



NEW THINGS WITH GIS!

The Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency has, for many years, provided an excellent web map for each of our member municipalities and we will continue to do so. In addition, we are extremely excited to announce that we are taking a huge step forward with our GIS offering and will soon be providing added functionality and scope! Our members will be able to manage their assets, query their information, provide a portal for constituent concerns, develop emergency response plans and much, much more! These solutions will be unveiled over the following

months and we are confident that they will be an invaluable tool for our municipalities in their never-ending quest to provide improved service to their residents, businesses and industries. If you want more information on the future of GIS in the MMSA please contact us... **we love talking about it!!**



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CHRISTMAS AT THE AGENCY

Christmas came early at the agency! The staff at MMSA decided to use their staff fund to purchase toys and food for the Berwyn/Grimshaw Ecumenical Care Society. The staff collectively donated \$500 out of their staff fund, and our executive director personally matched that! The food will go into Christmas Hampers, and the toys will be given to children throughout the year. We know that times are hard, and some people may need an extra helping hand over the holidays. Our hope is that these hampers will ease the load off those who need it so they can enjoy the holiday



CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

BY SANDRA EASTMAN

On behalf of the Executive Committee and the Board of the MMSA, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to Kelly Bunn, Interim Director for the MMSA. Kelly brings with him more than 28 years of Municipal experience in the Peace Region. With Kelly's leadership, we look forward to connecting with our neighbours and forging new relationships. We will continue to evolve by providing up-to-date Planning and Development Services, along with expanding and advancing our GIS mapping services, all the while looking for efficiencies to reduce costs to our members.

As always, a thank you to all our members for their continued support and wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season. May 2022 be bright and full of opportunities for us all.

Chairperson, MMSA



BERWYN SIDEWALK CONDITION ASSESMENT

BY KOMIETE TETTEH

MMSA completed a sidewalk condition assessment for the Village of Berwyn in early 2021. The aims of the project, which commenced in Summer 2020, were to:

establish an inventory of the existing public sidewalks within the Village;

access and document the conditions of the sidewalks;

develop a spatial asset management database for municipal sidewalk infrastructure; and

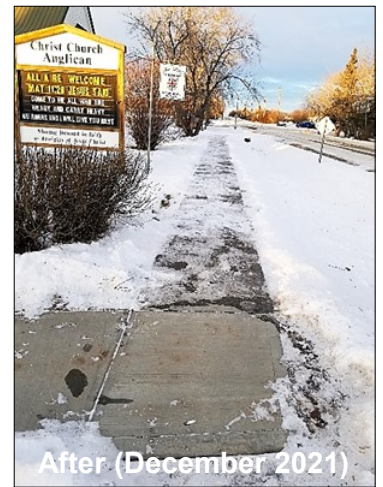
identify interventions for improved sidewalk conditions and management.

The process included an initial mapping and reconnaissance survey to identify the location and extent of the sidewalk infrastructure within the Village. A fieldwork was subsequently conducted by MMSA staff, where the sidewalk conditions were

observed and relevant data were collected and inventoried. Some of the data collected include panel dimensions, pavement material, slopes, surface conditions, geographic coordinates, and adjacent street address. Tools used include measuring wheel, ruler, GPS equipment, level and camera. The data collected were then used to assess each sidewalk panel and scored from 1 to 5, with 1 being “excellent” and 5 being “poor”. The criteria used for the assessment include factors such as surface conditions, functionality, accessibility, connectivity, and the presence, type and severity of defects. A detailed report, along

with a spatial asset management database developed from the inventory, were submitted to the Village. Maps showing the location of the sidewalks,

sidewalk condition classification by street blocks, and location of identified priority defects such as trip hazards, major cracks, missing sections, missing ramps, and obstruction due to vegetation overhang or utility infrastructure were also submitted. In the Fall of 2021, the Village started fixing some of the priority defects identified from the sidewalk condition assessment report through a third-party contractor. These included grinding offset surfaces to eliminate trip hazards and constructing new sidewalks in some of the high intensity use areas, including along 50th Street.



RAINBOW LAKE MDP & LUB REWRITE

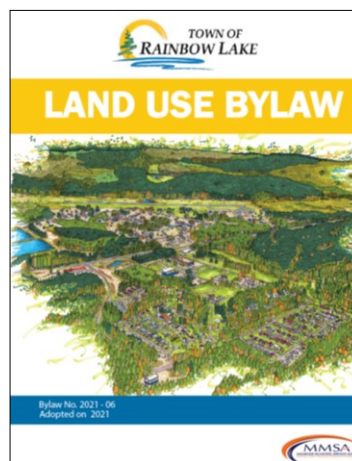
BY JAN SOTOCINAL

Due to the changes in the economy and realities that the Town face, the Town of Rainbow Lake has recently renewed their Municipal Development Plan (MDP). This MDP specifies the vision and direction for the municipality, and uses goals, objectives and policies to steer towards the “envisioned” municipality. The MDP predominantly shapes the development of future and potential land uses within the municipality.

The Town has renewed and refocused its vision to accommodate the changing economic and social climate, and this is reflected in the newly adopted MDP. In the foreseeable future, the Town of Rainbow Lake desires to move towards a diversified economy, and encourages different types of development, attracting them for the long-term viability of the Town.

In addition, changes in the MGA with respect to the Red Tape Reduction Act has snowballed into the Town reviewing and rewriting the Town’s Land Use Bylaw (LUB), a municipal bylaw which regulates land uses and developments. Working with MMSA, this allowed the Town administration to determine which areas of the LUB will require changes.

As things progress, MMSA will continue to work with the Town on different projects that may arise in the future – as the Town moves towards a sustainable future.



MMSA STAFF HIGHLIGHT—JAN SOTOCINAL

Jan Sotocinal is one of three municipal planners here at the MMSA and has called cubicle #1 home since starting at the agency on October 9th, 2017. Since joining the MMSA team, he has shown dedication and superb work ethic through each of his projects. We asked Jan a few questions to help you get to know him a bit better and here's what he had to say.

What is one of your biggest work accomplishments since starting with the MMSA?
 "Every project or inquiry is unique, so by default, completing every project or inquiry is an accomplishment. Not to sound a bit cliché but I have gained a lot from working in MMSA, challenging you in different ways."

What is your favorite thing about working at the MMSA?

"My favorite thing about working at MMSA is being able to work on different kinds of projects – long range planning, current planning, and special projects – let alone for different municipalities. Normally, when you work in a municipality, especially when you work in a larger one, you will be pigeonholed and will only work on a specific project. Working at MMSA allows you a breadth of experience, and challenges you."

What inspired you to get into the municipal planning field?

"It was in my third year of my undergraduate when I stumbled upon a class in Environment and Development, and it piqued my interest in community development. It led me to pursue another degree in rural planning and development, as I wanted to be involved in helping develop communities, specifically rural municipalities."

What do you like to do in your spare time?

"Usually, I like being active: running, swimming, a bit of cycling (sometimes), play volleyball and spikeball. During summer time, I like to be outdoors by way of camping, hiking, and occasional fishing. Winter time is when I like to be indoors and like to focus on painting or playing the guitar/sing, watching horror movies, and collecting plants (but I have since stopped buying). Volunteering with organizations such as the Alberta Party and Red Cross is something that I have done this past year."

Tell us something that might surprise us about you.

"I love to sing and dance while... driving by myself. I swear I am still pretty much a safe driver."



MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENT

On August 22nd, 2021 Clark Zhou celebrated 5 years of working with the Agency!

Clark is our Senior GIS Technologist, and carries over 10 years of GIS experience.

We are grateful for Clark's hard work and dedication to The Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency!

Congratulations, Clark!





The Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency is a regional planning organization providing a full range of professional land use planning and related services to its 11 municipal members, the business community and the general public. The Agency also provides subdivision services to 17 municipalities in the region.

MMSA Staff

Kelly Bunn, Executive Director
kelly@mmsa.ca

Olayemi Babalola, Municipal Planner
yemi@mmsa.ca

Hector Perez, GIS Technologist
hector@mmsa.ca

Shawna Shannon, Manager of Finance & Administration
shawna@mmsa.ca

Jan Sotocinal, Municipal Planner
jan@mmsa.ca

Kristy Rees, Administrative Assistant
info@mmsa.ca

Komiete Tetteh, Municipal Planner
komiete@mmsa.ca

Clark Zhou, Senior GIS Technologist
clark@mmsa.ca

CONTACT US:

5109 - 51 St
Box 450
Berwyn AB T0H 0E0

Phone: 780-338-3862
Fax: 780-338-3811
E-mail: info@mmsa.ca
Website: www.mmsa.ca

AROUND THE REGION

MMSA Board Members

MUNICIPALITY	REPRESENTATIVE	MUNICIPALITY	REPRESENTATIVE
Village of Berwyn	Kim Steeves	Town of Rainbow Lake	Don Werner
Village of Nampa	Quinton Bulford	Clear Hills County	Amber Bean
Town of Falher	Donna Buchinski	M. D. of Fairview No. 136	John Przybylski
Town of Grimshaw	Wendy Wald	M. D. of Peace No. 135	Sandra Eastman
Town of High Prairie	Sacha Martens	Northern Sunrise County	Carolyn Kolebaba
Town of Manning	Keith Hutchison		

MMSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On December 3rd, the MMSA Board of Directors held their annual Organizational meeting.

Elected to the Executive Committee are:

- Sandra Eastman, Chair (M. D. of Peace No. 135)
- Kim Steeves, Vice-Chair (Village of Berwyn)
- Wendy Wald, Member (Town of Grimshaw)
- Carolyn Kolebaba Member (Northern Sunrise County)
- Donna Buchinski Member (Town of Falher)

ROBERT E. WALTER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Committee Members:

- Amber Bean (Clear Hills County)
- Kim Steeves (Village of Berwyn)
- Quinton Bulford (Village of Nampa)

CHECK US OUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook – www.facebook.com/official.mmsa
 Twitter – @MMSA_Official

Welcome to all new board members!

The staff at the MMSA look forward to working with you!



All Robert E. Walter Memorial Scholarships applications need to be submitted prior to March 31st of 2022.

If you would like information, or packages sent to you, please email info@mmsa.ca