



Government Finance Officers Association of Alberta

November 2012 Newsletter

“Dedicated to James Walls”

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President's Message

On behalf of the GFOA Board of Directors for the Alberta chapter, I would like to take this opportunity to extend Season's Greetings, Happy Holidays and/or a Merry Christmas to all GFOA members across the province. This past year has seen a lot of activity with the conference in Calgary and many professional development sessions held across the Province. I hope everyone found these to be beneficial, informative and even a little entertaining. These events are always a great opportunity to network and meet up with old and new friends.

As this is my last year-end message as Chapter President, I wanted to spend a little extra time thanking the board and task force members for their dedication and hard work over the past few years. Many positive changes have taken place over the past two and a half years as the board focused on setting a vision and a strategic plan. I look forward to seeing everyone at next year's conference in Jasper.

Rick Wojtkiw, CMA

President, Alberta GFOA

Important dates to
put in your 2013
Calendar



GFOA 2013 Conference:

May 5-8, 2013

The Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge

Jasper, Alberta



Plans are underway for the 2013 GFOA Alberta Conference to be held at the beautiful Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge. Golf will be held on Sunday, May 5th, with the conference to follow May 6, 7 & 8. Watch for update announcements on details for the conference as they become available.

You can reserve your rooms now at the conference rate of \$199, plus applicable taxes for the Jasper Park Lodge (Single or Double). There will be a charge of \$30 for each additional person. Simply call the Global Reservations Centre at their direct line: 780-852-3301 or the 24 hour toll free line: 1-800-441-1414 and say you are with the Alberta GFOA. To book on-line, click on this link <http://www.fairmont.com/reservations/check-availability/?hc=JPL&pc=GGFO>.

Alternative accommodations have been booked at the Sawridge Inn & Conference Centre at a rate of \$131 (Atrium room), plus applicable taxes or \$151 (Balcony room), plus applicable taxes. Shuttle service will be available to the Jasper Park Lodge. Call their reservation desk at 1-888-729-7343 and quote the group confirmation number G0E05Z should you prefer that location.



James Walls

Oct. 26, 1955 – Sept. 5, 2012

The Communications Task Force would like to dedicate this newsletter to James Walls, a former member of our Task Force.

James had been an active member of the Alberta GFOA and first became involved with our association in 2000 as part of the organization committee for the 2000 conference held in Kananaskis. James was one of the original members of the GFOA Communications Task Force and was a dedicated member of the task force. James served as chairman of the task force for seven years until his retirement from municipal service in May 2012.

James was a driving force on the Communications Task Force and made many great contributions to further our Association. In particular, James was active in developing our initial website and continued working hard on improving the information and capability of our website. Other projects accomplished during James' term on our Task Force included the design of the GFOA logo, production of GFOA newsletters and growing our membership to over 800 members through membership drives and promoting our Association.

James served in various financial positions in Ponoka, High River and Fort Saskatchewan and had just retired in May of 2012.



Remember the new [Job Posting Board](#) on the [Employment](#) page of our website. It allows all municipalities in Alberta to present finance related job vacancies to their ultimate target audience (Government Finance Officers) in one place. We ask each member to ensure that your Human Resources department is aware of this service and encourage them to utilize it when looking for finance staff. There is a relatively nominal fee to post a job (with a reduction for GFOA member municipalities) that recognizes the value of this service.

GFOA would be interested to know if you have had success from job postings on our website. Please feel free to contact [Candace Coombs](#) with any of your success stories!



SILVER SPONSOR

Financial Fundamentals in the Alberta Government Certificate Program

Increase your understanding of the Alberta government's financial accountability processes with the **Financial Fundamentals in the Alberta Government Certificate Program** offered by CMA Alberta.

This new professional development opportunity is open to CMA Alberta members and other accounting professionals for their general interest and career development. It will appeal to those working for the provincial government or aspiring to enter the public sector.

The program runs over three days, addressing topics such as government terminology, accountability legislation and structures and processes.

CMA members attending the Financial Fundamentals in the Alberta Government sessions earn 21 verifiable CPLD hours if they attend all three days.

To register for October sessions or find out details about the program, visit cma-alberta.com or call **1.877.CMA.2000**

GFOA, Alberta Chapter would like to take this opportunity to thank those municipalities that have donated meeting rooms and/or hosted meetings over the past several years for the Board of Directors and Task Forces:

- Town of Banff
- Town of Beaumont
- Town of Chestermere
- Town of Cochrane
- Town of Stony Plain
- City of Lethbridge
- City of Red Deer
- City of St. Albert
- MD of Foothills
- Red Deer County
- Strathcona County



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