

# AMEA ON THE STREET

<http://www.amea.ca/>

The Official Newsletter of the Alberta Municipal Enforcement Association

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I begin with wishing everyone a most enjoyable Christmas Season and all the best for the New Year. This time of the year is great for getting together with family and friends that we may not see but once a year.

Since our last communication the executive has been working diligently in preparing what is expected to be a successful conference for 2007. The membership will see some changes in the conference program and some adjustments within the programs, however the more popular activities will still remain. This executive strongly believes in change, but is aware that the changes are subject to the opinion of approximately 180 people. It is the will of the membership that keeps the organizers on the straight and narrow.

For those of you that have not heard, our Vice President, Jim Semeschuk has retired from Bylaw Enforcement and consequently has had to resign his position. We want to let Jim know that the Association appreciates his efforts over the past years and is looking forward to his attendance at our future conferences. Jim's retirement has left the position of Vice President vacant, which will be up for election at the 2007 Conference. In the meantime our Past President, Fred Crittenden has taken over the duties of the vice during the vacancy.

Our Conference will be kicked off with our annual two day training course, which by popular demand will be Unsightly Premises Investigations. On completion of

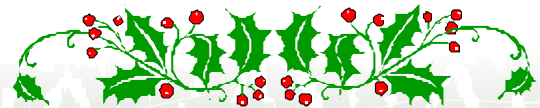
the course the officers will be efficient in dealing with Unsightly Premises from receiving a complaint to a successful prosecution and all the steps in between. The course is intended to give the officer knowledge of the Municipal Government Act through interpretation of the provisions as well as ensuring that Municipal Bylaws do not conflict with the parameters of the Municipal Government Act.

Tuesday evening, which is our registration /hospitality night will be exciting as it will be located in a larger room with more exhibitors attending including an increased number of Emergency Vehicles on display. With respect to the conference sessions, the executive has taken the memberships comments to heart and have attempted to lengthen the sessions were suitable as well as refining the number of sessions. The more popular courses will continue with a few added sessions on such things as Mock Court, Violation Ticket Processing and a session on the Smoke Free Places Act and it's application to municipal enforcement. We have also made a change to the Round Table Discussions to enhance privacy or better said a quieter surroundings during the sessions.

That about raps it up for this round, hope to see as many of you at the 2007 conference as possible.

Have a great New Year!

B. Bentley  
President  
AMEA

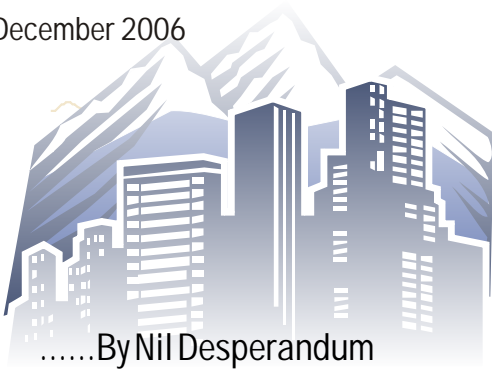


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.....By Nil Desperandum

# A New Experience

While my experience is certainly not unique for most enforcement officers...it certainly was for me. I had been retired from the nearby City (the best in Alberta) for just eighteen months and the need to do something extra found me as a contractor of bylaw services with a nearby County, where oil and farming were the major industries.

In my previous job I was in the position of 'telling' others: In my new position I had to actually do the job from scratch! I had to cover a large area....at least several times the city area I had been responsible for before. Little or no enforcement had been done for nearly 30 years...and there were several outstanding problems that required attention.

The one particular situation that comes to mind occurred in a hamlet within the county where the remains of a woman had been found several years earlier. A first glance of the file showed that a Stop Order had been issued, all avenues of appeal had been exhausted and now it was time to continue the enforcement process started by the acting-development officer. The matter seemed quite simple; the area of about 5 acres had to be cleared of all types of scrap metal including the kitchen sink. Some 120 underground fuel tanks had to be removed; tons and tons of scrap metal as well.

Several rumors circulated about the owner, including the fact he was a member of a (im)famous bike gang. He was known to the Federal Police Force and on my first visit I was accompanied by several members of that force, but decided that this was no way to achieve the objective, so I asked them to leave before we actually entered the property. They left. I entered the property with the acting-development officer and met the owner. I offered my hand, he accepted it, and we introduced ourselves. My actions may have seemed foolhardy to some....

Perhaps part of the problem related to the county's desire to have the property cleaned up, quickly...this

led to some fairly tight (in my view) deadlines being set. It was suggested that as the process was going too slowly that the county should go ahead and clean-up the lands. The two or three estimates obtained showed that the cost of the clean-up would be at least twice the value of the lands and buildings. Two of the three companies providing the estimates knew of the person in charge of the lands and were reluctant to be involved... this added to the problem.

So, resort to Plan B... my plan B was to divide the lands into about six sections with a set deadline for each section...by now both the person and charge and myself had determined we both had one thing in common...old age!! So, undue haste gave way to finishing the job as painlessly as possible. However, he informed me, and he proved to be correct, that scrap metal cannot simply be thrown into bins; it has to be sorted by metal type...another delay. But progress was being made...but then another glitch. He was accident prone...first a broken arm, then a back out of kilter...equipment breaking down, workers not showing up...all, believe it or not, genuine!! It was difficult to convince council I was not on his payroll. But finally, two years later the lands were cleared!!

Some interesting interludes...he told me he was having a party for his biker friends on the lands one weekend...I suggested that they could be involved in the clean-up; he took my advice under advisement...another time we were struggling through deep snow and scrap metal...he made some remark it was easier for me as I was much younger...I wasn't!! We talked about his Jewish heritage and my very high regard for a certain Jewish carpenter. But the most amusing incident for both of us...I am prone to locking my keys in my car...and sure enough, I lock my keys in the car...I ask to use his phone...he suggested, with a smile on his face, he could quite easily open the car without the use of a key!! I took his offer, under advisement.

Now, about that other case in the county to the south .....but that's another story!!!



Alberta Municipal Enforcement Association  
P.O. Box 697  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5J 2L4

*September 14, 2006*

*President  
AMEA  
Box 697  
Edmonton, AB  
T5J 2L4*

*As a result of a change in career I regretfully must resign as Vice President of the Alberta Municipal Enforcement Association.*

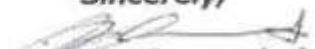
*I wish to thank all the past and present membership, as well as past and serving members of the Executive for your overwhelming support and friendship.*

*It has been an honor to be a member, as well as serve on the Executive of such a prestigious Association which strives to enhance its membership through education, networking and camaraderie.*

*I wish to maintain the avenues of communication open to all, to continue our friendships.*

*Please accept this as my letter of resignation.*

*Sincerely,*

  
*Jim Semeschuk*



# Outstanding Municipal Enforcement Officer

December 2006

## A WARD

Heather Marie  
Rann

Bylaw Enforcement Officer, Medicine Hat, Alberta

Heather has lived and worked her entire life in Southeast Alberta. In her teens she volunteered to assist adults with developmental disabilities and later worked as personal care assistant. She always wanted to work in law enforcement and in 2001 began her career with Medicine Hat Bylaw Enforcement being given a permanent position in 2004.

Heather has been identified as a person who leads by example and thrives on challenges; all with a positive energy and attitude. Heather has proven herself to be very valuable to the community as liaison for all types of animal control issues including assisting in the administration of both the Dog and Cat Licensing systems.

Heather has taken on the role of Coordinator for the Medicine Hat Community Drug Council. She will be working with over 20 organizations coordinating their efforts in fighting illegal drugs in Medicine Hat.

Not only is she an outstanding member of the with Medicine Hat Bylaw Enforcement team, she is the mother of two small girls.

While doing all this Heather has found time for extensive volunteer activity in the community. She has been chosen from the community and appointed by the Minister of Services as a Director on the Board of the Southeast Alberta Child and Family Services Authority and most recently has been appointed the co-chair for the board. This is indicative of the respect she has earned by her diligent performance. Prior to this she was a member of the steering committee that helped establish the board and sat on the selection committee of the original board. Heather has also been involved in the Block Parents and is a member of the advisory committee of her children's daycare.

### MUNICIPAL ENFORCEMENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Development Compliance Branch  
Planning and Development Department  
City of Edmonton

On July 11 2005 the second phase of the Edmonton Smoking Bylaw came into effect banning smoking in bars, bingo halls and casinos.

The Development Compliance Branch of the City of Edmonton was tasked to develop a communication strategy to achieve a smooth transition to the new bylaw regulations, provide communication tools to assist business owners with the transition, liaise with the media to promote key messages, and ensure a high level of compliance.

This included a comprehensive campaign including discussion groups with industry representatives, a creative and positive advertising program and the creation of partnerships with health advocacy groups. This all contributed to a positive atmosphere for change leading up to the bylaw implementation date of July 1/05.

The introduction of the new bylaw was a thunderous success, compliance rates were incredibly high and the negative economic impact to the 450 or so affected businesses was successfully reduced. Given the significance of the change in the regulations and the potential negative effects of such a bylaw change the communications strategy proved to be an outstanding achievement.

This accomplishment by the Development Compliance Branch of the Planning and Development Department was an excellent example of a innovative and comprehensive communication program serving the needs of the citizens of Edmonton.

On behalf of the Alberta Municipal Enforcement Association we congratulate City of Edmonton's Development Compliance Branch as this year's recipient of the Leadership Award.

On behalf of the Alberta Municipal Enforcement Association we congratulate Heather Rann as this year's recipient of the Outstanding Municipal Enforcement Officer Award.

# INVITATION for Nomination

The Alberta Municipal Enforcement Association Executive would like to send out a invitation for nominations for the outstanding enforcement officer and someone for the leadership award, if you know of someone who goes above and beyond their normal job commitments, is involved in enforcement and community improvement please fill out the forms on the web site. We strongly encourage each of you too look for and seek out individuals or organizations that would fit either of these categories. We feel that you will be surprised what some of you co-worker might be up too. Please take the time to consider if you know someone who deserves this honour.

Having been awarded the Outstanding Enforcement Officer of the year award has brought some thoughts that I would like to share with all of you. One does not get involved in volunteer activates or community initiatives for the recognition or the pay. They simply do it because they care or they feel they have something to contribute. Often people carry on and continue to do these things without ever really having the chance to celebrate the difference they have made or truly learn the value of the work they have done.

I am so proud to be part of an organization that recognizes the need to acknowledge these individuals and offers an award for such accomplishments. For me too know that someone saw that I was going above and beyond was such an inspiration too continue. The best part is that others had the chance to see that good deeds to get noticed, perhaps another person felt inspired to look beyond their own daily activities and asked themselves "what more can I be doing for my community?"



This has been such a positive experience and one that may people out there deserve. So ask around, find out what co-workers are doing. I can assure you it will not be hard to find someone close to you whom deserves a nomination for one of these awards. Perhaps its you!

Heather Rann

# Maybe She Should Have Just Paid The Ticket.

*Published: Wednesday, September 20, 2006  
CANMORE, Alta. (CP)*

Kathy Lee MacIntosh was fined \$5,000 Tuesday for concocting a complex tale in an effort to escape paying a \$100 bylaw infraction. Crown prosecutor Janice Darling said MacIntosh lied in provincial court by telling Judge John Reilly she was out of town when she allegedly let her dog run loose.

MacIntosh testified she couldn't be guilty of the May 15, 2004, animal control bylaw offence because she was attending a funeral in Winnipeg, Darling said. MacIntosh then said she only arrived back in Alberta on a WestJet flight on May 16, 2004. The prosecutor said Reilly gave MacIntosh a week to bring her airline ticket to court to prove her innocence. But when MacIntosh

returned, she paid her \$100 fine and told Reilly she couldn't find her WestJet receipt.

A subsequent police investigation determined MacIntosh was never on a WestJet flight in May 2004. MacIntosh pleaded guilty to perjury, a crime that Darling said routinely draw jail sentences.

"Fortunately in this case there was no attempt to implicate an innocent person, if there was we would definitely be looking at a period of incarceration," Darling said. Justice Peter Clark said it appeared stubbornness was at the heart of MacIntosh's criminal problems.

"As a word of advice, if you feel stubbornness creeping up on you, turn your back and walk away," he told MacIntosh. "Try not to do anything as silly as this."

## It's True, Perjury Scars World

*Thu, September 21, 2006 By KEVIN MARTIN*  
[http://calsun.canoe.ca/News/Columnists/Martin\\_Kevin/2006/09/21/1872162.h](http://calsun.canoe.ca/News/Columnists/Martin_Kevin/2006/09/21/1872162.h)

Lying is almost as natural a human behaviour as eating or breathing. Most of us lie to spare others their feelings, some fib for self-importance, and still others tell untruths to be downright cruel.

Basically, the motives for lying are as varied as the lies themselves. So-called "white lies" -- "no, that dress doesn't make you look fat," or "yes, you're a great singer (or lover)" -- have a certain benevolence to them. Those told to increase a person's self worth -- bragging over beers, or fibs on a resume -- are less condoned, but usually quickly forgiven. Then there are the untruths which can, and often do, cause actual harm. Perjury fits into this latter category.

Lies told under oath in a court of law can have serious, even life-altering, results for those impacted by them. The witness who intentionally deceives a judge or jury

has the potential to condemn an innocent man, or woman to prison. In fact, in days gone by, people have actually lost their lives because of the intentional lies of others. That is why perjury, even in minor instances, is considered in the gravest of terms by our courts.

It is a crime which strikes at the very heart of our judicial system and democracy itself. Yet people still do it and in some instances for the most foolish of reasons. Take Canmore resident Kathy Lee MacIntosh, for example, whom this week was fined \$5,000 and ordered to pay \$750 in victim fine surcharges for lying under oath.

MacIntosh's motive for attempting to deceive a judge was to escape having to pay a \$100 fine for allowing her dog to run loose. Instead of accepting her guilt for the most minor of municipal infractions, MacIntosh decided to try to save \$100 and claim she wasn't even in Alberta when her dog was on the prowl.

She testified before provincial court Judge John Reilly she was in Winnipeg attending a funeral from May 4-16, 2004. It wasn't until 5:30 p.m. on May 16, a day after she allegedly allowed her canine to run loose, did she

*Continued on page 7*



# Update on Special Constable Review

In the spring of 2007 the Special Constable Program will evolve into the Public Security Peace Officer Program. As part of that new program the Solicitor General and Public Security Ministry recently released the visual identity requirements for all Level 1 Community Peace Officers which will become mandatory on May 1, 2009.

Level 1 Community Peace Officers are those employed by municipalities, counties, hospitals, post secondary institutions, transit systems, police services, or other non-governmental agencies in Alberta that fulfill a range of roles that includes enforcement of multiple provincial statutes, including moving violations under the Traffic Safety Act and elements of the Gaming and Liquor Act.

The uniform requirements include a grey shirt and blue or black pants with a grey strip. Hats and ties, if worn,

must correspond in color to the pants and shirt. Patrol jackets must be either blue or black, and safety jackets must be lime green in color with "Peace Officer" across the back. Jackets must also bear an approved flash on each arm.

There is a standard for all flashes which does allow for community logos. The words "Peace Officer" are mandatory in addition to standard colors. All vehicles must be white in color and must use a roof mounted lightbar.

A copy of all the requirements will soon be available on the association website at [www.amea.ca](#). You may also contact the Special Constable/Peace Officer Program Manager, Mr. Matthew Barker at (780) 427-3457 for further details.

Fred Crittenden,

## It's True, Perjury Scars World ... *Continued*

return to Alberta on a WestJet flight, she told Reilly. The good judge, not wanting to fine an innocent person, gave MacIntosh a week to come up with proof of her airline flight and her airtight alibi. But when she returned to court a week later, MacIntosh admitted her guilt and paid the fine, explaining to Reilly she couldn't find the necessary documentation.

With the Crown's suspicion raised, the police were called in and an investigation determined MacIntosh was never on a WestJet flight in May 2004. Unfortunately, MacIntosh isn't the first, nor will she be the last, to baldly make a false statement in order to escape some civil,

criminal or financial liability. But considering the fact her lie, in the end, caused little harm since no innocent person was implicated and she was ultimately convicted, her stiff fine should serve as a strong warning. As Justice Peter Clark noted in handing down MacIntosh's punishment, perjury cases almost always end up in jail terms for offenders. He admonished her that the next time her stubborn streak caused her to consider taking such a foolish course, she should ignore such urges. It's a warning we should all heed.



# Alberta Municipal Enforcement Association

27 YEARS SERVING ALBERTA COMMUNITIES

## DRAFT of the Annual Conference & Training Seminar Innovative Approaches to Municipal Enforcement

May 14, to May 18, 2007

Capri Hotel and Conference Centre  
3310 - 50 Avenue, Red Deer, Alberta T4N 3X9

MONDAY, MAY 14 and TUESDAY, MAY 15

UNSIGHTLY PREMISES  
Unsightly Premises Enforcement  
8:30 am – 4:00 pm

Unsightly Premises as the main topic. Subtopics include the MGA, policies and procedures, right to entry, innovative ways to use the MGA, unsightly bylaws, appeal hearings and conducting remedial action. The course will cover policies and procedures, bylaws, MGA, remedial action, notice of entry, appeals and hearings, cost recovery, service appointments

TUESDAY, MAY 15

Conference Registration and Trade Show  
6:00 p.m. till 10:00 p.m.  
Food courtesy of Whyte Communications

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

Round Table Discussion  
8:30 am – 12:00 pm

**Animal Control** – An opportunity to discuss animal handling techniques and other control and enforcement matters.

**Legal** - A veteran lawyer will answer questions and discuss relevant issues.

**General Bylaws** – Any and all questions, issues and emerging problems can be addressed here.

When you attend the conference you are free to choose any of the following seminars that are of interest.

**Smoke Free Places Act**  
1:00 pm -3:00 pm

**Officer safety**  
3:15 pm - 4:45 pm

Officer Safety is a topic of paramount importance for today's municipal enforcement officers. Join Edmonton Police Service Training Section's Safety Officer for a presentation on topical safety issues and how to minimize the risks associated with law enforcement

**Violation Ticket Process**  
1:00 pm 4:45 pm

THURSDAY, MAY 17

**Mock Court**  
8:30 am 12:00 pm

**Animal Control**  
8:30 am 9:45 am

**Continuing Education**  
10:00 - 12:00 pm

**Annual General Meeting** Starting at 1:15 pm

**AMEA Banquet and Awards Ceremony** Cocktails served at 6:00 p.m. The Banquet is Semi formal

FRIDAY, MAY 18

**The Peace Office Act**  
Information Session  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm



## Your Executive is looking forward to seeing you:

Bev Bentley - President  
 Fred Crittenden - Vice President  
 Mitch Fast - Secretary  
 Vanessa Ergang - Treasurer  
 John Wilson - Education Officer  
 Ian Cohen - Membership Officer  
 Heather Rann - Publicity Officer

Visit the AMEA Web Site at <http://amea.ca/>

CONFERENCE COSTS	
<b>FULL CONFERENCE and COURSE</b>	
May 14 to 18	
<b>UNSIIGHTLY PREMISES</b>	
Members	\$410.00
Non Members	\$510.00
<b>CONFERENCE Only</b>	
May 16, 17, 18	
Members	\$270.00
Non Members	\$320.00
<b>COURSE ONLY</b>	
May 14 & 15	
<b>UNSIIGHTLY PREMISES</b>	
May 14, 16	\$210.00
<b>Any Single Day Of The Conference</b>	
Members	\$200.00
Non Members	\$250.00
Extra Banquet or Barbeque Tickets	\$35.00
Total cost for attendee	

There is a class size restriction for the **UNSIIGHTLY PREMISES** course, so please register early.

Conference fees include the  
 May 16<sup>th</sup> Barbeque  
 and the May 17<sup>th</sup> AMEA Banquet  
 and Awards Ceremony



**AMEA**  
 ON THE STREET

The Capri Hotel is located off of Highway #2, Use 32nd Street off ramp. East on 32nd Street approximately 1.5 km Capri Centre is on your left at intersection of Gaetz Avenue and 32<sup>nd</sup>



Attendees are responsible for their own accommodations  
 For the best rates and room selection, register prior to April 15/06

Capri Centre, Red Deer Alberta  
 For Room Reservations Call  
 Toll Free 1-800-662-7197  
 Tel: (403)-346-2091  
 Fax: (403) 346-4790  
<http://www.capricentre.com/>

Please make Cheques payable to:  
 Alberta Municipal Enforcement Association  
 c/o 10336-106 St., Westlock, AB T7P 2G1  
 For further conference information contact:

Bev Bentley - President  
 (780) 865-2455  
 or  
 John Wilson - Education Officer  
 (780) 496-5216



# 2007 New Member Application

Current Members will be sent out a renewal notice

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Given Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Enforcement Jurisdiction: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Section/Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby make application for membership in the Alberta Municipal Enforcement Association and agree to uphold the constitution and bylaws of the Alberta Municipal Enforcement Association.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2007

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Yearly dues of \$50.00 per member must accompany the application.  
When submitting payment for more than one applicant please make sure that all pertinent information for each applicant is included.

Make cheques payable to the  
Alberta Municipal Enforcement Association  
c/o Vanessa Ergang  
10336-106 Street  
Westlock, AB



# We Need Your Help With Our Web Page And Newsletter

PLEASE SEND ME ITEMS THAT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO THE OTHER MEMBERS.  
Send your articles to Heather Rann at [hearan@medicinehat.ca](mailto:hearan@medicinehat.ca)

## Some ideas are:

- Examples of a difficult case that you may have had to use some unorthodox methods to solve.
- Interesting cases that you don't usually see every day.
- Photo's of your vehicles and uniforms.
- Problems that you would like some help with so that the other members might be able to pride ideas on how they would deal with it or a similar situation.

## Participation Page

Your Alberta Municipal Enforcement Association Executive would like to encourage your participation in the renaming of this News Letter.

We are announcing a contest open too all members. The winning name will be eligible for a prize. All Submissions need to be sent too Heather Rann by email @ [hearan@medicinehat.ca](mailto:hearan@medicinehat.ca). The executive team will review all submissions and pick the winner. We have determined what the prize shall be as of yet, perhaps that will be left a surprise. We are really looking to some thoughtful, insightful and unique suggestions.

In order too keep this newsletter relevant and interesting to read we need your help. The next issue could include some facts about your area. We would love to hear from some rural areas or from anyone who would like to share some experiences with us. For those who are able too attend the annual conference you know the value of networking with others. For those whom have not had that opportunity here's the chance to share and learn.

Any ideas or submissions can be sent to [hearan@medicinehat.ca](mailto:hearan@medicinehat.ca)

# Executive Committee



## PRESIDENT:

Beven J. Bentley

Municipal Enforcement Officer,  
Special Constable  
Hinton R.C.M.P. Detachment  
821 Switzer Drive  
Hinton, Alberta T7V 1T8  
Phone: (780) 865-2455 (RCMP)  
Cell: (780) 865-0121  
Fax: (780) 865-1410  
Email: [Bev](#)



## VICE-PRESIDENT:

Jim Semeschuk

Protective Services Officer  
Vulcan County  
Phone: (403) 485-3113 (W)  
Cell (403) 485-0408  
Home: (403) 381-3502  
Fax: (403) 485-2920  
Email: [Jim at work](#)  
[Jim at home](#)



## PAST PRESIDENT:

Fred Crittenden

Supervisor of Municipal Bylaw Enforcement  
c/o Medicine Hat Police Service  
884 2 Street SE Medicine Hat, AB T1A 8H2  
Office: (403) 529-8436  
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## SECRETARY & WEBMASTER:

Mitch Fast

Municipal Enforcement Officer  
Complaints and Investigations,  
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## TREASURER:

Vanessa Ergang

Sr. S/Cst. Vanessa Ergang  
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## EDUCATION OFFICER:

John R. Wilson

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## PUBLICITY OFFICER:

Heather Rann

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Phone: Work 403-529 8400  
Home 526-4651  
Cell: 403-529 7366  
Email: [Heather](#)



## MEMBERSHIP OFFICER:

Ian Cohen

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Landuse & Mobility, Business License  
P.O. Box 2100, Station M  
Calgary, AB T2P 2M5  
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Email: [Ian](#)



<http://www.amea.ca/>