

Inside this issue:

2	2008 Conference Dates Announced
3	MORE Tangible Capital Assets Workshops
4	GFOA Tidbits; MENet Submissions
5	Message from Your President - Dean Screpnek
6	New Features of MENet Website
7	<i>Photos from Western Canada Conference</i>



Tangible Capital Asset Workshops

January 2008

See Page 3 for more details



*Alberta
Government Finance
Officers Association*

**2008
Provincial Conference**

*Canmore, Alberta
June 4–6, 2008*

**2008 Western
Canada Conference**

Victoria, BC

October 8–10, 2008

**Government Finance Officers Association
Alberta Chapter**

Tangible Capital Assets Project

Winter 2008 - One Day Workshops

Alberta GFOA is pleased to present the second phase of training on the new accounting requirements for Tangible Capital Assets (TCA). Mark your calendars for our upcoming one-day workshops.

Workshop Leader – Harold Johnsrude, HJC Consulting Inc.

Topics

- Accounting treatment of an asset from purchase to retirement
- Budget impacts as a result of recording depreciation
- 2007 financial statement note disclosure requirements
- Dialogue on miscellaneous issues (bring your questions!)

The spring 2007 workshops focused on implementation planning and capital policy development. Participants are encouraged to bring along their policy. If you have not yet prepared a policy, resources and samples are available on the TCA website at www.menet.ab.ca.

Workshop Dates (locations to be announced):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calgary (3) - January 14-16, 2008 | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Deer – January 21, 2008 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lethbridge – January 17, 2008 | <input type="checkbox"/> Medicine Hat – January 18, 2008 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> St. Paul – January 22, 2008 | <input type="checkbox"/> Edmonton (3) – January 23-25, 2008 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grande Prairie – January 31, 2008 | |

Don't miss this training opportunity. Each one-day workshop will be limited to 25 participants. This small group setting will provide an opportunity to learn and to dialogue with others attending the workshop.

Fees - \$150 for GFOA members / \$175 for non-members
Registration is limited to two representatives per municipality
(based on demand registrations may be restricted further)

To register please completed the Registration Form at the following link:

<http://www.gfoa.ab.ca/Home/WhatsNew/whatsnew.htm>

ESRI Canada is pleased to present a special series of free 2 hour seminars to be held across the country for Senior Management in Public Works. ESRI Canada will demonstrate and discuss how public works departments are effectively using a geographic approach to manage infrastructure through integrated software solutions.
Date in Alberta is Thursday, November 29.
For more information please visit: www.esricanada.com/pwseminar.

GFOA Tidbits

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dean Screpnek, President

Barry Sawada, Vice President

Lori Craig, Secretary

Michael Minchin, Treasurer

George Huybregts, Past President

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Christina Parkins

Darcy Ferguson

Gary Mullin

Karen Gibson

Visit www.gfoa.ab.ca

for contact information

We would like to hear from our Membership! If you have any articles, comments or suggestions for our Newsletter . . .

Please contact Tracey Burkholder at

Phone: (403) 934-4765

Email: burkholder@shaw.ca



WEBSITE CHANGES

Our website is currently getting a new look.

Keep an eye out in the next few months to see the changes.

www.gfoa.ab.ca

MUNICIPAL EXCELLENCE NETWORK

The Municipal Excellence Network provides web-based access to information on business/operational practices in the areas of municipal governance, administration, human resources, financial management, infrastructure services, development services, safety services and community services.

VISIT THE WEBSITE AT
www.menet.ab.ca

Municipal Excellence Most Recent Submissions

- Municipal Area Partnership - Joyce King

Created a Municipal Area Partnership which includes Council representation from the Town of Carstairs, Town of Didsbury, Town of Olds, Town of Sundre, Village of Cremona, and Mountain View County. Developed terms of reference for the MAP Advisory Committee and protocols for dealing with issues of a regional nature and the development of a template for a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP).

- Economic Development and Marketing - Tony Kulbisky

We looked at several larger Alberta municipal websites and tried to emulate the best that each offered, to develop our own website. The Town went the extra mile and added a couple of features that others did not have including links to the Province and Federal Governments and property listing service to make our site a one-stop site.

- Warm Mix Asphalt Technology - Ken Yeung

Warm Mix Asphalt Technology (WMA) enables asphaltic concrete to be produced and placed at lower temperatures, thereby reducing CO2 emissions and fossil fuel consumption. Our goal is to eventually implement WMA as a standard industry practice to lower CO2 emission levels to the atmosphere during the production and placement of asphaltic concrete pavement.

The WMA initiative is in line with Council's directives on environmental conservation, and the Road's Business Unit's vision to create an environment in which we conserve our resources, comply with legislation and endeavour to continually improve. The Roads Business Unit is certified under ISO 14001.

Message from Your President - Dean Screpnek

Message From Your President

Hello folks! As this is my first installment of the "Message from your President" I would like to start off by saying it is a privilege to serve as your GFOA Alberta Chapter President. I am looking forward to an exciting and challenging year, working with you and the GFOA Board. The Board is already busy with the tasks at hand and is committed to delivering on them.

The 2007 Western Canada GFOA Conference held September 12-14, 2007 in Calgary was a tremendous success and the Calgary Organizing Committee should be applauded for their efforts in hosting such a fine conference. The conference topics were valuable and timely, particularly the sessions on Tangible Capital Assets.

The three Task Forces continue to be exceptionally busy with their agendas and the following provides a quick overview of what they are up to:

Training Task Force:

There continues to be a huge demand to carry on with the development of professional workshops and the work being done by the Training Task Force is at the centre of it. Upon the request of the members, 11 workshops are planned for January 2008. These working sessions, led by Harold Johnsrude, will be limited to 25 participants and will focus on the following:

- Accounting treatment of an asset from purchase to retirement
- Budget impacts as a result of recording depreciation
- 2007 financial statement note disclosure requirements

In addition, there will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions and discuss issues with your fellow municipal colleagues.

Communications Task Force:

The Communications Task Force is busy with the redesign of the GFOA's website. The redesign, scheduled to be unveiled in the New Year, will

see enhancements that will allow members to better navigate through the site, provide additional information for members, as well as provide opportunities to facilitate on-line payments for various items.

The Communications Task Force will also be unveiling a new-look logo for GFOA Alberta coordinated with the launch of the new website.

Research Task Force:

As you are aware, Alberta GFOA is actively involved in the Alberta Municipal Affairs-led TCA project and much of the involvement is facilitated through the Research Task Force. Currently, the changes in reporting requirements are under review by the Research Task Force. Task Force Chairman, Glen Jarbeau, continues to monitor the PSAB updates and changes, and prepare responses to exposure drafts, when applicable.

The work being done by all three Task Forces continues to be critical to the success and future growth of Alberta GFOA. Without the hard work and dedication of Task Force members the GFOA would not be able to deliver the value that it does to its membership. I would like to take this time to thank all Task Force members for their contribution and enthusiasm they bring to the Alberta GFOA. I would encourage any Alberta GFOA member to consider working with any Task Force as the experience is rewarding and welcomed. Please do not hesitate to contact any GFOA board member if you would like to contribute your talents.

I would like to sign off by wishing you all success as we continue our transition through the PSAB challenges and wish you well working with your new Councils.

Dean Screpnek
November 2007

MENet has a NEW LOOK!!

**Visit the NEW and IMPROVED
MENet Website at www.menet.ca**

WHAT'S NEW??

MENet Discussion Board Features

Request A Topic:

Do you have an idea for a discussion on the MENet Discussion Board?

Fill in the 'Request a Discussion Topic' field located above the list of discussions. Click the Submit button and an email will be sent to the MENet team with your suggestion.



Search the MENet Discussion Board

Is there something specific you are looking for?

Navigate to the [Discussion Board](#) and enter your search keyword.

Click the search Button

A list of discussions and posts that match your search criteria will be returned.

TRY!! If you would like to try out the new Discussion Board, register with the MENet website and check out the current question posted there:

"Currently our Finance Department uses Diamond/Great Plains, but our Engineering Department uses Cartegraph to track inventory. Does anyone have practical experience integrating the two systems?"

There are responses to view or you could add your own response.

MENet Tangible Capital Assets Page

The Tangible Capital Assets page has been created to provide access to all of the latest news and information on the Tangible Capital Assets (TCA) Project. You will find newsletters, guidelines, resource documents and access to a discussion board for questions and answers in fulfilling the requirements for the TCA.

**This website is a great resource for all
municipal personnel!**

2007 Western Canada Conference, Calgary, AB

