



MMSA Monitor

Vol. 10/05.21

Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency

Box 450 • Berwyn AB T0H 0E0 • Phone: 780-338-3862 • Fax: 780-338-3811

Email: info@mmsa.ca • Website: www.mmsa.ca



New Staff Join the MMSA Team

Two new staff members joined the MMSA team on May 5.



Naren Garg came on board as our third Municipal Planner. He will be taking on the planning for the M. D. of Peace, Northern Sunrise County, McLennan, Falher and Donnelly.

Naren is originally from India. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois, with a Bachelor Degree in Art History and a Masters in Urban Planning. Naren gained experience working for the City of Helena, Montana on long range and neighbourhood planning. He was also involved in the "Wildland Urban Interface" project. Naren looks forward to expanding his planning experience working with small communities.

Naren enjoys hiking, biking, canoeing and snowboarding and is looking forward to experiencing the long hours of sunlight that our summers provide.

Megan Carroll is here for the summer as Planning Assistant. She will be working with the planners, assisting with various projects until the end of August. Megan is looking forward to working on planning and community design projects.

Megan has been studying Community Design at Dalhousie University in Halifax. When she returns in the fall she will begin the Architecture program.

Megan grew up in St. Albert. Her parents moved to Grimshaw this past winter. This is her first time living in the Peace Region. She has family in the Fairview area that she is looking forward to reconnecting with.



A Message From The Chair



As the recently elected Chair of the Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency and on behalf of all our Municipal Members, I would like to welcome Naren Garg and Megan Carroll to our staff. With the addition of Naren to our planning department, we are once again at our full compliment and proceeding full speed ahead in terms of providing services to our members. I would also like to take this opportunity to commend our GIS Technical staff on the advances made with regards to our GIS mapping and data inventory management system.

With summer fast advancing, everyone is gearing up for another busy development season. It seems that when activity picks up, so do development and land use issues, so please do not hesitate to call on the Agency staff for any assistance you may require in this regard.

In closing, I wish you all a great summer season and hope that you are able to take advantage of some of the wonderful experiences that our region has to offer.

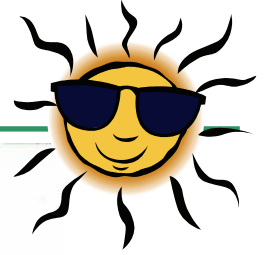
SEE YA ON THE LINKS!!!

Inside this issue:

Whitelaw Community Park	2
CPAA Conference	2
Affordable Housing Needs Assessment for Grimshaw & Fairview	3
Data Inventory Management System	3
Around Our Region	4
Contact Us	4

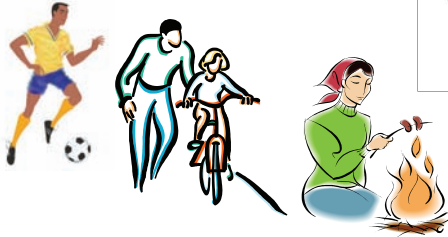
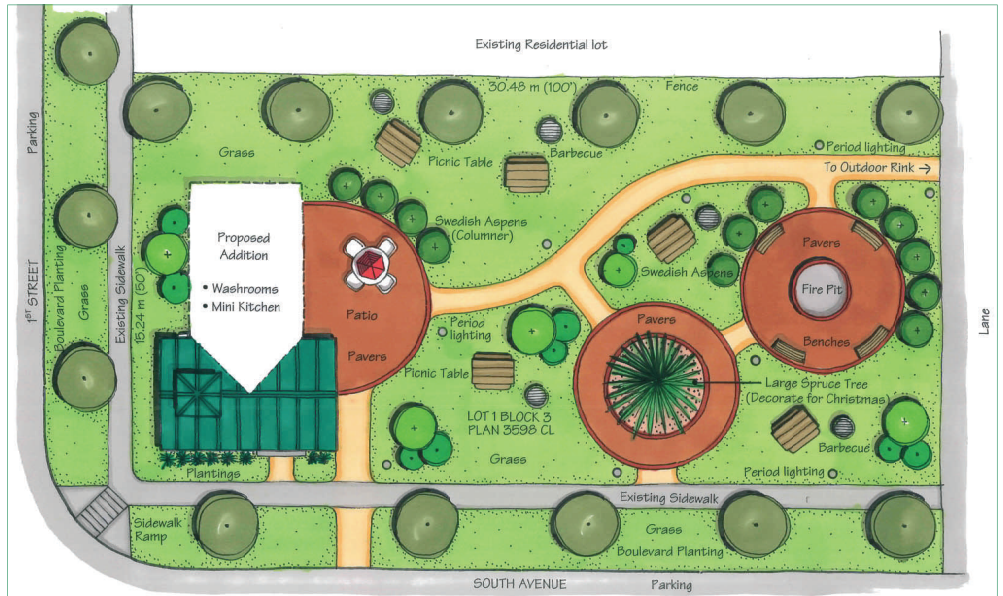
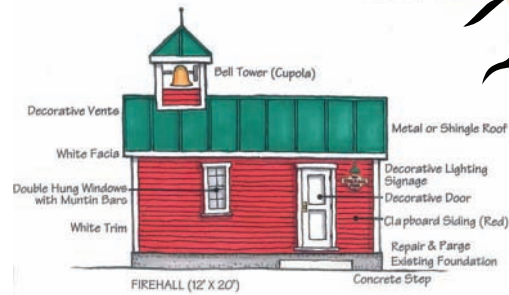


Whitelaw Community Park



Over the past three months, the Economic Development Officer for the Town and the M. D. of Fairview has been working in partnership with the Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency in the preparation of the “Whitelaw Community Park”.

The park plan addresses community beautification through the redevelopment of a current brownfield site within the hamlet of Whitelaw. The intent of the community park is to take advantage of the historical and cultural importance of the site as well as the Fire Department Storage Building, complementing active recreation adjacent to the east where the new outdoor rink facility exists. Collectively these facilities will provide both active and passive activities and amenities for the community all year round.



CPAA Conference

MMSA staff members Pankaj, Dolu, Soichi and Brenda trekked down to Red Deer for the Community Planning Association of Alberta Conference in April.

The focus of the Conference was “Planning Regionally: Planning Reasonably”. Many of the sessions stressed inter-municipal planning issues and opportunities.

As an example of a regional partnership, the MMSA was showcased in the session “Trials, Tribulations and Triumphs of the MMSA”. Veronica Bliska, Past Chair and Nathan Petherick, former Director of Planning, presented the evolution of the MMSA focusing on the survival and sustainability of the agency. Participants attending were very interested in the current structure and how the agency now operates.

Other sessions at the conference included GIS in Regional Planning, Dispute Resolution through Mediation & Arbitration, Do’s and Don’ts of Offsite Levies, Regional Planning and the Protection of Agricultural Land.

It was great to meet up with Councilors and staff from our municipalities, as well as networking with those from other areas of the province.



Affordable Housing Needs Assessment for Grimshaw & Fairview

In May 2008, the towns of Grimshaw and Fairview initiated a needs assessment study that would support affordable housing initiatives within their respective municipalities. The purpose of this study is to conduct an affordable housing needs assessment identifying current capacities and levels of services provided and the future demand that will be anticipated within the two municipalities in the next 10-15 years.

In addition to identifying the housing needs of these two communities, the study shall supplement the Request For Proposal (RFP) process for housing grant applications prepared by municipalities to take advantage of the various programs and funding made available by Alberta Housing and Urban Affairs; and any other grants made available by the Province. The study will also highlight the various forms of affordable housing that

development;

- (Subsidized) Affordable Housing for Low and Moderate Income Households;
- Affordable Housing initiatives for Seniors;
- Special Care Housing for Individuals with Disabilities;
- Homeless Shelters.

The study will underline the gaps between the demand for affordable housing and the current efforts to facilitate affordable housing within the region. The study shall also be useful for the regional housing organizations such as the North Peace Housing Foundation and Accredited Supportive Living Services (ASLS), who have contributed tremendously to provide housing and assisted living services to seniors and other individuals as well as households in need of such services.



are eligible for housing grants. Some of the notable and applicable affordable housing initiatives for the Peace region that can benefit from the provincial grants are:

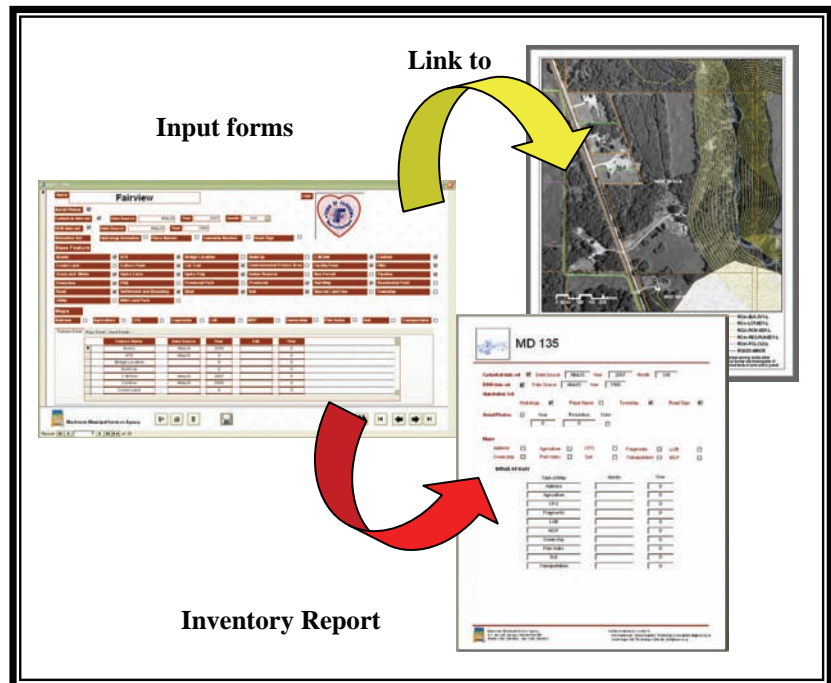
- Affordable Secondary Suite

Data Inventory Management System (DIMS)

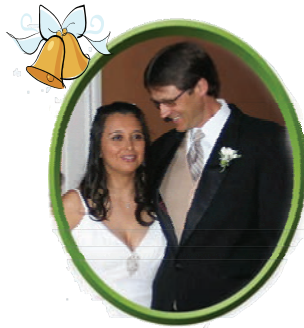
The Data Inventory Management System (DIMS) organizes the updating and referencing of GIS data for the MMSA planners and each member municipality. This system is the base support for future GIS at MMSA.

The main objective of this system is to control the quality and accuracy of mapping produced by MMSA, and provides data resource information to the municipalities. This system also links directly to historic project mapping for convenient reference or reproduction.

The DIMS has compiled data input forms which allows MMSA to produce the most up-to-date inventory of data on each municipality. These reports will be made available on the MMSA website for our member's information in the near future.



Around the Region



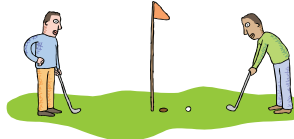
☺ Our planner Dolu married Heath Weiss on March 22. Dolu's father made the trip from Columbia to join in the festivities. Sunni Walker performed the ceremony. **Congratulations to the Newlyweds!!!**

☺ Dale Harrison leaves Nampa and moves over to replace Lloyd as CAO in Fairview.

☺ Ron Longtin was recognized as Berwyn's Citizen of the Year for 2007 at the Volunteer Recognition lunch in Berwyn on May 2.



☺ Lloyd Johnston retired on April 30 from the Town of Fairview after 9 years as CAO. He plans to pursue golfing and fishing full time this summer.



Check Out Our Website - www.mmsa.ca

Subdivision application packages are available on the Subdivision Processing page and also at http://www.mmsa.ca/services/documents/Subdivision_Application_Package.pdf

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:

Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency
 5109 - 51 Street, Box 450, Berwyn, AB T0H 0E0
 Phone: (780) 338-3862 Fax: (780) 338-3811 Email: info@mmsa.ca
 Website: www.mmsa.ca

Karen Diebert, Manager & Subdivision Technician
karen.diebert@mmsa.ca

Ron Rauckman, Senior Graphics Technologist
ron.rauckman@mmsa.ca

Dolu M. Gonzalez, Municipal Planner
dolu@mmsa.ca

Soichi Haga, GIS Technologist
soichi@mmsa.ca

Pankaj Nalavde, Municipal Planner
pankaj@mmsa.ca

Brenda Taylor, Administrative Assistant
info@mmsa.ca

Naren Garg, Municipal Planner
naren@mmsa.ca

Megan Carroll, Planning Assistant
megan@mmsa.ca