the long-term results needed to help protect and maintain a community's valued cultural resources unless they are adequately supported financially.

The next speaker, New Westminster's Heritage Planner, Julie Schueck, spoke about the use of HRAs to help defuse sensitive land use planning issues and to advance other City objectives such as social planning.

The Maria Kerry Cottage Project is two heritage buildings, built by architects Samuel Maclure and Clarence Chow in 1887 in the downtown, were connected and expanded to permit the West Coast Genesis Society to establish special housing to assist adult men transition out of the correction system or out of homelessness. Two factors were key to the successful revitalization of the heritage residences. Firstly, the HRA tailored the zoning to the proposed use, the density and siting requirements of the project. It also permitted, through the Public Hearing process, to establish a dialog and build understanding about the proposal in the community, and establish a "good neighbor agreement" to calm resident fears about the use. Secondly, a strategic funding partnership achieved multiple "win-win" opportunities. For this project, the Society, the City, Correctional Services Canada, BC Housing, the Real Estate Foundation, the Vancouver Foundation, CMHC, and VanCity Foundation were capital funders helping to offset the costs of restoring and revitalizing these two significant heritage buildings.

As a result, a variety of objectives were achieved: more affordable housing, better transitioning support, reduced homelessness, improved neighborhood liveability, and long term protection and further enhancement of the heritage fabric in New Westminster.

Another approach involves assessing retail market opportunities to bring new life to heritage buildings and heritage districts. Richard Talbot, of Talbot Consultants International, described how market feasibility studies may be used to determine optimum positioning, merchandising and sizing to promote revitalization of heritage buildings.

The struggling Toronto community of Forest Hill and its small business area was an example cited. By surveying customers and retailers, understanding the demographic / lifestyle characteristics of market area residents, and comparing the composition of businesses in successful nearby small business areas, gaps in the retail business and services in Forest Hill were identified. A series of factors, including parking availability,

were determined as reasons for deterring these businesses from locating in Forest Hill. A strategy was developed to attract these missing businesses and build retail activity.

In the community of Unionville, Ontario, a similar market feasibility analysis concluded that an excessive proportion of ground level floor space was occupied by offices, banks and financial institutions and a disproportionate number of drive through establishments located along the community's "Main Street." The key retail business was also being cannibalized by an increasing number of restaurants and pubs. Thus, this business area failed to meet the needs of residence in the immediate market area for retail and other commercial services. A strategy was developed to establish a heritage conservation area to improve the areas image such as reducing signage, banning office uses from the ground level, limiting food & beverage by placing a 50% minimum of GLA on retail and prohibiting drive-throughs.

In both Forest Hill and Unionville, resurgence of business activity and accompanying sales became the driving force for investment to revitalize and conserve the heritage buildings in these Business Improvement Districts (BIAs).

Finally, Maria Stanborough, Principal of C + S Planning Group, with UBC Masters Candidate Lindsay Neufeld summarized their study "Dynamic Downtowns." Their work explores the economic and sustainability benefits of heritage conservation in downtown centres. One case study is Nanaimo, which actively supports its historic downtown with a heritage building property tax incentive for residential conversions, downtown design guidelines, and heritage façade improvement grants. The result of these investments were measured and compared with property values of a new suburban commercial area. Between 2001 and 2011, the total property tax value for Nanaimo's downtown area increased by 2.2% per year. When compared to Woodgrove Mall, located in Nanaimo's more affluent north end, overall commercial property values did not increase as much. However, their research showed that property values in downtown Nanaimo changed from decreasing to increasing in the same period that investments in downtown heritage were enacted. Investments in this older historical downtown helped to maintain and improve property value with a margin similar to that experienced in the newer development area. 

Adrian Kopystynski is Principal Planner at GreenCity Planning Services. He has been responsible for heritage planning as Manager of Development Services in Pitt Meadows and Senior Planner (Heritage) in Surrey. He serves on the Board of the BC Association of Heritage Professionals.

PIBC 2012 Conference

Plenaries at PIBC Annual Conference! Resilience, Technology, Solar Energy, Community Engagement and the Agricultural Land Commission

by Siobhan Murphy MCIP, RPP, Rasika Acharya MCIP, RPP, and thanks to Judith Cullington

Craig Applegath from Dialog, an integrated design firm, kicked off the opening plenary session with a presentation on Planning and Design for the next quarter century. The theme of the presentation was that we need to plan for resilience in the face of population increase, climate change and energy consumption.

Applegath presented his five point framework for resilience. First, we need to consider the time in which we live. As a society, we are experiencing rapid urbanization. Over 50% of the world's population lives in cities and consumes over 75% of all energy use. But, increasing density provides efficiencies in energy use. Optimizing density using good design principles including Transit Oriented Development will contribute to a more successful outcome.

Second, we need to reduce our Energy Consumption. Energy use is projected to increase with increased population growth and increased demand from a more affluent global population. Buildings and transportation are areas where we can maximize energy efficiencies—from innovative building retrofits, Zero Energy Buildings, to promoting and implementing transit options that use far less kWh/passenger km such as the streetcar, compared to a standard SUV.

Third, we need to promote and implement more local Food Production. With the advent of peak oil, which will increase how much we pay for food to be transported long distances, combined with climate change, which will have negative impacts on our growing areas, growing local food is a key component of resilience. He proposes a vertical approach to farming, or high-rise food production.

Fourth, we need to Modularize our Key Infrastructure Systems. Currently, many of our infrastructure systems are near the end of their lives and have not been designed to withstand a failure that does not affect the whole system. Key infrastructure such as power systems, water systems, sewage waste systems need a modular design so that if one part of the system fails, the rest will still function.

Fifth, we need to “harden” our building and infrastructure fabric. With the trending weather patterns future weather events are expected to increase in frequency and intensity. This means is that our buildings and infrastructure will need to be much stronger to withstand increased temperature, winds, and precipi-

tion. Applegath closed with an encouraging quote from T.S. Eliot: “Success is relative: it is making a success of the mess we have made up of things.”

The second plenary speaker was Leonard Brody, who is a technology/ media visionary and entrepreneur. He brought his views on “The Next 365 Days – Exploring the future of behaviour, technology & the web” to the PIBC Conference and how we can prepare for the future, recognizing technology has fundamentally changed our lives in the recent past.

Brody started by providing an historical context of the major technological and behavioural changes that have shaped human history. From the Gutenberg Bible in the 1450s, to the rise of the Internet post-1996, we are communicating differently, which is affecting the way we learn and the way we behave. He said we are living through the most changeable time in history. Why should we as planners care? Because the way we are sharing information is different, and the sharing of culture is different. And because of these changes, our existing institutions such as education, religious and government (!) will fail. What should we look for? “A rewrite of the entire planet.” Technological examples show how far we have come: one that affects some of our work—Kickstarter.com is an online website that is helping fund creative projects. An online community is built around a project, which is all those people who want support the project financially (however much or little) a target is set, people contribute funds, the funds are pooled and when the target is reached, the project is launched. Check it out: www.kickstarter.com Another example is his own development of hubs in selected cities where people are trained how to develop a start-up company. FYI: this is a university that trains you to start up a company, and they pay you. That is how much things are changing. So what do we do to prepare? Be ready for anything and be adaptable and flexible.

Thursday morning Judith Cullington, a member of the City of Colwood Council and an associate member of PIBC. Judith encouraged delegates to Jump off the Edge into a Clean Energy Future. She described the implementation of the City of Colwood's Solar Colwood program, an innovative approach that aims to demonstrate whole community change towards energy conservation and

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Plenaries (cont'd)

renewable clean energy—in ways that reduce homeowners costs, create local jobs and minimize greenhouse gas emissions.

The Solar Colwood program involves many initiatives and technologies, including solar hot water, solar photovoltaics, ductless split heat pump systems, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, 'smart' home systems, and more. It is a partnership of more than a dozen groups including Royal Roads University, the T'Souke Nation, the federal and provincial governments, utilities, and local businesses. The municipality has shown leadership through the installation of solar hot water and solar photovoltaic systems at its Fire Station, and is working with a local developer to showcase clean energy as part of a mall redevelopment. But the 'heart and soul' of the program involves working with the residents and business owners to undertake energy retrofits.

The first year of the program has seen both successes and challenges. Almost 100 homes have installed either solar hot water or ductless split heat pump, and participating residents have seen significant reductions in their energy bills. The partnership approach has generated huge benefits and program support. Cullington noted that one of the most important partnerships is between Council and staff in all departments, and it has been essential board as the program works through the challenges.

One challenge is the lack of familiarity with solar technology. When it comes to solar, most people don't even know why they should be considering it—and if they do, which system best suits their family's needs. And while upfront incentives help to lessen the burden, the initial cost is off-putting for many even though the net savings will more than pay for that investment. Part of Solar Colwood's aim is to make this a more familiar and comfortable option.

Cullington urged other local governments to consider programs to encourage home energy assessments and appropriate retrofits. Aside from reducing community greenhouse gas emissions, this work creates local jobs and new skills development—and leaves 'happy homeowners' with reduced energy bills. For more information on the program go to www.solarcolwood.ca

On Thursday, Dave Meslin gave a presentation on Citizen Participation. Dave is a community organizer in Toronto, and has managed to get people, A LOT of people and different people- involved in community issues. He has instigated a variety of urban projects including the Toronto Public Space Committee, Spacing Magazine, City Idol, Human River, Toronto Cyclists Union, Dandyhorse Magazine and Better Ballots. Meslin talked about how to promote a culture of engagement to get more people involved, besides the STP (Same Ten People), the Usual Suspects, or the CAVE (Citizen's Against Virtually Everything). He told stories about how he was able to get people involved and how he succeeded in getting issues on the City of Toronto's agenda. One particular story is how

he started a "City Idol" contest (mirrored on the Canadian Idol TV Show) to encourage people to run for local office. It included a sophisticated marketing campaign and selection process. The winner got campaign support, including staff, resources and office space, to run for office. It was a huge success. Meslin's take home message: that marketing and presenting ideas in an engaging way, combined with getting the word out can have positive results.

For an example of this kind of marketing approach, please see Lui Carvello's piece in this issue that mentions the 'Dazzling Notice Award', which is an idea that Dave has come up with to encourage better design of public notices that will encourage people to attend, and you can also check out Dave Meslin's blog at: meslin.wordpress.com/2012/06/07/dna_pemberton/#more-2206

The Friday morning plenary session featured Richard Bullock's vision for Agricultural Land Commission's role in today's economy. Bullock has been the ALC chair since 2010. He has been a staunch farmer and an avid supporter of farmland all his life, making him an ideal chair for the Agricultural Land Commission.

The ALC is an independent provincial agency, with a mission to preserve agricultural land and encourage farm business in BC. It is part of an administrative tribunal which is part of the justice system in BC. Bullock highlighted how in the past the ALC has always played a reactive role in helping local governments protect farmland and help grow the agricultural sector. He emphasized the need and efforts to make the approach proactive. The intention of the ALC being proactive in its role is the elimination of farm land speculation on the periphery of urban area boundaries, is.

Bullock said the development sector has become aggressive and all the agricultural land could vanish in a few years. Currently the ALC receives between 500-700 applications exclusion applications per year. He thinks it could double in the next few years. Bullock said policing agricultural land is getting challenging; that it must be protected as crops will grow and flourish even if it has been unproductive for many years.

A number of improvements to ALC resources will be coming shortly. The ALC website will soon feature an online questionnaire for potential applicants to check if they qualify. The fee schedule will also be updated. Also, all of the files are currently being digitized.

While the Commission is responsible for the administration of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), local governments have land use planning tools as well. The complementary components such as policies, bylaws and area plans to achieve the objectives of the provincial government's agriculture reserve program must be in place and local governments can play a vital role in applying these. In conclusion, he urged the local governments to play a proactive role as well, by involving the ALC in planning processes including identifying and resolving issues before they become problems and restricting growth beyond urban area boundaries. 🏡

PIBC 2012 Conference

Sand Castle Social

by Rasika Acharya, MCIP, RPP

The Planning Institute of British Columbia 2012 Annual Conference was held in Harrison Hot Springs, BC from May 29 – June 1, 2012. The theme of the conference was “Planning on the Edge of Change”- relevant to the role and responsibilities of planners today! The four days were packed with a wide variety of fantastic break-out and plenary sessions related to the sub-themes such as: Home on the Edge; Engage with a Softer Edge; Beyond the Edge; Growing on the Edge and Protecting our Economic Edge. More than 300 delegates from all over Canada enjoyed the informative sessions and the hospitality of beautiful Harrison Hot Springs!

One such fun event, after a full day of some serious “planning” sessions, was the “Sand Castle Social” on the Wednesday evening at the Harrison Lake Beach. This event involved a team-based friendly competition of building sand-castles with the conference-theme in mind. Participants were randomly drafted into teams, sculpting tools provided and each team had one minute in the end to present their creation. The Mayor of Harrison Hot Springs, Mr. Leo Facio was invited as a special guest judge to adjudicate the results and award prizes!

The event started with a big list of participants and several teams which had to be collapsed into three teams, as a lot of them decided to be “cheer leaders” instead. Each of the participating three teams had five to six team-mates. Each team was given adequate sand tools and a 45 minute time-limit from start to end, to create anything related to the conference theme “Planning on the Edge of Change”. The winning team (my team!) created a town we called “Edgetopia”, on the banks of a river, which was a fully sustainable complete community with a variety of mixed-use development powered by renewable energy (solar, thermal, tidal), connected by greenways, natural parks, shade-giving street trees, open spaces, bio-swales, trails and narrow ring roads.

This event not only took me back to my childhood days of building imaginary sand-castles and forts on the beaches; it made me realize that each one of us as planners often end up working in extempore teams on various projects and with a common goal. Using the right attitude, focus, enthusiasm, brain-storming, time-management and positive reinforcement, it is easy to succeed. Every team-mate is unique and has a lot to contribute. Working together while having fun and the ultimate

success of a team can boost outstanding results that benefit our communities and the future generations!

Kudos and a big thank you to the Organizing Committee for this event consisting of Rupinder Basi, Hardev Gill, Jas Gill, Andre Isakov and Sunny Sandher, who did a fabulous job coordinating the whole event, inviting the mayor, organizing all the tools and prizes, encouraging participation, taking photos and just putting the whole event together so perfectly!! Best of all, the weather turned out to be in our favour. 🏖️



Delegates on the beach at the PIBC 2012 Annual Conference in Harrison Hot Springs participating in the Sandcastle Social competition.

PIBC 2012 Conference A Legal Perspective

by Lui Carvello, MCIP, RPP

This article highlights some observations from the PIBC 2012 Conference recently held in Harrison Hot Springs by conference presenter and participant Lui Carvello MCIP, RPP, from the perspective of a professional planner and lawyer.

PIBC 2012 Conference participants did not need to attend the standing room only :) Planning Law Update to hear interesting and thought-provoking legal tidbits. (By the way, those that didn't attend can get my two-page summary, but won't be able to benefit from my co-presenter's (Jeff Chow, Town of View Royal) laughter-provoking list of things lawyers do that annoy planners, nor the stunned silence to my list.)

As a lawyer and planner, I'm particularly keen on the legal commentary from the keynote speakers and other sessions, and the legal implications of what they are doing or suggesting. I was pleased to hear a number of good suggestions and practices, in addition to the ones that provoke the thought: "Hmmm, that's why there will always be work for lawyers."

It's the nature of the planning beast: some say that to be bold you have to ignore your lawyers, but all too often a lawyer hired by a developer, property owner or citizen's group then successfully challenges that very boldness. The opening speaker at the conference, Craig Applegath, suggested we "hold on, while taking a flying leap", and later flashed images of high-rise hydroponic food production centres. From a lawyer's point of view my first thought was, "what would be the zone regulations for that; implications of ALR, ALC and various regulations, right to farm, farm use and so on. I once again promote your local government planning lawyer as your friend and ally in the quest to be bold within the bounds of the law, or at least with a fighting chance of stretching those bounds, and bonds, for those wanting to be bold.

A legal highlight of the 2012 Conference was the third plenary speaker, Dave Meslin's discussion of public hearing notices, and the conclusion that "if no one shows up at a meeting, it is not apathy, it is intentional exclusion!" Ouch. He painstakingly reviewed a "terrible and useless", but all too typical, example of such a notice, and gave this warning: "don't let lawyers design things; [MS] Word® isn't a design programme." I agree. However, he also said: "you can have that legal mumbo-jumbo stuck in at the bottom somewhere." I don't agree with that, but not for the typical annoying lawyerly reason; when it comes to public hearing notices, that mumbo-jumbo is the substance, and it is not necessary or advisable to *stick it at the bottom*. He

HAVE YOUR SAY
Village of Pemberton
OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN AMENDMENT
(TRAIN STATION PARK) BYLAW NO. 695, 2012
PUBLIC HEARING

We're Listening.
Public Hearing
Tuesday, April 3, 2012
7:00 pm
Council Chambers
1300 Astor Street

Phone
(604) 894-6235

Email
dmeslin@pemberton.ca

Website
www.pemberton.ca

What is OCP Amendment (Train Station Park) Bylaw No. 695, 2012 about?
To designate the train station lands on Frontier Street, outlined with a heavy black line in the map below, as "public park" in Map B and "Train Station Park" in Map F and G of the Official Community Plan.

How Will This Affect Me?
The train station building and lands were recently acquired by the Village of Pemberton. The purpose of the bylaw is to designate the lands as a park for public purposes.

How Do I get More Information?
A copy of the proposed bylaws and relevant background documents may be inspected at the Village of Pemberton Office, 7400 Prospect Street from Thursday, March 22, 2012 to Tuesday, April 3, 2012 during office hours of 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday (statutory holidays excluded), and also online at www.pemberton.ca.

Sheena Fraser, Corporate Officer

flashed the Village of Pemberton's recently redesigned public hearing notice noting it had won his "Dazzling Notice" Award of 2012.

Design accolades are explained at Dave Meslin's blog at: meslin.wordpress.com/2012/06/07/dna_pemberton

Having prepared my undergrad senior honours essay on public consultation, and then my masters degree on consensus building and collaborative-based decision-making, the planner in me loved it. The lawyer in me scurried to pull up section 892 of the Local Government Act. Though I wasn't quick enough at the time, here it is now. A public hearing notice for basic Zoning and OCP amendments must state the following:

- (a) the time and date of the hearing;
- (b) the place of the hearing;
- (c) in general terms, the purpose of the bylaw;
- (d) the land or lands that are the subject of the bylaw;
- (e) the place where and the times and dates when copies of the bylaw may be inspected.

There was no legal advice sought or given from me on Pemberton
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Legal Perspective (cont'd)

ton's Notice, but I see no reason why the statutory requirements cannot be satisfied in a "dazzling" manner, with descriptive headings, colours, symbols and so on. From a legal perspective, the key is to satisfy those requirements. Notices for other hearings (e.g. delegated, waived), types of amendments (e.g. heritage) and other purposes (e.g. dispositions, road closure) can similarly be re-designed, but please remember the respective statutory requirements.

In the "Saving our Food Sources" session, the presenter clarified that "farming" is generally understood to carry with it an expectation of profit, so consider that in the context of "medical marijuana" and Health Canada licences (a topic at the upcoming Municipal Law segment of the Canadian Bar Association conference).

The "Northern Game Changers" session included a description of a hybrid building declaration approvals bylaws for a regional district trying to educate and get compliance on zoning issues before people build, but without undertaking building inspection services. Admirable? Yes. Bold? They had a legal opinion, I am told.

And on a few occasions, we heard of Land Code First Nations developing land use development approval systems, and now there is new legislation to implement established provincial legislated systems, though I would think that if you had the opportunity to create your own system, then perhaps you could do better than BC's existing legislation.

And no doubt there was more to ponder from a legal and planning point of view from other sessions. Thank you for a great conference. 🍷

PIBC Award for Distinguished Professional Contribution, 2012: Laura Lee Richard, MCIP

by Margaret Ann Thornton, MCIP, RPP, PIBC Awards for Individual Achievement Sub-Committee Chair

The Award for Distinguished Professional Contribution (formerly Planner of the Year) recognizes the efforts of an individual PIBC Member and is based on the overall impact of the Planner's work and individual commitment to planning, and the positive effect they have in their community and within the profession. This award recognizes the leaders in our profession who contribute to the ongoing success of both PIBC and the planning profession.

Laura Lee has over 25 years of extensive planning experience in both the public and private sectors, including serving the communities of the District of North Vancouver, District of West Vancouver and is the current Director of Development Services for the City of Port Coquitlam. Her professional dedication and enthusiasm for planning is unmistakable and contagious. Laura Lee Richard's commitment to the planning profession and PIBC is testament to the highest qualities of a PIBC member.

Many planners personally know Laura Lee and her tireless work on behalf of PIBC volunteering on numerous committees, including the CIP Student Trust Fund, PIBC Membership Committee, PIBC Communication Committee, and is a former long time editor of Planning West. Under Laura Lee's guidance, Planning West was transformed to advance the breadth, quality and appeal to PIBC members.

The Committee was particularly impressed by Laura Lee's support and mentorship of her staff and colleagues. Laura Lee not

only mentors her staff, but "challenges, guides, encourages, supports and inspires".

Laura Lee Richard is best described by one of her nominators as, "A natural leader, a great practitioner, a good friend and an inspiration to all of us. In other words, she is a distinguished professional and indeed worthy of this recognition by her peers".

The inspiration and integrity of character of Laura Lee Richard was evident in her eloquent acceptance speech at the PIBC Awards Banquet in Harrison Hot Springs. Laura Lee provided truly inspirational words of wisdom and thanked the planners and mentors who made a difference in her life and professional practice. These are planners who have left a lasting impression on many PIBC members, and who unfortunately are no longer with us: Brahm Wiesman, FCIP; Peter Bloodoff, MCIP; Ron Mann, MCIP; Ernie Levesque, MCIP; and Michael Rosen, MCIP.

On top of extensive exemplary professional work and PIBC commitments, Laura Lee is a dedicated community volunteer with the United Way, Girl Guides, and local athletic associations. She is also the proud mother of 3 children, a son and twin daughters. Congratulations, Laura Lee! 🍷

Thank you to my fellow Awards for Individual Achievement Sub-Committee members: Jag Dhillon, MCIP, RPP Lisa King, MCIP, RPP, and Suzanne Smith, MCIP, RPP.

PIBC 2012 Conference

Celebrating Planning Excellence: PIBC 2012 Award Winners

by Noha Sedky, MCIP, RPP, PIBC Awards Committee Chair

The PIBC Awards committee presented awards for excellence in planning at this year's PIBC Conference in Harrison Hot Springs at the gala event on May 31. The following is a brief description of the award winners initiatives, as well as honourable mention in each award category.

Excellence in Policy Planning Small Town & Rural Areas

Centre for Sustainability Whistler Quickstart ICSP Plans and Process (winner)

The Whistler Centre for Sustainability in partnership with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), created a "Quick Start" version of an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) that delivers sustainability thinking into even the smallest of BC's communities.

Through the creation of a broad package of methods, background materials and implementation tools, an entire community can be quickly brought up to speed on what sustainability is, why it is important, what needs to be addressed and how to quickly create and apply a simple framework for adopting sustainability.



Whistler Quickstart ICSP Plans & Processes

The process is modeled after Whistler 2020, the community of Whistler's community sustainability plan, as well as other organizations working on sustainability planning around the globe, including The Natural Step, and is focused on a 'bottom?up participatory process' that engages those affected by decisions and those who will be responsible for implementing parts of the plan.

The Awards Committee viewed the "Quick Start" process as being highly transferable, designed to engage the wider community and encouraging sustainability decision-making at the local level. Five pilot communities successfully completed the process in 2011 and five more have started in 2012.

Town of Gibsons Harbour Area Plan (honourable mention)

The Town of Gibsons is the gateway to the Sunshine Coast, located 15 kilometres north of Horseshoe Bay. The Town provides services to a population of 10,000 who live in and around the town. Gibsons has two main commercial areas: "Upper Gibsons" which has a number of shopping malls, restaurants and services located on Highway 101, and "Lower Gibsons", the historic Gibsons Landing that surrounds the bustling wharf and Gibsons harbour.

In 2009, a major development proposal in the Harbour Area failed to gain community or Council support despite a number of comprehensive planning initiatives and policy implementation dating back to 1968.

It became clear to staff and Council that the community needed a clear vision for development in the area. Against this backdrop, Gibsons Harbour Area Planning Project was initiated to provide a clear, practical and verifiable vision for the area.

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Award Winners (cont'd)

The Awards Committee was drawn to the Harbour Area Plan submission because of the innovative community visioning process, the detailed economic and environmental analyses, the comprehensive design guidelines and the use of leading researchers in climate adaptation strategies to help craft the land use framework. Committee members felt that the Harbour Plan articulated a strong community vision for the area while ensuring future development is economically viable.



Gibsons Harbour Area Plan

Excellence in Policy Planning City & Urban Areas

City of Vancouver Cambie Corridor Plan (winner)

The Cambie Corridor Plan carries forward the City of Vancouver's record of pushing planning in British Columbia in compelling, refreshing, and fundamentally sustainable ways. Using innovative sustainability metrics developed in partnership with the UBC School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture that unite concepts in both urban form and sustainability performance, together with a strong base of thorough, transparent, educational and responsive public processes, the plan provides a new vision for what is now an auto-dominated street. The plan takes a decided step away from the form of urbanism that has characterized Vancouver—tall, slender towers—and recognizes instead the potential in mid-rise development to create sustainable, complete and vibrant neighbourhoods that integrate effectively with surrounding established areas. Ultimately, the Cambie Corridor Plan provides a transformative vision for development and redevelopment in Vancouver by integrating land use, sustainable transportation, amenities, affordable housing and low carbon energy.

Metro Vancouver – Metro Vancouver 2040: Shaping Our Future (honourable mention)

This honourable mention recognizes both a document that provides a strong vision for the future of the

Metro Vancouver region. It is also an exemplary demonstration of a successful collaborative process involving 20 municipalities, a First Nation, TransLink and adjoining regional districts, among others.

Metro Vancouver 2040 tackles issues head on that are traditionally avoided in regional plans, recognizing that containing “job sprawl” is a critical element for the sustainable future of the region. The plan provides a clear vision, articulating regional objectives and identifying actions for affected governments and agencies. Among regional growth strategies, Metro Vancouver 2040 is among the most comprehensive, clear and progressive in the province.

Identity DNV 2030: District Of North Vancouver Official Community Plan and Sustainable Community Plan (honourable mention)

Identity DNV 2030 fills the role of a traditional Official Community Plan for the District of North Vancouver, while also integrating it with a Sustainable Community Plan. This combination represents a new approach to long range planning for local governments in BC. An innovative public process, featuring a Public Engagement Charter, as well as the use of unique engagement techniques, such as theatre sports, grounds the plan and gives it a broad mandate. The plan began with an open and effective dialogue about the very real and pressing challenges facing the District, and charts a path forward that is both balanced and original, focusing on creating a “Network of Centres”. A thorough implementation plan helps to ensure that the document remains relevant and effective.

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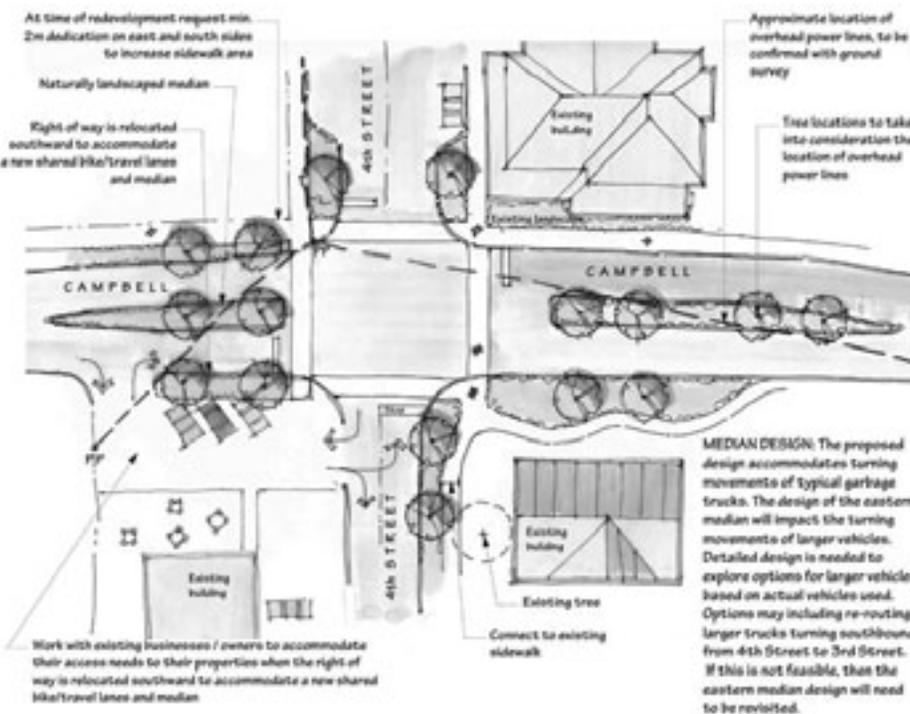
District of North Vancouver OCP

Excellence in Planning Practice Small Town & Rural Areas

Tofino Downtown Vitalization Plan (winner)

The Tofino Downtown Vitalization Plan is the result of a robust and creative engagement process that aimed to re?define, re?think and re?imagine Tofino's downtown area. Through the efficient use of a pre-workshop survey and two?day charette process, the Plan was able to take the convergence of community issues from a diverse group of residents, part?time residents, businesses and visitors, and shape them into a series of actionable items that reflected the essence of Tofino, while continuing to build on core community values like developing pedestrian and cycling connections, improving the quality of the public realm and enhancing economic prosperity. As a result, the project was able to create a vision and guiding principles that addressed the community's key objective to, "Ensure future changes to the downtown are done in an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable way."

One of the key things that made the Tofino Downtown Vitalization Plan stand out in this category was the attention to developing local ideas and solutions to issues that would be practical and implementable in a small town context with limited technical and financial resources. Since Council's adoption of the Plan in November 2011, Tofino has already set about prioritizing the "Action Areas" identified in the Plan and advancing several of them for immediate undertaking. One of the key "Action Areas", the entrance to Tofino at 4th and Campbell Streets is scheduled for completion this year. The Awards Committee was impressed by the quality and practicality, and transferability of this work to other small town and rural contexts.



Tofino Downtown Visualization

Cedar Main Street Design Charette (honourable mention)

Cedar and Yellowpoint are small communities with a combined population of 2,500 located within the Regional District of Nanaimo. In order to create a community vision for Cedar's Main Street, which serves as a centre for both communities, the project team illustrated the power of a design charette and other creative tools to bring together a range of stakeholders and experts in a multi?disciplinary design process, and create a positive outcome in a challenging community that typically is adverse to change.

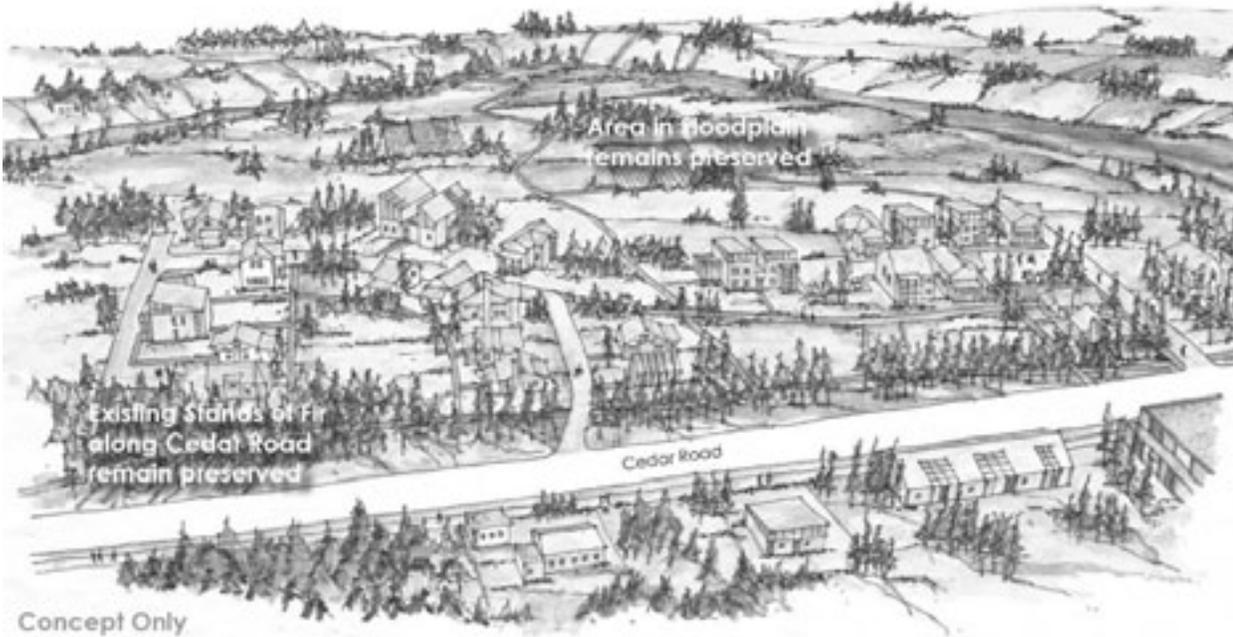
Some of the innovative features of the project which the Awards Committee felt would transfer well to other small town contexts, was the pre?charette activities such as the walking tour and bus ride that gave participants the opportunity to experience what it feels like as a pedestrian moving through the corridor, and primed participants to think about the issues in the area. In addition, the creative use of technology, the use of electronic voting devices during the four?day charette, allowed participants to judge a large number of images in a short time period in a highly effective and efficient manner to encourage community participation and building consensus.

Excellence in Planning Practice City & Urban Areas

City of Nanaimo Zoning Bylaw 4500 – (winner)

When Nanaimo adopted their Official Community Plan in 2008, a new direction was set to update the Zoning Bylaw so that it reflected community goals and be a concise document that could be easily interpreted by the general public. After two years of public consultation, best practices research and creative thinking by a large number of stakeholders, industry professionals and staff, the new Nanaimo

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Top and bottom:
City of Nanaimo
Zoning Bylaw

Award Winners (cont'd)

Zoning Bylaw, is a mere 96 pages and 53 zones (down from the 1993 version of 230 pages and 77 zones) and presented in an easy to understand, chart-based format with new regulations that turns traditional zoning tools on their head.

A unique feature of this Zoning Bylaw is that instead of relying on text heavy descriptions for each of the 53 zones, the Bylaw organizes the zones into broad categories such as "Residential", and organizes each zone around the regulation such as permitted uses, density or setbacks in a chart-based format.

This allows the zones to be searchable and comparable.

Other innovative zoning tools in this Bylaw are: establishing maximum allowable setback areas and a

minimum building height within the City's Corridor zones to achieve the density and pedestrian friendly objectives; provisions to reduce lot depth and size to encourage laneways; height exceptions for sustainable building technologies; Floor Area Ratio exemptions for bicycle and recreational equipment storage in order encourage healthy and sustainable lifestyles; and a made-in-Nanaimo, user friendly, density bonus criteria designed to reward socially and environmentally sustainable development practices. These innovative tools made this submission an exemplary example of excellence in planning practice.



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Award Winners (cont'd)

SFU Community Trust UniverCity Phase 3 Masterplan (honourable mention)

This honourable mention recognizes the wide variety of projects contemplated and implemented under the UniverCity Phase 3 Masterplan at SFU.

An integral component of Phase 3 was the creation of a green zoning bylaw with specific requirements for future development sites. All new development at UniverCity will be built to be at least 30 per cent more energy efficient and 40 per cent more water efficient than a conventionally constructed building.

The zoning by law requires all storm water to be managed on site and for interior finishing being free of volatile organic compounds and other chemicals.

Demonstrating the Trust's commitment to innovative thinking around green building, UniverCity opened Canada's greenest building—the UniverCity Childcare Centre in April 2012. This Living Building™ generates more energy annually than it uses, is free of toxic chemicals and has sourced the majority of its materials within a 500 kilometre radius. (Please look for an article on this in the Fall Issue, it had to be held for this issue due to limited space.) For more information on the International Living Building Institute and the Living Building Challenge: please go to ilbi.org.



UniverCity Masterplan Phase 3

Also contained within Phase 3 of UniverCity is a partnership between the SFU Community Trust and Corix Utilities to install a Neighbourhood Energy Utility (NEU) to provide heat and domestic hot water. The NEU will ultimately be powered by biomass and generate energy from wood waste otherwise destined for local landfills. 

2012 SGM Notes

by Dave Crossley, PIBC Executive Director

April 2012

The Institute held a Special General Meeting (SGM) on Friday April 20th, 2012 at the Coast Coal Harbour Hotel in Vancouver.

PIBC President Joan Chess-Woollacott MCIP presided over the meeting. It was noted that the SGM was being held to consider a Special Resolution to repeal the Institute's Bylaws and replace them with new revised Bylaws, as outlined in the Notice of Motion circulated to members.

Members and guests were welcomed. PIBC Council members and guests were also introduced.

Special Resolution – Proposed Revised Bylaws

Executive Director Dave Crossley provided an overview of the proposed revised bylaws, highlighting a number of the substantive changes proposed. There were questions and discussion regarding the proposed revised Bylaws.

Following further discussion, the Special Resolution and revised Bylaws were approved by the members present. It was noted that the resolution was approved unanimously.

PIBC President Joan Chess-Woollacott MCIP thanked everyone for attending.

New Bylaws

Copies of the complete new PIBC Bylaws are available online: www.pibc.bc.ca 

Institute News

RPP – Registered Professional Planner

New PIBC Bylaws, Professional Title & Designation Now in Effect

PIBC is very pleased to notify members, colleagues, and the public that the Institute's revised bylaws, which incorporate new nationally developed membership standards for professional planners; which also update the Institute's protected professional title and designation; and which were approved unanimously by the Institute's members at a Special General Meeting held on April 20th, 2012, have now been formally accepted for filing with the Province of British Columbia. We are therefore happy to report that PIBC's revised bylaws officially came into effect as of June 11th, 2012.

In addition to the revised membership standards, which are consistent with those developed collaboratively with our professional planning colleagues across Canada, there are key changes to PIBC's membership categories that have also taken effect. Fully qualified practicing professional members (formerly Full Members) are now known as "Certified Members" and practicing members working towards full qualification (formerly Provisional Members) are now known as "Candidate Members".

We are further pleased to report that the Province of British Columbia has granted PIBC legal Occupational Title Protection, under Part 10 of the Society Act, of the title and designation:

Registered Professional Planner and RPP

This title and designation is therefore protected in British Columbia for the sole and exclusive use of current Certified Members (formerly Full Members) in good standing of the Planning Institute of British Columbia. This legal protection also became effective as of June 11th, 2012.

For PIBC these recently completed achievements represent significant, positive steps forward as part of our broader collective effort to advance the planning profession in British Columbia, the Yukon, and across Canada.

Using the New Title & Designation

All current Certified (formerly Full) members (including practicing Fellows) of PIBC in British Columbia and the

Yukon are strongly encouraged to begin immediately utilizing the new professional title and designation. It is the exclusive mark of a qualified, professional planner in British Columbia.

"Registered Professional Planner" and "RPP" can be used in conjunction with continued use of "MCIP", which denotes concurrent membership in the national association, the Canadian Institute of Planners. Previously utilized PIBC titles / designations such as: "Registered Planner" and "MPIBC" are no longer valid, and should not be used.

The following are some examples for qualified members' use of the new title and designation: "Jane Doe MCIP, RPP" or "John Doe MCIP, Registered Professional Planner". Practicing Fellows can continue to use FCIP in place of MCIP, as well as RPP.

Also, members are reminded that while the "Registered Professional Planner" title and "RPP" designation are protected for use by PIBC Certified (Full & Fellow) members in British Columbia, use of them in other jurisdictions (e.g. other Provinces) may be restricted, except for those who qualify (e.g. by holding joint or out-of-province membership with the local professional planning Institute / CIP Affiliate).

Members working or residing outside of British Columbia and the Yukon who have any questions or concerns regarding use of the professional title and designation (outside BC and the Yukon), are strongly encouraged to check with the appropriate local professional planning Institute / CIP Affiliate.

It should also be noted that qualified PIBC Members in the Yukon (also part of PIBC's geographic jurisdiction) are free (and encouraged) to use "Registered Professional Planner" and "RPP", however the legal protection granted by the Province of British Columbia does not formally extend to the Yukon Territory.

If you have any questions regarding the new bylaws, or the new professional title and designation, please contact PIBC Executive Director Dave Crossley: 604.696.5031, toll free 1.866.696.5031, dave.crossley@pibc.bc.ca 

2012 AGM Notes

by Dave Crossley, PIBC Executive Director

June 2012

The Institute's 2012 Annual General Meeting was held on Friday June 13th, 2012 at the Harrison Hot Springs Resort & Spa in Harrison Hot Springs.

PIBC President Joan Chess-Woollacott MCIP presided over the AGM and welcomed members and guests. PIBC Council members and guests were introduced.

Copies of the Institute's 2011 Annual Report, Minutes from the 2011 AGM and April 2012 SGM were distributed, and are available on the PIBC website.

Report of Council & Committees:

President

PIBC President Joan Chess-Woollacott MCIP reviewed overall Institute activities over the past year, highlighting many key events and achievements, including revisions to PIBC's bylaws, membership growth, communications activities, events, and other strategic items. Members of Council, volunteers, and staff were thanked for their work and involvement.

Administration

The report from Executive Director Dave Crossley highlighted key administrative activities over the course of the previous year.

CIP Representative

CIP Representative and Past President Lindsay Chase MCIP presented her report on the major activities at CIP over the past year, including: the implementation of the Planning for the Future (PPF)

initiative; continuation of the Great Canadian Places program; ongoing international initiatives; and upcoming 2012 national conference in Banff, AB.

Communications Committee

Alison McNeil MCIP reviewed, on behalf of Holly Foxcroft MCIP, the activities of the Committee over the past year, including media relations and target audiences for outreach; continuation of the 'subject matter expert' (SME) program; and ongoing work with the website and Planning West magazine.

Report of the Education Committee

Committee Chair Pam Shaw MCIP reviewed the activities of the Education Committee over the past year, including updating and administering the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) system; monitoring Recognized University Planning programs; student awards and funding; involvement with the CIP national CPL Committee; and potential governance changes.

Report of the Membership Committee

Committee Chair Emilie Adin MCIP reviewed membership activities over the past year including: new member applications; changes in membership; administering membership categories and time-limits; and active involvement and participation in the implementation of the CIP Planning for the Future (PPF) initiative revamping the membership standards and processes for the Institute and profession across Canada.

Practice Review Committee

Committee Chair Gwendolyn Sewell MCIP reviewed the activities of the Committee over the past year, highlighting the number and nature of professional practice matters, complaints, and investigations undertaken.

Report of the Secretary-Treasurer

Secretary-Treasurer Dan Huang MCIP presented the audited Financial Statements and Treasurer's Report for the 2011 fiscal year. It was noted that the Institute maintained a healthy financial position with a healthy net surplus earned in 2011.

The Institute's auditors – Loewen Kruse Chartered Accounts were reappointed as auditors for the current (2012) year.

Other Business

There was discussion with members regarding ways that PIBC improve on liaison with members in the Yukon, and that members in the Yukon become more active in the Institute.

Annual Report

Copies of the complete 2011 Annual Report and audited Financial Statements are available online: www.pibc.bc.ca 

PIBC Council Notes

by Dave Crossley, Executive Director

March 9, 2012

On March 9th, 2012 the PIBC Council met at UNBC in Prince George, and by telephone teleconference.

Delegation

PIBC Council welcomed Dr. Andrew Seidel of UNBC's School of Environmental Planning who provided an update on the activities of the School. Council discussed with Dr. Seidel the various challenges, opportunities and strategies moving forward with the planning program at UNBC.

CIP Report

Lindsay Chase MCIP noted that CIP Council was focused on moving forward with implementation of the Planning for the Future (PFF) initiative, and looking forward to a strategic planning exercise in June.

President's Report

Joan Chess-Woollacott MCIP reported on her activities over the previous weeks, including work with CIP and other Affiliates across Canada on a revised agreement related to the management of the new membership standards developed through the PFF initiative.

Education Committee Report

Pam Shaw MCIP noted that the Education Committee was working to schedule its next meeting and was getting underway with its work on key strategic items under Council's Strategic Plan.

Membership Committee Report

Council approved the admission of a number of new members, and a number of membership transfers and changes.

Other Committees

Communications Committee: Holly Foxcroft MCIP reported on recent meetings and activities of the committee, including the development of a revised communications action plan, and looking forward towards work with local Chapters coordinating communications activities.

Professional Planning Working Group: Andrew Young MCIP reported that the working group was developing plans for a one-day "think tank" session with a number of members to explore issues raised by the work of the Professional Legislation & Certification Task Force and related issues surrounding the public interest and scope of practice for planning.

Professional Practice Review Committee: Gwendolyn Sewell MCIP reported on the current activities of the Committee.

Finances

Dan Huang MCIP presented the Institute's finances up to the end of February 2012. The Institute continues to remain in a healthy financial position. It was noted that the annual audit of the 2011 fiscal year had recently been completed and the 2011 audited financial statements would be complete soon.

Administration

Executive Director Dave Crossley reported on on-going and key activities at the PIBC Office, including: preparations for the 2012 Annual Conference, ongoing membership and administrative activities, and continued work on completing the new draft PIBC bylaws.

Student Affairs

UNBC: Daniel Sturgeon reported that a

number of UNBC students had attended the recent 2012 CAPS Conference in Vancouver, thanks in part to funding from PIBC and UNBC. It was also noted that the survey of current and recent student members was underway, examining student interest in the profession and Institute. It was also reported that Daniel Burke had been elected as the new UNBC student representative.

Local Chapters

Reports and updates were provided from PIBC's local Chapters, including: Vancouver Island-North, Vancouver Island-South, Central-North and Fraser Valley. It was also noted that work was underway to organize the newly approved Kootenay-Rocky Mountain Chapter.

Conferences & Events

2012: An update was provided on plans and preparation for the 2012 conference in Harrison Hot Springs. It was noted that the preliminary program was now ready and that online registration would be launched very soon.

2013: The leadership team organizing the joint CIP-PIBC national conference in Vancouver, in July 2013, was continuing to meet regularly. A general sketch of the program schedule had been developed along with initial communications materials and plans.

Other New Business

Revised Bylaws: Executive Director Dave Crossley provided an update on the development of the proposed revised Institute Bylaws. The draft, as previously approved in principle, had been posted

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Council Notes (cont'd)

online for member input and feedback. It was also noted that feedback from the Province of BC had indicated the need for additional revisions. Council approved revisions to the draft revised Bylaws, based on member feedback as well as those required by the Province of BC. A final draft would be developed for Council's approval and recommendation to the membership at an upcoming general meeting.

BC Ministry of Environment Workshop: Alison McNeil MCIP and Holly Foxcroft MCIP provided an update on a recent workshop related to environmental mitigation policy, and moves by the Province of BC towards a new "one window" approach to environmental reviews.

Administration

Council discussed a personnel matter in camera.

It was noted that the next regular meeting of Council would take place on May 31st, 2012, in conjunction with the Annual Conference & AGM in Harrison Hot Springs.

March 30 2012

On March 30th, 2012 the PIBC Council met briefly by telephone teleconference.

Finances

Dan Huang MCIP presented the Institute's 2011 audited financial statements for review and approval. It was noted that the Institute operated with a healthy surplus in 2011 and continues to remain in a healthy financial position. Council approved the 2011 audited financial statements as presented.

Special Resolution & SGM – Revised Bylaws

Council reviewed the final draft of the proposed revised Institute Bylaws. It was noted that various changes had been incorporated based on member feedback and input from the Province of BC. Council approved the proposed revised Institute Bylaws, and approved moving forward with a Special Resolution to repeal the Institute's existing Bylaws and replace them with the proposed revised Bylaws. Council approved convening a Special General Meeting (SGM) of the membership to consider the Special Resolution, on April 20th, 2012 in Vancouver.

It was noted that the next regular meeting of Council would take place on May 31st, 2012, in conjunction with the Annual Conference & AGM in Harrison Hot Springs. 

Membership Committee Report – May 31, 2012

Congratulations and welcome to all the new PIBC Members!

At its meeting of May 31, 2012, it was recommended and approved that Council admit the following individuals to membership in the Institute in the appropriate categories as noted:

Full (Certified)

Marcia Bond
Matthew Craig
Michael Dhaliwal
Gordon Easton (Reinstate)
Jeanette Elmore
Jane Evans
Michelle McGuire
Cameron Scott
Brianna Smith
Natanella Vukojevic
Ling (Jessie) Wang
Erin Welk

Provisional (Candidate)

Margaret Bakelaar
Wayne Beggs
David Bosnich (Reinstate)
Kyle Brandstaetter
Andrew Brooke
Leif Chapin
Paramjot Chauhan
Erin Clark
Joanna Clark
Helen Cook

Lorraine Copas
Valerie Durant
Jennifer Eldred
Claudia Freire
Linda Gillan
Ashley Goodey
John Grottenberg
John Hicks
Kevin House
Meaghan Hoyle
Lihua Huang
Brendan Hurley
Tristan Johnson
Jane Koh
Randy Lamb
Michelle Larigakis
Farzine MacRae
Luke Mari
Lucy Martin
Alison McDonald
Roy Nuriel
Helen Popple
Darin Ramsay (Reinstate)
Valoree Richmond
Tasha Robitaille

Domenico Santomauro
Shahista Shaikh
Paul Siggers
Paris Marshall Smith
Amy Stacey
Elizabeth Sutton
Ren Thomas
Angela Vincent-Lewis
Mengkun Wei
Ian Wells
Fay Keng Wong
Steve Wong

Student

Holly Adams
Heather Munro
Matthew Steyer
Breanne Tennant
Frederic Van Caenem

Associate

Marcia Bennett
Gail Franklin
Ian Harper

(continued next page)

Membership Committee Report (cont'd)

It was further recommended and approved that Council approve and or acknowledge the following membership transfers and changes in membership status for the following individuals as noted:

Rhona Dulay	From OPPI	To Provisional
Christopher Osborne	From CIP-International	To Provisional
Darlene Whiting	From APPI	To Provisional
Anna McIndoe	From OPPI	To Student
Barbara Avery	From Full	To Retired
Robert Greno	From Full	To Retired
David Guscott	From Full	To Retired
Dianna McLaughlan	From Inactive/Non-Practicing	To Full
Sarah Wilmot	From Inactive/Non-Practicing	To Full
Emily Sinclair	From Inactive/Non-Practicing	To Provisional
David Lawrence	From Inactive/Non-Practicing	(Extended)
Lilian Arishenkoff	From Full	To Inactive/Non-Practicing
Deborah Gogela	From Full	To Inactive/Non-Practicing
Debbie Kunz	From Full	To Inactive/Non-Practicing
Karrilyn Vince	From Full	To Inactive/Non-Practicing
Alison Aloisio	From Provisional	To Inactive/Non-Practicing
Maira Avila	From Provisional	To Inactive/Non-Practicing
Jennifer Draper	From Provisional	To Inactive/Non-Practicing
Sarah Ross	From Provisional	To Inactive/Non-Practicing
Mohammad Afsar	Resigned / Cancel	
Peter Andzans	Resigned / Cancel	
Marcel Barrault	Resigned / Cancel	
Lindsay Burke	Resigned / Cancel	
Daniel Ka Kei Chow	Resigned / Cancel	
Holly Clermont	Resigned / Cancel	
Jessica Finney	Resigned / Cancel	
Lauren Klose	Resigned / Cancel	
Cathy Pasion	Resigned / Cancel	
Janin Robertson	Resigned / Cancel	
Michael Rosen	Resigned / Cancel	
Jennifer Shragge	Resigned / Cancel	
Andrea Tower	Resigned / Cancel	
Tracy Vaughan	Resigned / Cancel	
Veronica Villar-Singh	Resigned / Cancel	
Yu Wang	Resigned / Cancel	
Kevin Jingyi Zhang	Resigned / Cancel	

Planner on the Move

Jim Charlebois, MCIP returned to the District of Maple Ridge on April 10, 2012 as Manager of Community Planning. Jim had previously worked for Maple Ridge as a Planner for 5 years before working at the District of Squamish as a Planner for 4 years and most recently at the City of Coquitlam as Planning and Program Development Manager with the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department. 



PLANNING A NEW BUILDING? WHY YOU SHOULD BEGIN WITH ENERGY MODELING

BEING POWER SMART MAKES BUSINESS SENSE

If you haven't visited the City of Vancouver's Creekside Community Recreation Centre yet, you should. It has a fitness centre, gym, dance studio, on-site childcare, soon-to-be-opened restaurant and fabulous views of False Creek and the North Shore mountains.

It also achieved the highest LEED® Platinum certification for green design, in large part because of its terrific energy efficiency.

"Virtually no energy gets wasted there," says Vladimir Mikler of Cobalt Engineering, "and it has a lot of unique features – for instance, Creekside is the first building in North America to use a solar absorption chiller in combination with radiant cooling, which is incredibly energy efficient."

But Creekside could have easily missed out on such a unique and effective feature if Cobalt had not worked with BC Hydro's New Construction Program to complete an energy modeling study during the earliest design phase.

"Energy modeling," says Mikler, "allows for rigorous analysis of options to reduce energy use and, with BC Hydro's support, it's affordable. We believe all new large construction projects should take the advantage of this program: the buildings will perform significantly better and the owners will benefit from an immediate reduction in operating costs."

Looking for new ways to build better? Visit bchydro.com/construction or call 1 866 522 4713.

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