



# M.M.S.A. Monitor Vol. 09/12.07

**Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency**

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## Changes, Changes



### MMSA Board Members:

Wayne Frank , Evens Lavoie, Ron Longtin, Bonnie Bigam, Stephen Carter, Sunni Walker, Rick Nicholson, Veronica Bliska, Bob Regal, Ashley Zavisha, Bill Lister. Missing Myrna Lanctot, Boyd Langford, Catherine Dunne.

### BOARD CHANGES

The Municipal elections in October brought about a few changes to the MMSA Board of Directors. New appointees attended their first Board meeting on Thursday, December 6. New to the board are:

- Bonnie Bigam, Clear Hills County
- Boyd Langford, Town of Rainbow Lake
- Myrna Lanctot, Village of Donnelly
- Ashley Zavisha, Village of Hines Creek.

WELCOME TO THE MMSA!

The yearly organizational meeting for the MMSA also took place December 6. Elected to the Executive Committee for the next year are:

- \* Ron Longtin, Chair (Village of Berwyn)
- \* Rick Nicholson, Vice Chair (Town of Fairview)
- \* Sunni Walker (Town of Manning)
- \* Veronica Bliska (MD of Peace #135)
- \* Stephen Carter (Town of Falher)

The Robert E. Walter Memorial Scholarship Committee members are:

- \* Evens Lavoie, Northern Sunrise County
- \* Bob Regal, Town of Grimshaw

A big THANK YOU to our outgoing Board members:

- \* Marlene Maxwell, Clear Hills County
- \* Sharon Doucet, Village of Donnelly
- \* John Watt, Town of Rainbow Lake
- \* Robert Seidler, Village of Hines Creek

Your contributions and time are greatly appreciated.

### STAFF CHANGES

Nathan Petherick, Director of Planning, is leaving MMSA mid-January. Nathan is taking on the Manager of Planning & Development position with Mountain View County.

Wishing Nathan all the best in Didsbury.

## A Message From The Chair



*I would like to preface my comments by thanking our past Chair, Veronica Bliska, for all her dedication and efforts put forth during her time as the Chair of the Agency. Veronica was unstinting in her vision for the Agency and worked endlessly in terms of retaining the Agency as a viable organization within our region.*

*As the new Chair of the MMSA, I do not foresee any major changes in our operational services and hope to ensure that the Agency remains fiscally responsible as in the past. I also am a firm supporter of land use planning and will do my utmost to see that the Agency continues to provide this service to our members. With proper planning, our communities can continue to grow in an orderly manner and avoid creating conflicting situations.*

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## Message from the Chair (continued)

*As a strong believer in the premise that by working together we can more easily attain our goals, I fully support the Agency as an inter-*

*municipal organization and am optimistic in terms of its future as a regional organization..*

*In closing, thank you to the Members and Staff for their support and I look forward to working with you in the coming year.*

*Ron Longtin*

## Past Chair's Comments

*At the organizational meeting of the Agency on December 6, 2007, Veronica Bliska declined the nomination for Chairman due to new duties as the Reeve of the M.D. of Peace No. 135. Veronica served as Chair of the Agency for the past 8 years and during that time saw many changes take place and was instrumental in ensuring that the Agency remained as a viable entity in the region. Veronica offers the following comments ...*



As the past Chair of the Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency I would firstly like to thank all the past and present members for their support

over the last eight years. The journey has been one of the most challenging and yet fulfilling aspects of my duties as an elected official. Although I still remain on the Executive of the Agency, my time spent as the Chair will always remain as one

of the highlights of my political career. I have always and will continue to be a strong proponent of land use planning and strongly believe that the Agency plays a key role in providing planning services to our municipalities. As a smaller municipality, the M.D. of Peace could not afford to obtain the professional planning services that the Agency is able to provide to its members. The MMSA is a prime example of inter-municipal cost sharing of a vital service and we must ensure its future.

Over the past eight years, we have encountered and overcome many hurdles in terms of retaining the Agency as an inter-municipal organization. Due to the loss of some municipal members and the increase in operating costs, we found it necessary to restructure and downsize staff, however within a year, as the economy changed we found it necessary to once again hire additional staff to meet the increased demands of our members. The economy is currently vibrant and land use planning is relevant to everyone, including elected officials. Strong, healthy, safe communities are a product of sound long term innovative ideas. I

encourage everyone to educate themselves on the important role the Agency has in the region.

With the addition of three new members and the support of our current membership, the future of the Agency appears to be on a very stable course, however we cannot be complacent and need to take whatever measures are necessary to sustain the Agency in the years to come. It is important to note that one of the challenges the Agency faces is working with a fixed budget for 3 years at a time. As funding becomes available through grants and various other incentives, the members should consider applying these funds to the future contract negotiations and thus ensuring the long-term future of the Agency.

In closing, I again thank the members for their past support and the staff for all the assistance and efforts put forth in retaining the Agency as a top-notch organization. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

*Veronica Bliska*

## Better Clarity for Clear Hills County

The Agency has been advancing the revisions to the Land Use Bylaw for Clear Hills County. The review is aimed at providing better clarity with regards to definitions and updated regulations.

Important revisions include changes to country residential and agricultural districts. The agency has utilized the

GIS system for land classification and identification of parcels for residential development as well as agricultural activities.

The review also integrates the recent updates for Confined Feeding Operation developments addressing issues of proximity with urban centres and environmental concerns.

This significant component, previously absent in the County documents, is a step forward in addressing controversial issues surrounding the development of CFO's.

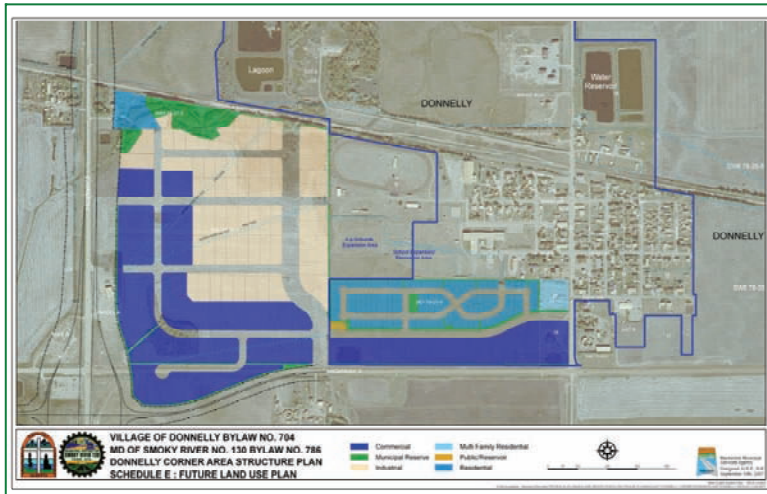
The review is expected to be completed by the end of 2007 and can be expected to made public early in 2008.

# Donnelly Corner Area Structure Plan - Finalized

The agency has recently completed the development of the Donnelly Corner Area Structure Plan in partnership with the Village of Donnelly, the Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130, local landowners and develop-

ment interests. The plan was adopted by both the Councils of the Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130 and the Village of Donnelly during a joint meeting held in September 2007.

Village boundary and Highway 2. The plan has addressed such matters as land use, future road alignments, reserve allocations, and subdivision patterns. Further, the plan has accommodated Alberta Infrastructure and Transportations' long term plans for the area by accommodating future right of way expansion necessary to support highway widening and the siting of a future interchange. The completion of this plan will help ensure the orderly and efficient development of these lands as subdivision and development is advanced by a number of landowners in the plan area.



The plan has established a long term development framework for approximately 245 acres of land strategically situated between the

## Subdivision Summary 2003 to 2007

MUNICIPALITY	2007		2006		2005		2004		2003	
	No. of Applications	No. of Lots	No. of Applications	No. of Lots	No. of Applications	No. of Lots	No. of Applications	No. of Lots	No. of Applications	No. of Lots
BERWYN	1	7	2	6	1	5	1	1	0	0
FAIRVIEW	3	29	5	18	1	1	5	28	2	13
GRIMSHAW	2	2	3	41	5	6	1	1	2	2
HINES CREEK	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MANNING	4	38	1	2	0	0	2	15	1	1
NAMPA	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
RAINBOW LAKE	0	0	2	6	2	5	2	2	2	11
CLEAR HILLS COUNTY	6	5	12	41	5	5	6	9	4	4
NORTHERN SUNRISE COUNTY	23	44	15	48	7	11	4	4	2	2
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT NO. 135	8	43	5	5	7	15	3	3	4	4
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT NO. 136	9	9	7	7	7	7	4	4	3	3
PEACE RIVER	20	133	10	31	5	47	3	7	4	4
FALHER	2	8	1	2	1	1	2	4	0	0
MCLENNAN	2	3	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT NO. 130	12	15	9	9	8	8	7	7	3	3
GIROUXVILLE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DONNELLY	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
<b>TOTALS PER YEAR</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>49</b>



# Planners Attend AACIP Conference

The MMSA Planners attended the annual Alberta Association, Canadian Institute of Planners conference held October 22-24, in beautiful Jasper. The three "musketeers", Nathan, Pankaj and Dolu, met with over 200 professional planners from Alberta, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.

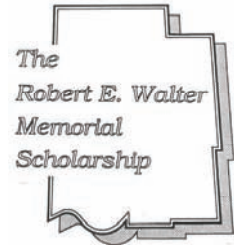
The theme of this year's conference was SHIFT. The conference explored the changes and shifts that are impacting the way planning is practiced in our communities and regions.

Keynote speakers included Thomas Hylton, who explored the concept of saving our land through shifts in planning approaches, as well as Alfred Nikolai, who talked about strategy shifts and needs in affordable housing.

The conference not only gave the opportunity to explore ways to create planning shifts for tomorrow and for the future, but also gave the opportunity for planners to socialize and meet other comrades from across the province.

Check Out Our Website

[www.mmsa.ca](http://www.mmsa.ca)



The next deadline for the scholarship is March 31, 2008. Application packages are available on our website at [www.mmsa.ca/scholarship](http://www.mmsa.ca/scholarship) or at the MMSA office. Contact Brenda for more details.



MUNICIPALITY	REPRESENTATIVE	MUNICIPALITY	REPRESENTATIVE
Village of Berwyn	Ron Longtin	Town of Manning	Sunni Walker
Clear Hills County	Bonnie Bigam	Town of McLennan	Catherine Dunne
Village of Donnelly	Myrna Lanctot	M. D. of Fairview #136	Wayne Frank
Town of Fairview	Rick Nicholson	M. D. of Peace #135	Veronica Bliska
Town of Falher	Stephen Carter	Village of Nampa	Bill Lister
Town of Grimshaw	Bob Regal	Northern Sunrise County	Evens Lavoie
Village of Hines Creek	Ashley Zavisha	Town of Rainbow Lake	Boyd Langford

## Contact Us:

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