



E nforcement *ditorial*

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AMEA

*The Official Newsletter of the
Alberta Municipal Enforcement Association*

President's Message



Beven J. Bentley
President

With the 2007 AMEA conference now behind us, I thought I would take this opportunity to comment on the results of this years gathering, which was held at the Capri hotel and Conference Center in Red Deer, Alberta. Membership feedback and executive observations respecting the conference have been quite favourable.

In general, the conference progressed well with the two day Unightly Premises course receiving the most kudos.

With respect to The Trade Show, we did have a few trying experiences, however, they have been addressed by the executive. In moving forward, we have learned from the mistakes and or any unfavourable circumstances which took place and it is our intent to ensure they are not repeated at the 2008 conference.

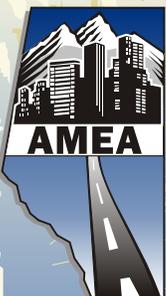
Although the popularity of the round table discussions has not diminished, the changes made to the structure of it proved to be a bit inadequate. We are making suggestions and working on improving this part of the conference as well.

Our entertainment night proved to be a great success. Although the executive members were somewhat apprehensive about the discontinuence of the Casino night, it was our observation that the change proved to be a positive step.

The President's Banquet and Awards Night which was well attended by the membership and guests proved to be a huge success. The food and service was exceptional and the highlight of the evening was the Solicitor General's speech. The banquet concluded with a performance by a professional comedian.

The hospitality suite which featured a marguerita machine and Texas Holdem Tournament was enjoyed by many and will probably be available again next year.

There have also been changes to the executive membership, with two new faces and one old (sorry Dave) being added. These individuals will be a welcome addition to the executive and we are looking forward to working with them.



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Anna Mast
Bylaw Officer for Cypress County

I have been employed with Cypress County for 17 years and have been doing municipal enforcement for 2 of those years. I have a Criminology Law Enforcement Degree from Mount Royal College. I am a Level II CPO. I am currently working towards

meeting the requirements of the Level I designation. I am the first and only CPO for the County and my patrol area encompasses roughly 6000 sq miles or for use metric people 13,000 sq. kms., 9 hamlets and roughly 300 country residential acreages. It has been left to me to develop the position, policies and procedures and how enforcement work is operated in the County. This has been a great experience for me and I continue to grow and learn each day. On a more personal note, my husband, Murray and I have one daughter, Hope who is 9 and one son, Gabriel who is 6. My activities include reading, camping, golfing, avid hockey fan and spending time with family and friends.

Anna Mast



David Aitken
Vice-President

David first became involved with the Bylaw Enforcement Officers Association in 1998. As the new association president back then he developed a great enthusiasm for change and a passion to help improve and grow the association. As president for four years and past president for another four years he devoted his time to improving the annual conference, develop better newsletters

and an association website, partner with post secondary institutions, ensure recognition of members for outstanding community service, and pass on a healthy and vibrant association to a new executive, and then we kicked him out.

Victim to his own new blood philosophy he roamed the backwaters of Edmonton alone and unloved. Finally big V and strawberry H (aka Vanessa and Heather) tossed him a bone and conspired to voted him back onto the association. It maybe be a shock to some this once Aussie outback, horse riding (not sheep) jackaroo is back helping out. He's regularly one of the last ones standing at the end of the conference and better to have him helping than yelling abuse at the executive from the back of the forums e.g. " When I was bloody Pres....." Welcome home ToTo!

David

Becky Oxtan *Special Constable for Stony Plain*



As one of the newest members of the executive as the Membership Officer I would like to introduce myself to the members of the association and talk about how I became involved with Municipal Enforcement. I started my law enforcement career by attending Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton, during college I was introduced to the world of security by working at Rexall Place as Event Security. After college I got the opportunity to travel however upon returning to Canada realized I had to enter the world of having a full time job and hopefully one day a career.

I have always wanted to work in Law Enforcement and started the journey towards that goal by working at Alberta Hospital Edmonton as a security officer. From there I continued on working in hospitals and got a Special Constable position with the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. The Royal Alex introduced me to many different and difficult situations and allowed me to gain the experience necessary to advance my career and receive a position in Municipal Enforcement. After working for over two years confined to a hospital I was itching to get out into the world of Traffic and Bylaw Enforcement and out of the hospital.

I began my Municipal Enforcement career with the Town of Slave Lake as a Special Constable and was able to work in and for the community. I found in Slave Lake that working as a Special Constable allowed for the flexibility of enforcement and for

Community involvement which is what I had been looking for in a career. Also in Slave Lake I was able to join the Alberta Municipal Enforcement Association, however unable to attend the conference I still found that the association was a viable resource for information and had a "call anytime" attitude.

After Slave Lake I joined the Municipal Enforcement Department with the Town of Stony Plain and am loving working as a Community Peace Officer. Stony Plain allows for community involvement and to positively contribute to the community. In Stony Plain I was again able to join the Association and this year attend the conference. I was amazed at the hospitality offered by the executive and by fellows members and believed that I could contribute to the excellent reputation of the association and the bright and promising future that I believe the association has. I am excited for what the future will bring for the association and in true association fashion if any one has any questions or if I can possibly help in any way please feel free to call me anytime. I look forward to meeting everyone and getting to know you throughout the year.

Thank You to Whyte Communications!
They sponsored all the food for our
Trade show at the 2007 Conference

Untidy and Unsightly Course Article

by John R. Wilson

Every community has them; people with a strange compulsion to collect and hoard material that most of us think of as junk. I'm not talking about the guy down the street who collects every issue of TV Guide but those people who fill their yards with old appliances, auto parts, tyres and all manner of discarded material. In extreme cases this 'pack-rat' syndrome can result in properties so unsightly that they are detrimental to the surrounding community.

For several years the A.M.E.A. has offered workshops on topics related to unsightly properties and they have always proven to be very popular. A few years ago Steven Phipps, from the City of Edmonton law Branch, and I started talking about developing a more comprehensive unsightly property course. One of the biggest challenges that we faced in developing such a workshop was to somehow find enough time to squeeze in all the topics that we wanted to cover!

At the 2007 A.M.E.A. Annual Conference and Training Seminar, after a great deal of preparation, we were finally ready to offer a comprehensive introductory course to untidy unsightly properties. There was even more interest in the course than we had anticipated; so much so that we had to move into a larger room at the Capri to accommodate all the attendees!

Day one of the course went very well with a focus on legal authorities and definitions; unsightly bylaws; sections 545 and 546 of the M.G.A.; and ending with appealing orders and making effective appeal presentations. Judging by the talk that evening around the margarita machine in the hospitality suite the presentations stimulated a great deal of critical thinking about the various municipal bylaws and procedures used to enforce them in different municipalities. Either that or I just had too many margaritas!

Our second day concentrated on some of the peripheral topics relating to the main part of the course material presented on the first day. Presentations included such subjects as emergencies, injunctions, E.P.E.A. orders, drafting orders and a group project before we wrapped up the course with a summary and question and answer period. This proved to be a very enlightening exercise for everyone; especially the presenters.

We were fortunate enough to have a few development officers in attendance at the course and their questions provided interesting insight into the relationship and overlap of nuisance bylaws, the M.G.A. and land use or zoning bylaws. When Steve, Brian and I sat down after the course to review the evaluations and discuss our thoughts on where improvements could be made this was one area where we decided to devote some time in the future.

After reading the evaluation questionnaires and listening to the other feedback I've received I'm pleased to report that the course was a great success. On behalf of the Executive and the Membership as a whole I'd like to thank both Steven Phipps and Brian Loewen for their time, energy and continued support of our Associations educational initiatives. I'd also like to thank everyone who attended the course for their participation; without this vital component our workshops would not half so interesting or beneficial. Lastly, I would like to send out a big thank you to those attendees who remembered to provide feedback on the performance of our star presenter; Sprinkles!

Course Photos



Always Open Your Washing Machine Lid Slowly *Just In Case....*

Two City of Edmonton Animal Control Officers went to a snake call Sept. 17, 2007 in a apartment building at 102 Ave & 75 St. A male doing laundry in the apartment laundry room found a snake when he went to put his clothes in the dryer.

No one knows where it came from. It was striking at the officers when they were trying to remove it from the washer. Probably wanted to wait for the rinse cycle. Always open your washing machine lid slowly just in case...





Stress

A lecturer when explaining stress management to an audience, raised a glass of water and asked

"How heavy is this glass of water?"

Answers called out ranged from 20g to 500g. The lecturer replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long you try to hold it.

If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem.

If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm.

If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance.

In each case, it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes."

He continued, "And that's the way it is with stress management.

If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on. "

"As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden."

"So, before you return home tonight, put the burden of work down.

Don't carry it home. You can pick it up tomorrow.

Whatever burdens you're carrying now, let them down for a moment if you can."

So, my friend, Put down anything that may be a burden to you right now.

Don't pick it up again until after you've rested a while.

Here are some great ways of dealing with the burdens of life:

- Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.
- Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
- Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.
- Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.
- If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
- If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
- It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply be kind to others.
- Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.
- Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
- Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.
- The second mouse gets the cheese.
- When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.
- You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.
- Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.
- We could learn a lot from crayons... Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names, and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.
- A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

October 2007

Pet Owners Get to Say “Halloween Apples”!





2008 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 _____ 2008

Signature of Applicant: _____

Yearly dues of \$60.00 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
T7P 2G1

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

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.



- Photos of your vehicles and uniforms.
- Problems that you would like some help with so that the other members might be able to provide ideas on how they would deal with it or a similar situation.
- Interesting web sites that you know about.

Participation Page

In order to 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 to attend the annual

conference you know the value of networking with others. For those who have not had that opportunity here's the chance to share and learn.

Any ideas or submissions can be sent to hearan@medicinehat.ca

Executive Committee



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