

ONTARIO PROFESSIONAL PLANNERS INSTITUTE

ONTARIO Planning

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010, VOL. 25, NO. 1 JOURNAL

ONTARIO PLANNERS: VISION • LEADERSHIP • GREAT COMMUNITIES

Taking a Regional View

Neptis offers a different
perspective on the GTA



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ONTARIO PLANNERS: VISION • LEADERSHIP • GREAT COMMUNITIES

ONTARIO PLANNING JOURNAL

Volume 25, Issue No. 1, 2010

ONTARIO PROFESSIONAL PLANNERS INSTITUTE
The Ontario Affiliate of the
Canadian Institute of Planners

INSTITUT DES PLANIFICATEURS
PROFESSIONNELS
DE L'ONTARIO
L'Association affiliée ontarienne
de l'Institut canadien des urbanistes



ONTARIO PLANNERS:

VISION · LEADERSHIP · GREAT COMMUNITIES

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The Journal is published six times a year by the Ontario
Professional Planners Institute.
ISSN 0840-786X

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BILLBOARD

FEBRUARY 18, 2010

PLANNING BY DESIGN: A HEALTHY COMMUNITIES HAND- BOOK—WEBINAR

A webinar will be held for OPPI members and other stakeholders on Thursday, February 18th, 2010 from 10 am to 11:30 am. Participate in the webinar and join your colleagues and professionals in public health who want to create and foster healthy communities.

CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

OPPI offers a dynamic package of educational opportunities to build members' skills and keep them up to date on key planning issues. All members are encouraged to include Professional Development Courses as part of their ongoing commitment to continuing education.

Upcoming courses for 2010 include:

Project Management for Planners

Planner as a Facilitator

Presentation Skills for Planners

Plain Language for Planners

Planner at the OMB

Urban Design for Planners

Further information, including registrations forms and the option to hold these courses in your workplace, is available at: <http://www.ontarioplanners.on.ca/content/CPL/index.aspx>

OCTOBER 28 & 29, 2010

OPPI 2010 SYMPOSIUM: HEALTHY COMMUNITIES AND PLANNING FOR FOOD—A HARVEST OF IDEAS

Come and join planners from across the province for this two-day event to explore and discuss planning for food.

The symposium will examine the many issues associated with the production, processing and distribution of food and how all of this relates to the planning profession and other key stakeholders interested in fostering healthy and sustainable communities.

The Symposium Committee is pleased to announce that Anna Maria Tremonti from CBC radio will be one of the featured speakers. Ms. Tremonti is a noted broadcaster and journalist.

Watch the OPPI web site and e-newsletter for more information in future months.

DISTRICT EVENTS

There are a number of District events taking place over the coming weeks. Stay current on planning issues and take the opportunity to network with planners in your District.

For more information, please go to: <http://www.ontarioplanners.on.ca/content/Events/eventsearch.aspx>

For more information about events,
check the OPPI web site at
www.ontarioplanners.on.ca,
and the latest issue of Members Update,
sent to you by e-mail



Sue Cumming

New President Charts Her Course

Ontario Planning Journal editor Glenn Miller sat down with Sue Cumming, who assumed the role of President of OPPI at the Niagara conference

Miller: *You take on the job of President after having served on Council for a number of years. As president-elect, you also had a chance to serve on CIP Council. How has this diverse experience shaped your priorities?*

Cumming: The leadership role is one I take very seriously. Helping the profession plan for the future is one of my main priorities. This means focusing on things such as working to establish national membership standards that facilitate portability of credentials across the country. Stimulating the interest in promoting continuous professional learning and ensuring that professional planners have the skills to compete in this economy is key.

M: *OPPI was formed in 1986. The legislation that gave rise to RPP less than a decade later was also obviously a watershed event. What do you think the future holds for self-regulation?*

C: The goal is always to move towards a stronger planning profession. I think that licensing has to be a long-term direction. As a result of changes to the *Law Society Act* which required considerable negotiation and cooperation with the Law Society of Upper Canada (the Act addressed the role of paralegals but also affected OPPI members who act as agents at tribunals and the like), OPPI has been working closely with the Law Society of Upper Canada to safeguard our position. This has had the additional benefit of raising our profile with the Attorney General. We are monitoring these issues very carefully. This is a matter that we clearly need to weigh in on sooner rather than later, and is an issue of interest to all of our members, especially those new to the profession. Quite rightly, members want to see the status of the profession elevated and the Professional Practice Advisory Group has been working hard on this.

M: *What would you say is the most significant action taken by the Institute in recent years?*

C: I am extremely proud of the work we have done to promote Healthy Communities. This has done a great deal to inform other professionals and the public about the importance of planning. Healthy Communities (see the November/December 2009 issue) has helped explain what it is we do as planners and how we are positioned in the community.

M: *So positioning planners as leaders and collaborators is important?*

C: Absolutely. The work we have done on Healthy Communities has led to important partnerships with public health and others and helped to better position the Institute as the voice of planning in the province.

Another big move was the restructuring of Central District, which has the largest concentration of members. The creation of four new Districts facilitates more active participation.

M: *Can you explain why other affiliates have moved ahead with mandatory Continuous Professional Learning (CPL) more quickly than OPPI?*

C: Let me begin by saying that OPPI supports the national standard that was established in 2003 for mandatory CPL. As each affiliate moved forward to implement a mandatory program endorsed by its members, OPPI's 2006 member survey showed that CPL was considered very important by members and they wanted more programs and course offerings, prior to implementing a mandatory CPL program. OPPI Council approved a two-phase approach; Phase 1 being to implement a series of CPL courses such as project management and urban design, and Phase 2 to secure the necessary resources to implement a mandatory CPL program. Having just about completed Phase 1, OPPI's Professional Practice and Development Committee is now poised to address Phase 2 of the plan, a mandatory CPL program for OPPI members.

M: *Fifteen years ago, you wrote an article in the Journal that posed a number of questions about the profession, such as how can planners make a difference. Is this still a relevant question?*

C: Indeed it is. In fact whenever I talk to planning students—I teach two courses at Queen's in the graduate program and speak to other schools on a regular basis—I am impressed with the high calibre of students and their energy and commitment to become engaged. The huge success of the Media Café at the recent conference is an indication of how future members will be using social media to connect with the public in innovative ways. Our website now has a direct link to student and faculty research, for example. Younger members are also very supportive of our work on Healthy Communities. The new handbook published jointly with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is an excellent example of the way I want OPPI to partner with our stakeholders—the diversity of examples in the publication is evidence of our increasing relevance as a profession.

M: *On behalf of the membership—and Journal readers—best of luck over the next two years. Thanks for sharing your thoughts with us.*

The elephant in the room: Regional issues, viewed from a distance



THE COVER ARTWORK uses a map from the new poster, *Toronto Metropolitan Region: the Big Picture*, released by the Neptis Foundation in November 2009. It depicts southern Ontario looking west from a vantage point high above Kingston. Some readers may recognize the “Southern Ontario Elephant”—its trunk points towards Detroit and its tail extends to Tobermory.

The map offers a unique perspective of the Toronto metropolitan region in its larger context. This will be one of a series of maps produced by the Neptis Foundation intended to help to explain important issues in the region. In a way, the elephant shape is appropriate, since it conjures up the story of the blind men and the elephant. Each one touched a different part of the elephant, and came away with a different impression of the beast, depending on the part touched—the ears, the trunk, the tail, or the flanks. Similarly, planners working in one part of the region may not appreciate the region-wide nature of many of the problems they encounter.

Given the increasing interest in regional growth management on the part of policymakers and the public, it is clear that many of the important urban and rural issues, including urban development, transportation, environmental resources, and agriculture, can be best understood at a regional scale. It is only by “zooming out” that we can understand the region as a functioning system, in which every part contributes to the whole. This project is intended to help policymakers,

researchers and students better visualize the region’s form, features and interconnections.

Produced in collaboration with *As the Crow Flies* cARTography, and the Cartography Office of the Department of Geography at the University of Toronto, the map was assembled from satellite imagery and enhanced by geospatial data that exaggerate the terrain and highlight many of the region’s unique features. The imagery forms a base upon which other information can be layered to engage a variety of audiences.

One of the first uses of the map will be in a project to illustrate southern Ontario’s water resources and their ability to accommodate urban growth pressures. The map will be layered to show water sources and flows, the energy requirements to pump and move water, and the locations of water treatment plants, and other key features.

Other potential uses might involve mapping agricultural resources, tracing the energy grid, or analyzing the transportation system.

For more information on the project, visit the Neptis website, www.neptis.org. If you have an idea for a project that might benefit from the perspective of a region-wide map, please contact Marcy Burchfield, Geomatic Research Program Manager at the Neptis Foundation (416-972-9199 ext 2 or mburchfield@neptis.org).

POSTER NOW AVAILABLE

The Neptis Foundation is pleased to release its latest map as a poster (28" x 40"), *Toronto Metropolitan Region: The Big Picture*.

The combination of imagery and richly-layered data, including terrain and bathymetry of the Great Lakes, beautifully-illustrates the natural and cultural assets and connections in the Toronto region in the context of southern Ontario.

To order a copy of the poster, visit www.neptis.org or phone 416-972-9199 ext 24

Neptis is a Canadian charitable foundation that funds and conducts non-partisan research and education on the growth and change of urban regions.



Property Taxes—A Brownfield Challenge

Bonnie Prior



PHOTO: IAN PITMAN

Tax issues can sink a project's viability

Brownfield redevelopment typically involves the transformation of idle industrial property, often with vacant buildings, into new higher-order land uses resulting in a host of benefits to the surrounding community, including increased property taxes. The transformation requires getting plans processed and approved; the demolition of buildings; active site remediation; the preparation and approval of risk assessments; and the filing of Records of Site Condition.

Contrast this to the typical greenfield redevelopment process where the existing land use is often agricultural lands that continue to be farmed while planning approvals process is underway.

The current property tax regime results in very different property tax implications under these two scenarios and puts the brownfield redevelopment at a distinct disadvantage when two similar sites are competing for a developer's attention.

There are two determining factors in establishing the property taxes for an individual property:

1. The Assessed Property Value (as determined by MPAC in Ontario) based on the current value of the land including improvements;
2. The Property Classification, which is identified by MPAC and assigned to all property according to its use; this classification determines the Tax Rate that will be applied to each property by the municipality.

Agricultural lands are of consistently lower assessed value than lands that are developed

or readily developable. The tax rate for agricultural land is also among the lowest, resulting in property taxes that are significantly lower than for any other class of land. The property taxes remain low throughout the planning approval process, including rezoning. A slight increase in property taxes is typically incurred only when the plan of subdivision is registered due to a tax class change. Only when the developer breaks ground to begin servicing the site do the property taxes at the new higher order land use come into effect.

In contrast, the assessed values of older industrial brownfield properties are based upon the values of other industrial properties in the area and an industrial tax class, resulting in property taxes that are often significantly higher than any other tax class. The brownfield property owner can achieve some tax relief after the buildings have been demolished, but the tax class and tax rate remain unchanged. In Ontario, the property owner can apply for a reduction in property assessment when the site is contaminated but the process is lengthy and uncertain, and there is still no method to amend the tax class to which the property is subject.

A recent study analyzed property tax implications in the development/redevelopment of a 15-acre site. A three-year timeframe was applied to compare a greenfield versus brownfield site from acquisition through to rezoning and servicing in four Ontario municipalities. The results clearly demonstrated that the brownfield redevelopment pays between \$200,000 and \$500,000 in additional property taxes over the three-year development horizon. This is obviously detrimental to any

brownfield site that is being analyzed for redevelopment potential.

Where do the solutions lie?

The Province of Ontario sets the tax policy related to property assessment. The creation of a new tax class for properties "under remediation" would allow municipalities some latitude in recognizing the overall benefits of site remediation and redevelopment. It is important that the benefits accrue to only the sites that are being actively remediated, as there are many sites that are functioning at full capacity in spite of onsite contamination and they should continue to be taxed in accordance with comparable properties.

Policies that would disallow property assessment reductions for contamination on fully functioning sites would be another tool to encourage site remediation. This would also discourage property owners from ignoring their site contamination issues, as they can currently receive tax benefits by acknowledging onsite contamination and applying for a reduced assessment. Municipalities would still receive full property tax revenues on these sites, affording them the ability to offset the property taxes on the properties that are actively undergoing remediation.

It is imperative that we continue to "level the playing field" between greenfield and brownfield developments and a levelling of property tax implications is one step to allowing brownfield sites to compete for the developer's attention. This direction is supportive of existing provincial legislation in Ontario (for example, the Provincial Policy Statement; Places to Grow; Greenbelt Plan) which supports intensification and the protection of greenfields. This would also improve the performance of existing municipal and provincial incentives (that is, Tax Increment Equivalent Grants or TIEGs) provided in Community Improvement Plans and ultimately be a progressive step toward achieving the goal of expediting the remediation and redevelopment of brownfield properties throughout Ontario.

Bonnie Prior is Chair of the Canadian Brownfields Network. This article is based on research by Pam Kraft, MCIP, RPP, Development Manager with Kilmer Brownfield Management Ltd. Enquiries about CBN should be directed to info@canadianbrownfieldsnetwork.com.

Lakeland

Lakelands District getting healthy

Rob Armstrong

For many planners in Lakelands District, winter provides excellent opportunities for various forms of outdoor social activities such as skiing and tubing. The Lakeland District Program Committees have therefore decided to look into to some new initiatives for the upcoming year and are busy planning events for 2010 to ensure we have a balance of both professional and recreational development opportunities that are relevant to our District. For most, the Lakelands District is identified through the excellent programming that is put on by the various Program Committees throughout the District. Due to the geographic nature of the District, we have three distinct groups (Central Lakelands Area, Peterborough Area Planners and Grey County Planners). We are always looking for new ideas for various events, so should you have any ideas for events or would like to assist on one of these Committees, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will put you in touch with the appropriate Committee member.

I am honoured to have been appointed as Lakelands District Representative on OPPI Council and look forward to representing our District for the next two years. On behalf of the District, I also thank our former District Rep, Michael Sullivan, for his role in recruiting an excellent team of volunteers to the Lakelands District Executive Committee. We have some new members and would like to welcome David Stinson

(Recognition), Krystin Rennie (Membership Outreach) and Peter Smith (Professional Practice and Development). These individuals attend their respective committee meetings with other District Representatives throughout the Province and work with the Program Committees in delivering programs that are based on the current directions of these Provincial Committees.

With the launch of the Healthy Communities Handbook and discussion at the recent



Rob Armstrong

World Town Planning Day events throughout our District, the Lakelands Planners are looking forward to continuing this initiative. One of such initiative is collaboration with the local Health Unit in Owen Sound. On October 19 a workshop was held at the

Grey Bruce Health Unit—“Building Healthy Communities,” attended by a broad cross-section of participants. The morning presentation included a speaker from Evergreen who spoke about greening of school grounds and the more general linkages between environment and the social and physical health of communities. An Owen Sound police officer provided tips on Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, noting the links between behaviour, safety and environment.

The afternoon presenters shared local initiatives with respect to healthy community building. Of particular interest was the pilot program “Operation safe strong and clean” undertaken as a partnership between the Grey Bruce Health Unit and the City of Owen Sound (Pam Coulter MCIP, RPP). Through their work together the two have considered questions such as: Who is responsible for health? What is a healthy community? What are the roles of

each organization? What are existing linkages that we can promote and where do barriers exist? They also noted that there was a focus on the education of each organization regarding the mandate and process of the other. Janine Dunlop suggested that a healthy communities framework includes: People and Partnerships; Policy and Procedures; Project & Programs; and, Opportunities.

This has led to the hosting a major event in the spring to increase awareness in which the role of municipal decision-makers, community members and various sectors, including public health, education, environment, social services and business, have in developing healthy communities. A number of municipal planners from Grey County have got

involved in the organization for this exciting two-day event to be held on May 11 and 12 in Owen Sound, which will include two representatives from OPPI. Anyone wishing to find out more can visit <http://www.publichealth-greybruce.on.ca/>.

The Lakelands District Executive Committee typically meets four times per year, either in person or on a conference call, to coordinate the District Business. If there are any questions you have of the District or with regard to OPPI in general, please do not hesitate to contact me at 519-538-1060, ext 1121, or roarmstrong@meaford.ca.

Rob Armstrong, MCIP, RPP is Lakeland District Representative of OPPI

Toronto

Celebrating World Town Planning Day: Planning for Age-Friendly Communities

Mimi Lau

Statistics Canada forecasts that more than 23% of Ontario’s population will be 65 or older by 2036, more than twice the current percentage. To mark World Town Planning Day, the Toronto District organized an event that provided on-the-ground examples of planning for age-friendly communities. The presentations dealt with the City of Mississauga Older Adult Plan; current research on the intrinsic connection between mobility and quality of life for older adults; accessible urban design for public/community spaces; and defining on-site needs for aging in place.

A few municipalities have led the charge in age-friendly planning. Demographic projections for

Mississauga indicate that in the next 20 years, 38% of the population will be aged 55 and over. Laura Buchal, who works with the Community Services Department, and Emily Irvine, a planner with the Planning and Building Department, presented key points from the City’s Older Adult Plan.

Extensive consultation found that the upcoming generation of older adults have a wide range of interests, abilities and needs. They are also an increasingly heterogeneous group with varying opinions on the terminology associated with older adult programming. Discussions around the stigma associated with certain terminology led to a recommendation to phase out age-defined programming. Interestingly, this new generation was also found to be more open to a user-pay system than originally expected. In consideration of increasing programming costs, income variations among older adults, and acceptance of the user-pay system, an “Access Policy” which includes a sliding user fee scale and an Access Card are

included in the City of Mississauga's Older Adult Plan.

Transportation and accessibility to vital services was another area of concern. The proposed solution is to cluster services at community nodes or neighbourhood "hubs" to improve access to services. This will be addressed in more detail during the next official plan review.

Leading into the mobility and accessibility presentations, Laura Buchal highlighted recommendations for retrofitting and way finding, transit access, and safe pedestrian crossings.

Carrying forward with the mobility issue, Christian Fisker, Vice President, Chartwell Seniors Housing REIT presented his current doctoral research. Using photos of public spaces in Aarhus and Copenhagen in Denmark and public spaces in the City of Mississauga, Christian visualized the challenge of retrofitting and adapting a modern suburb into a transit-friendly and age-friendly landscape. Taking on a theoretical note, he described the seamless connection between individual mobility and reconfiguring mobility technology, mobility infrastructure, and the built environment.

As an individual's capacity to travel changes, a greater priority will be placed on the immediate and surrounding neighbourhood. From walking down the stairs to walking down the street, the design of one's immediate vicinity can aid in creating an improved quality of life by limiting barriers to independent mobility. Rick Merrill, Partner, The Planning Partnership presented examples of urban design solutions that apply concepts from the principles of universal design to public spaces. Details such as colour and tonal contrasts that mark transitions in public spaces such as those between sidewalks and intersections can create greater confidence; consideration of space requirements for wheelchairs and scooters can create an inclusive environment; and increased frequency of rest areas along trail systems means designing to fit the needs of all ages and abilities. Neighbourhood retrofits that assist the mobility of older adults may

help them to remain in their homes and with their social networks. However, despite these interests, other health needs may require them to relocate. And most will chose to move within their community.

As noted by Carol Hrabí, Vice President Development, Concert Properties Limited, the majority of residents at Tapestry Retirement Community at Village Gate West in Toronto either moved in from the surrounding neighbourhood or had previous connections to that neighbourhood. She emphasized access to services and prioritized accessibility to services in the immediate area. As the majority of injuries in older adults happen in and around the home, sensitivity to on-site grading and the ability to maintain a sense of independence even on the premises or via various forms of transport are primary concerns expressed by residents.

Finally, the question-and-answer period struck a note with the persistent question of affordability. As illustrated by the discussion of subsidies in the City of Mississauga's Older Adult Plan, funding structures and who can afford what are important aspects to planning age-friendly communities. Whether aging gracefully means having the resources to stay in one's home or exploring options to retrofit neighbourhoods for older adults or moving into a retirement community, affordability to the individual and affordability to the public are part of the discussion.

Mimi Lau can be reached at mimi_lau@sympatico.ca.

Planning Schools Celebrate World Town Planning Day

Inspired by the words of World Town Planner Day's founder, Professor Carlos Maria della Paolera, the six planning schools in Ontario organized a diverse series of events that engaged everyone from elementary to university students, professional planners. The aim was to create spaces for people to exchange ideas and envision greener and more sustainable communities through charrettes, discussion and presentations.

University of Waterloo

WTPD at the University of Waterloo attracted about 50 students from nearby high schools together with planners from local companies, the cities of Waterloo, Kitchener and Cambridge to a design charrette on November 9. Karen Hammond organized this event, helped by 25 student volunteers from the School of Planning to provide the students with ideas and guidance. The day started off with an introductory presentation about planning and a brief overview of the charrette's site area, located along Hespeler Road in Cambridge. At present, the site is very disconnected and uninviting. Students had the challenge of brainstorming new ideas to transform this site into a pedestrian-friendly, transit-oriented space.

The students were divided into nine smaller groups, each with a planner advisor. The groups were provided with large site plan printouts and tracing paper and asked to come up with a new design and layout of the site. They were also asked to prepare a short presentation. The students came up with several great concepts, many focusing on pedestrian connectivity and 'greening' the space. Many groups also incorporated a transit hub, in anticipation of the Light Rapid Transit system proposed to go through the area in a few years. Groups also wanted to provide commercial space with residential apartments above, focusing on mixed-use buildings to optimize use of the space.

The day was a great success thanks to the efforts of Karen Hammond. The students came up with good ideas and learned something about planning and the types of projects planners deal with on a day-to-day basis.

Chris Langley, Caitlin Graup, and Brad Bradford are OPPI Student Liaison Committee Representatives.

University of Guelph

Planning and landscape architecture students from the University of Guelph got together with community members on November 9 to celebrate WTPD by tackling some difficult questions. As emerging professional planners, what is our role and responsibility in the climate change debate? Are we morally obligated to do something? The creative insight and



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positive approach of the students added a sense of hope where answers are hard to find.

Guelph students partnered with Transition Guelph, a community-based group working to increase Guelph's resilience and sustainabil-



ity. The speakers were at a local church were writer Pat Murphy and writer/director Faith Morgan, well known for the award-winning film *The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil*. Murphy is also the author of the book *Plan C: Community Survival Strategies for Peak Oil and Climate Change*. Students helped

Transition Guelph publicize the event and sold over 25 tickets. The presentation was very powerful and insightful, poignantly reminding the audience about the human justice side of climate change. It was also full of inspiration and hope, with live music, drumming, and dancing.

About 20 Guelph students gathered before the main event to informally discuss and debate climate change as it relates to planners, while consuming organic local food from the family-owned restaurant Meals that Heal. The session was facilitated by two planning students, Katie Temple and Colin Dring, who did an excellent job engaging participants. Students discussed the CIP policy on climate change, the challenges for planners in the current political context, the potential impacts of climate change in Guelph, and how these impacts will influence different sectors of the economy and society. Students divided into groups and examined what planners can do

today to tackle these challenges. The value of the discussion was in the diversity of the participants' backgrounds and points of view.

Thank you to all the participants, to the World Town Planning Day Committee, to Sally Ludwig from Transition Guelph, and to first-year student OPPI representative Jaclyn Mercer for bringing this event to life!

Katarina Vuckovic and Jaclyn Mercer are OPPI Student Liaison Committee Representatives.

Queen's University

Queen's University celebrated WPTD early with an open house in late October. Over 40 students and future students attended the event and saw high-quality environmental, social and land use planning projects done by Queen's School of Urban and Regional Planning (SURP) students. The projects included the revitalization plans for the Williamsville neighbourhood in Kingston, potential future land-use plans for various

towns across the country, and environmental policy documents.

SURP also brought a display of published works and student projects to Ottawa's WTPD event held on November 5 at Ottawa's City Hall.

Tristan Johnson and Bitia Vorell are OPPI Student Liaison Committee Representatives.

University of Toronto

On November 6, nine U of T Geography and Planning students went to Mr. Crombie's grade 4/5 class at St. Richard Catholic School in Scarborough to do a WPTD educational activity with the kids.

The grade 4/5 students were introduced to planning as a profession, encouraged to think and learn about how their homes, communities and cities are built as well as to think about their "sense of place" relative to their homes, schools and other important buildings. In turn, the U of T Geography and Planning students had the pleasure of spending an afternoon with a

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number of rambunctious youngsters, figuring out the best way to communicate planning ideas in interesting and relevant ways.

Together, the groups carried out several exercises to convey key lessons about the importance of planning practise. They started with a land-use colouring activity so that the kids could gain a sense of how to effectively arrange compatible and incompatible uses. This was followed by a reflective, writing-based activity that asked students questions about their neighbourhoods and communities which covered everything from "Are there any places in your neighbourhood that you don't feel safe?" to "What kinds of things would you like to see more of in your community?" Finally, everyone got out the construction paper, pencils, glue and tape to create their very own model cities, which tended to be chock-full of candy stores, video arcades and places to play.

Anna Wong and Nicholas Gallant are OPPI Student Liaison Committee Representatives.

Ryerson University

The culmination of fourth year's Advanced Planning Studio in late November provided the opportunity to showcase the work of Ryerson students with the wider public. Eight presentations were given over the course of two days (December 2 and 3) in the School's "new" home at 105 Bond Street.

The event was organized by Dr. Mitch Kosny, the school's director, as well as the faculty supervisors for each of the studio groups. In an effort to broaden the scope of those watching the presentations, students were encouraged to invite fellow students from other years as well as the general public.

The presentations were broad in subject matter, and were not limited to the City of Toronto. They ranged from producing a report for the Town of Huntsville's Sustainability

Committee "Towards the Development of a Huntsville Sustainable Community Plan (HSCP)" to an exercise for the Municipal Cultural Planning Partnership in mapping and re-defining Green Infrastructure, from a cultural perspective, within Toronto.

The presentations were well-received and provided a great opportunity for students and the public to engage and discuss what students in the program are learning about current planning issues. Special thanks to Mike Scott for his photography, and to Jasmine Tranter for generating additional interest in the event.

Murray White and Jasmine Tranter are OPPI Student Liaison Committee Representatives.

York University

Over the past few years, York University planning students have had the privilege of being a part of a great deal of change on campus. Thus, it seemed only natural to celebrate WPTD by showcasing major development at York. On November 13, York's Planning Club Plan IT and OPPI hosted "York University: Planning for the Next 26 Years Today" with the Director of Transportation and Master Planning from the York University Development Corporation, Chris Wong. This presentation featured four main topics. The first was the new academic buildings slated to be built, including the York Life Sciences Building and the Osgoode Hall Law School addition. York's involvement in the City of Toronto's Secondary Plan was also featured as well as the proposed Pond and Sentinel Road mixed-use development plan. Finally, students were given the opportunity to learn more about the much-anticipated Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension and what this means for York University.

We had many non-planning students as well as our graduate planning students attend the presentation and many students

came away with new ideas for their research projects and a new perspective on change at York. York University World Town Planning Day was a success.

Thank you to all those who participated in World Town



Planning Day and to OPPI for making this wonderful learning opportunity possible.

Kendra FitzRandolph, Sean Stewart and Adam Zendel are OPPI Student Liaison Committee Representatives.

People

Bronwyn Krog leaves Wittington

After 18 years planning a variety of projects across Toronto for Wittington Properties Limited, Bronwyn Krog is establishing her own consulting practice, UrbanForme Ltd. She has, in effect, worked herself out of a job: "There's no more land here. I've done it," she told NRU Publishing. Originally from New York State, Bronwyn came to Toronto to study at U of T and after a stint in the U.S., returned to Toronto to work with the City. She has been an active member of the Board of Trade, a director on high profile boards, and at one point chaired the Canadian Urban Institute's annual brownfields conference.

Dan Currie joined MHBC Planning last November. He was previously the Director of Policy Planning for the City of Cambridge. He will be located in MHBC's Kitchener office and can be reached at dcurrie@mhbcpplan.com.

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Has the Greenbelt Plan Changed the Planning Application Process?

Jane McFarlane

In 2005 the provincial government implemented the Greenbelt Plan in the Greater Golden Horseshoe in an effort to protect the natural environment from urban encroachment. Affected municipalities within the 400,000 hectares of newly designated Protected Countryside have since had the responsibility of ensuring that all planning applications and decisions conform to the Plan. But what has really changed? In the four years since implementation, how have the new Protected Countryside policies changed the planning application process? Do these changes better protect green space? Can the Greenbelt Plan be considered a good environmental planning tool?

Changes to the planning application process?

I researched these issues as part of my master's degree in an attempt to answer these questions. I found that the planning application

process within the Natural System of the Protected Countryside has changed in two different ways. First, an analysis of applications in Caledon revealed that the introduction of a pre-application stage appears to have had the effect of discouraging planning submissions. The number of planning applications submitted to the Town dramatically decreased after the Greenbelt Plan was implemented.

In the four years prior to mid-December, 2004 there were approximately 45 planning applications made in the study area. Four years after implementation, the number had decreased to seven. A couple of changes are now occurring during the pre-application consultation contributed to these findings. Developers and other applicants are now being informed that the application process has become longer and more complex due to increased requirements for pre-development studies related to the Natural System. Town planning staff confirmed that, for the most part, applicants were unaware of the increased requirements associated with development within the Natural System before these consultations. As well, applicants are being informed of the limited uses permitted by the Natural System policies, which may have led applicants to either become discouraged or shift their focus towards existing settlement areas.

In Whitchurch-Stouffville, applications made within the Natural System were required to undertake additional studies and commit to additional remediation. For the most part, most applications were completed with the additional requirements. These new requirements have created a longer and more complex process. Additional requirements typically included Natural Heritage Evaluations in conjunction with the formal application package. Their purpose is to define the natural heritage and hydrological constraints to development and ensure that

the proposed development activities conform to the Natural System policies.

These new requirements also served to discourage some planning applications, although unlike Caledon, this did not occur at the pre-application stage. The statistics regarding planning applications submitted before and after Greenbelt implementation were not significantly different for the study area in Whitchurch-Stouffville. Regarding the applications that were submitted after implementation of the Greenbelt Plan, only a small number were withdrawn and this occurred after the formal application had been submitted.

Protection of green space and good environmental planning?

Although changes to the application process were different in Caledon and Whitchurch-Stouffville, both types of change appear to have had a positive influence in terms of protecting green space. In Caledon, discouraging applications has reduced disturbance from development and left the landscape in a more natural state. Most green spaces are under serious threat from development, a process that not only reduces the amount of green space but fragments it and reduces its ability to maintain ecological functions.

In Whitchurch-Stouffville, applicants with proposed projects within the Natural System have had to demonstrate that there will be no negative effects on features/functions and that development and/or site alteration will maintain connectivity and other aspects of ecological integrity. The protection of green space in these two municipalities contributes to the overall enhancement of biodiversity, air and water quality, climate change regulation and other factors that contribute to the quality of life of the region.

This analysis, however, is not enough to determine if the Greenbelt Plan represents good environmental planning. Greenbelt policies have much broader goals. Although my research identified changes affecting the number and quality of planning applications with respect to these goals, this may not be enough to determine the overall effectiveness of the Greenbelt Plan as an environmental planning tool. Optimistically, I want to believe that the level of green space protection that I found is uniform throughout the Protected Countryside, however it is still too early to determine how the Greenbelt Plan is shaping the region as a whole.

Jane McFarlane presented these findings at the 2009 CIP/OPPI Conference in Niagara Falls.



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President's Message

OPPI a high performance organization



AS I ASSUME THE ROLE of President, it is with great care for what has been achieved by Past Presidents and Councils and with a zeal for the road ahead and what needs to be done to strengthen the profession. In 2010 we celebrate 15 years since the receipt of Royal Assent for the OPPI Act in 1994, which provided for the planning profession the protected title of RPP and enabled OPPI to govern the rights and responsibilities of its members. This milestone in our profession came about as a result of the diligent and visionary Presidents, Council, and members of the day. As we look to the future, we need to ask ourselves: What is on the horizon? What do we need to focus on to position the profession for 2010 and beyond?

Today, OPPI is in a state of change—a dynamic change that for the most part affords tremendous opportunity for the profession. Council is wrestling with many competing priorities including membership processing, outreach and engagement, timely communication, discipline-related matters, supporting the now seven Districts, and responding to paralegal legislation, to cite just a few. Effective Council and staff leadership is being demonstrated in all of these and other areas in the face of the challenges of maintaining efficiencies in service, the ever-present economic conditions, and the vast array and diversity of membership needs and desires.

As guided by Beyond 2010, OPPI has a strategic plan that focuses on outcomes for the planning profession. OPPI is moving towards a high-performance organization guided by a strong vision and mission for being the voice of the planning profession; leading and supporting its members to plan healthy communities; acting as a resource and centre for excellence in planning; and developing and maintaining professional standards in the interests of the public of Ontario.

As President, I am committed to living up to the expectations of our membership both as leader and spokesperson for OPPI representing members' interests. We need to build

on the volunteer strength and commitment to the Institute and ensure that we recognize all of the various roles that planners have within the public and private sectors. A key aim is to find ways to communicate OPPI activities and encourage your involvement and feedback.

My commitment over the next two years is to work with Council to see the following key priorities advanced:

- Implement changes to our membership process with respect to application for membership, sponsor roles and responsibilities, logging of professional experience, creation of an Ethics Course and moving to a written exam for full membership (Exam A). OPPI is supportive of the Planning for the Future Project being carried out at the national level. While this process continues to chug along slowly with the input of all affiliates, OPPI Council with the advice of the Registrar and Provincial Membership Committee has endorsed immediate short-term recommendations that would significantly improve the process in Ontario.
- Take the necessary steps to explore further the process and actions needed for stronger legislation for the planning profession in Ontario. In November 2009, OPPI Council endorsed a well-considered White Paper on Self Regulation prepared by the Professional Practice Working Group. This work is of vital importance and will be carefully reviewed with input from members as we move forward.
- To update our 2004 Communication Strategy and Plan with the view to freshening up ways members receive and contribute to information, including exploring communication formats and social media tools.
- To continue the engagement work with students and graduate planners—the future of our profession—including building more opportunities like the smashing success of the Niagara Conference Interactive Media Café.

- To continue to build bridges and partnerships that will further the planning of Healthy Communities in Ontario.
- To examine the relationship with the Canadian Institute of Planners with a view to ensuring that our Affiliate relationship serves the membership in Ontario well.

I would like to thank you, the members who have shown their extraordinary commitment, who volunteer their time and energy

and many of you have done so for so many years. We are much further ahead because of your contributions. I would also like to applaud the vision, volunteerism, and stick-to-itiveness of my fellow Council members and look forward to what we can accomplish—we have much to do!

To all of you, together we can build an even stronger profession. I encourage you to work with me and our Council to build a strong representative Institute that will serve

its members and advance the profession in Ontario. Have an idea or comment? On the last Friday morning of each month through to 2011, I am having "Frank Fridays" and will be available at my desk to hear from you. Please call me toll free at 866 611-3715. Email me at cummingl@total.net or call at any other time.

Sue Cumming MCIP, RPP is President of OPPI and the principal of Cumming + Company.



Sue Cumming with the Queen's University Planning Students



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The Next Generation of Planners

Adam Zendel

This past year has been a record breaking one for Ontario planning students. The CIP-OPPI Conference saw the best student turn-out ever. Planning students are eager to get out and show all of the professional planners that they have what it takes to be the Next Generation of Planners.

Beyond 2010—OPPI's new Strategic Plan makes it a goal to "Grow the planning profession by continuing to attract the brightest and the best." OPPI is well on its way to meeting and surpassing this goal and the Student Liaison Committee, which has representation from all six of the accredited planning programs in Ontario, has been working hard with OPPI to ensure that the Next Generation has the necessary resources and opportunities. This year the goal of the Student Liaison Committee will be to work towards developing a stronger connection between Ontario Planning Students and OPPI.

One way that OPPI works to attract the best available talent is through the offer of scholarships. This year, on top of the long standing Undergraduate, Graduate and District OPPI scholarships, OPPI has introduced two new scholarships, the Dr. Wayne Caldwell 2010 Scholarship and the Paul Bedford Research Grant. All of these scholarships are open to OPPI Student members and more information on them can be found on the

OPPI Website; the deadline for many of the scholarships is March 1, 2010.

The Student Liaison Committee is the link between OPPI and planning students across Ontario and the committee members are constantly working to try to improve the OPPI Student Membership experience. We are currently planning for the development of a Cross University Sustainability Leadership Challenge that will help to connect planning students from across Ontario with OPPI, make sustainability an integral part of the Student Liaison Committee and allow us to make a difference at our universities. As well, we are working to ensure that we have a strong representation of Ontario Planning Students at the upcoming 2010 CAPS-ACEAU Student Planning Conference which will be held in Guelph in February.

In the coming months there will be a number of opportunities for students to get involved with OPPI. The election process for the 2010/2011 Student Delegate position will begin in January with a call for nominations in the Members Update e-newsletter. All nominations are due by March 1, 2010, and the new delegate will be announced by April 15, 2010. This is a great opportunity to make a difference and lead your fellow Ontario planning students; I would encourage all interested OPPI Student Members to consider this opportunity. More information on the Student Delegate position is available on the OPPI website or you can contact me directly if you have any questions. As well, in Fall 2010 elections for Student Representatives will take place, if you're interested, look for information in early September 2010.

Students constantly tell me that they are

eager to meet and learn from the current generation of planners. So, next time you have the opportunity to meet a student, take a moment and share some of your planning wisdom and experience with them and help inspire the Next Generation of Planners to build on the strong foundation you have set for them.

Adam Zendel can be reached at zendel@yorku.ca. He is the OPPI Student Delegate 2009/2010.



Adam Zendel

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 Yeh, John – ORD
 Young, Patricia – LD
 Zamodits, Paul - TD
 Zoldy, Derek Allen - ORD

District Abbreviations

Eastern District ED
 Lakeland District LD
 Northern District ND
 Oak Ridge's District ORD
 Southwest District SWD
 Toronto District TD
 Western Lake Ont. District WLOD

For More Information

For questions regarding membership, please contact Christina Edwards, Membership Coordinator, at: 416-483-1873 Ext. 222, 1-800-668-1448 Ext. 222, or membership@ontarioplanners.on.ca

Where Planners Weathered the Storm: Eastern District

Rory Baksh

By most accounts, Ontario, Canada and the global economy are well on their way out of a recession. Although the economic downturn affected many sectors, the planning profession in Eastern District has likely seen one of its busiest periods in recent years.

There is a firm belief that planning is a recession-proof career. In good times, planners are needed to manage growth and shepherd development.

When we face challenging times, the vision of planners is needed to stimulate growth, strategize for economic development, and stay focused on long-term goals for prosperity. This has been the case in Eastern Ontario (even though the federal government presence in



Rory Baksh

Ottawa suggests economic stability, there are substantial planning successes in the district's other towns, cities, and counties) as a testament to our resilience.

Notwithstanding the prevailing market instability, Eastern District planners made many strides towards sustainability. One notable highlight is the launch of the City of Kingston's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP). Since amalgamation and the City's initial Community-Based Strategic Plan, the City sees its ICSP as the next milestone to achieving its vision, "Canada's most sustainable city." Just north of Kingston, the County of Frontenac established a new Manager of Sustainability Planning staff position to help implement their ICSP which was adopted in principle by Council in August.

The economic downturn did not slow the wide variety of important area planning initiatives that were launched in 2009. Prince Edward County began work on the Picton-Hallowell Secondary Plan to help direct its next wave of growth. Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) launched the Tunney's Pasture Master Plan to provide direction for the future of a 49 hectare site with 19 buildings that currently accommodate 10,000 federal employees. The National Capital Greenbelt, 20,000 hectares of land that symbolize Canada's rural traditions and provide sites for many Capital institutions, began an update to its Master Plan.

The economic challenges of the past year did not affect the long list of priorities at the City of Ottawa, including approval of the municipality's updated Official Plan, Transportation Master Plan, and kick-off of the Choosing Our Future 100-year vision project. The municipality took bold moves in setting high targets for intensification, transit modal share, and an aggressive strategy for investing in public transit. Some unique projects that will carry forward include a design competition for Lansdowne Park (stadium site redevelopment) and the King Edward Avenue Lane Reduction Feasibility Study (quality of life assessment for a potential lane reduction on one of the city's main arterial roads).

Development activity in Eastern Ontario was also generally positive with planners continuing to lead major development proposals. The interest in green, renewable energy generation projects remained strong with many promising wind and solar farm development proposals in the district's rural areas. A major residential development proposal in the Village of Manotick was approved by a landmark

decision from the Divisional Court where the Ontario Municipal Board "had regard" for council's decision. As Eastern District pulls away from the recession, the City of Cornwall is expecting over \$500,000 of surplus revenue from building permit activity. As the year was coming to a close, some developers were finding themselves with a looming shortage of serviced land available for new housing development, with planners at the forefront of managing this development demand.

The academic work at the district's only recognized planning school should not be overlooked. The relationship with Queen's University contributes to the vibrancy of the profession's knowledge base, with current Master's thesis topics ranging from transit-oriented development, to strengthening social cohesion, to water-sensitive/low impact design, to the role of planning in lower-income neighbourhoods.

The volunteer spirit in Eastern District certainly outpaced the performance of most mutual funds in 2009, and remained strong enough to support a robust series of OPPI Eastern District events including our fourth annual Town and Rural Planning Workshop, Spring and Winter Socials, and a WTPD showcase.

Looking back, the planning profession has apparently thrived during tough economic times. It was most fulfilling to be a planner in Eastern Ontario, where the skills, talents, and visionary qualities of planners remained in high demand and where we continued to serve the public interest with passion and professionalism.

Rory Baksh, MCIP RPP, is the Chair of Eastern District and an Associate at Dillon Consulting Limited. He can be reached at rbaksh@dillon.ca.

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The Discipline Process

Paul Stagl

Back in August you were advised in OPPI's e-newsletter that improvements and changes had been made to OPPI's Discipline process. The amendments to the OPPI By-law required by those changes have now been confirmed by the membership by mail ballot and at the Annual General Meeting.

As Chair of the Discipline Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the overall rationale and purpose of the Discipline process itself.

Under s.(2)(c) of our private act legislation (An Act respecting the Ontario Professional Planners Institute), OPPI "shall pass by-laws... regulating and governing the conduct of members of the Institute in the practice of their profession, by prescribing rules of professional conduct and standards of practice and by providing for suspensions, expulsions or other penalties for professional misconduct, incapacity or incompetence."

The ultimate purpose of "governing the conduct of members" and enforcing the Professional Code of Practice is to protect the public from misconduct. Common sense and legal principles suggest that the Discipline process that governs the conduct of members should be clear, consistent, and open.

Further to the legislation, the OPPI By-law at section 15 and in Appendix II generally sets out how complaints about a member's professional misconduct are received, investigated, and resolved. The Discipline Committee is also authorized to issue more detailed procedural rules and regulations, and it has now done so effective July 15, 2009. Those rules are modeled on the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Ontario Municipal Board, with which many OPPI members will be familiar.

You can find (the recently-amended) Appendix II and the new Discipline Committee

"Rules of Practice and Procedure" at <http://www.ontarioplanners.on.ca/content/PlanningProfession/AboutOPPI/disciplinecommittee.aspx>.

As mentioned in the e-newsletter, these changes were intended to allow the Discipline Committee to operate more efficiently, and to otherwise clarify, improve and enhance the discipline process. Some of the changes also highlight several important aspects of the Discipline process overall.

Punishment & Deterrence

I emphasize again that we are discussing here penalties ordered only after a full and formal hearing, with procedural safeguards, has allowed the Discipline Committee to determine that a breach of the professional code of practice has occurred. If it is determined that a member has breached the Professional Code of Practice, and the nature of the breach warrants a fine, the maximum fine that the Discipline Committee can impose has been increased to \$25,000. This is an increase from the \$5,000 maximum originally set back in 1994, but it is still less than the maximum \$35,000 that healthcare professionals are liable to pay if found guilty of professional misconduct.

The Discipline process enforces the Professional Code of Practice by vigorously punishing breaches. Traditionally, punishment is expected to deter the disciplined member from future breaches. Perhaps more importantly, it is hoped that it will deter other members from similar breaches. It does this both by warning the membership of the possible consequences of such misconduct, and by giving them concrete examples and educating them as to what the Discipline Committee and the profession consider to be misconduct.

Mediation and Remediation

But punishment is not the sole aim of a

Discipline process. Regulatory bodies increasingly view remediation as essential, and in the long run as a more effective method of raising professional standards.

The new Discipline process allows the subcommittee (i.e., the investigating body) to recommend mediation of a complaint rather than the holding of a formal hearing. Mediation and other "alternative dispute resolution" methods are often used by regulators, since they can potentially resolve complaints, satisfy complainants, and educate professionals, all at the same time.

If instead there is a formal hearing and a finding of professional misconduct, the Discipline Committee is now explicitly authorized to include in the penalty order such extra-curricular, educational or other corrective measures for the member as are fair and reasonable. The Discipline Committee has made such orders in the past, but this explicit change recognizes and emphasizes the following important fact.

A member's breach of the standards may flow from deficiencies in his or her appreciation or understanding of the professional code and the standards. In that case, simply fining a member (or suspending their membership) does little or nothing to improve their practice, lower the risk of future breaches, or protect the public.

Remediation is obviously preferable from the member's point of view. The Discipline Committee can take this into account, although it is ultimately more concerned with the public interest. The Discipline Committee assesses whatever misconduct it determines has occurred, and crafts a penalty that combines the appropriate proportions of punishment and remediation.

Education

From the point of view of OPPI and the public, there is something even better than "punishment" or "remediation" of breaches of the professional code of practice: namely, "prevention" of such breaches. The Discipline Committee and Council have determined that enhanced communication with the membership will contribute to such prevention.

Therefore, you can look forward to further items in this publication or the e-newsletter, such as no-name descriptions of complaint matters that did not proceed to a full-fledged discipline hearing. A review of the issues that led to the complaints will hopefully assist OPPI members in avoiding problematic situations in their own practice.

Paul Stagl, MCIP, RPP,
Chair, Discipline Committee



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Planning for a New Decade— the Uncertain Tens

HEADING INTO THE SECOND DECADE of the millennium—still without a proper name, the “tens” just doesn’t resonate—what is in store for planners? And how did the past ten years affect our profession?

Having adjusted to a worldview changed forever by September 11, 2001, we ended the past decade mired in the worst economic recession since the Great Depression. Although there are signs of recovery, the auto sector—one of Ontario’s key economic drivers—suffered massive structural damage, with consequences for communities large and small. Although climate change remains a perpetual worry, in every crisis there is opportunity. Growing competence in integrated energy planning; the potential to green Ontario’s economy; increased commitment to urban design; and a renewed interest in planning’s public health origins represent some hopeful directions.

In years to come, commentators will likely point to the decade just past as a watershed for planning in Ontario, when the Liberal government used its legislative and fiscal powers to intervene in planning on an unprecedented scale. Major changes to the Planning Act, OMB reform, recalibration of risks associated with brownfields, creation of the world’s largest greenbelt, source water protection, two massive growth plans, bold new energy legislation—the list of game-changing initiatives is both extensive and extraordinary. It is worth noting, however, that momentum for an activist provincial agenda began with the previous government, the same political forces associated with downloading and dismantling the social safety net.

The United Nations dubbed this millennium as the “urban century,” challenging planners around the globe to come to grips with complex systems. In 2000, having survived Y2K and handled with difficulty the fiscal and organizational realities imposed by amalgamations in the 1990s, municipal decision makers and their private-sector counterparts in the vanguard of sustainable city building were confidently anticipating that Ontario would be leading by example. Cities were gaining recognition as vital engines for wealth creation and the obvious candidates for steering a responsible path to sustainability. We had both the tools and knowhow to create great communities—or so we thought. Midway through 2000, Walkerton brought us down to earth.

Walkerton was the wake-up call that jugged Queen’s Park out of its complacency. If Ontario could earn a failing grade on something as basic as safe drinking water, what did the Walkerton debacle say about our trust in local planning? Having already experimented with

prescriptive policy making with Lands for Life in 1999, the urgent need to respond to Walkerton helped spark the province’s long journey back from laissez-faire policy to oversight and control.

One of the first steps was the formation of the Ontario Smart Growth Secretariat in 1991 “to promote and manage growth in ways that sustain a strong economy, build strong communities and promote a healthy environment.” To its credit, the Liberal government that replaced the Conservatives in 1993 retained the essential elements of the strategy, leading the way to many of today’s structures and processes.

There were also failures. The Greater Toronto Services Board never overcame its problems with political infighting. The creation of Metrolinx and subsequent removal of political representation from the Board illustrated the government’s impatience with local wrangling over priorities. Another unresolved problem is the lack of fiscal capacity at the municipal level to afford the twin challenges of infrastructure replacement and creation of “necessary infrastructure” to support development of “complete communities”—a veritable Pandora’s Box stuffed with outmoded fiscal tools like development charges.

Today, the pendulum continues to move between centralized versus decentralized decision-making. The hurried, sometimes muddled efforts throughout 2009 to dispense stimulus capital funds highlight the potential disconnect between benign belief in decentralized authority and the desire to simplify decision-making in order get the job done. Ironically, some of the most sophisticated practitioners—those who understand how to prepare accurate forecasts, measure performance and balance capital and operating expenditures—are those working at the regional level. The benefits of two-tier government may well be better appreciated today than they were in the late 1990s, as communities struggle to address complex challenges like the delivery of infrastructure renewal, providing social housing and services for economically disadvantaged populations.

Although the outlook for the “tens” remains uncertain, there is little doubt that planners have a major role to play, regardless of sector or area of focus. This decade will also see the impact of demographic change on our profession, challenging anyone under the age of 40 to look ahead to 2020 and ask themselves where they will be ten years from now and what they will have accomplished as planners.

Glenn Miller, FCIP, RPP, is editor of the Ontario Planning Journal and vice president, education and research, with the Canadian Urban Institute. He can be reached at editor@ontarioplanning.com.

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Walkerton brought us
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
If you have any comments,
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Planners for today and tomorrow

Paul J. Bedford

THE INSPIRATION for this article comes from several places. First, there are municipal elections this fall. In Toronto, the race for mayor is wide open. Second, I am just about begin teaching my “Thinking and Acting Like a Region” course in Ryerson’s new Graduate Masters degree program in Urban and Regional Planning. Third, what really made me think hard about the future is that I have now enjoyed 40 years in this wonderful profession!

Where has the time gone? What can today’s young planners anticipate over the next 40 years? What is the likely future role for tomorrow’s city planning departments?

2050 not so far away

Looking ahead 40 years to the mid century mark of 2050 is a great time for our profession to look hard at how it can help to shape a better future. While I will not see 2050, planners starting their career in 2010 will be able to see, feel and touch



The primary role of a planner should be that of a change agent who is creative, innovative and passionate

the impact of their working life on the landscape. Will they be able to point with pride to their achievements or look back on missed opportunities?

A great starting point for this discussion is the article by Alan Gummo in the most recent issue. Alan lays out the uncomfortable truth that many of the good ideas are coming from outside our profession and that the rhetoric often is often not matched by reality. A good example of this is the creation of the Healthy City movement in the 1980s with a benchmark report called “Healthy Toronto 2000.” The ideas embodied in this document were the forerunners of smart growth, new urbanism and gave birth to the “State of the City report card.” The concept has been kept alive by the Toronto Community Foundation with its annual “Vital Signs” report. The Healthy City concept had its origin in Public Health. Twenty-five years later OPPI is now embracing the concept with great fanfare with the Healthy Communities Handbook. I am glad this is happening, but it is not a new idea.

Alan argues that planners need to reconnect with people and take clear and principled positions on big-picture issues that shape our cities and regions. He also makes a case for CIP

and OPPI to more aggressively influence public policy and legislation; he also insists on open recognition of our role in facilitating sprawl. I was inspired to read his call to action for a new generation of leaders who are agents of change and welcome his contribution to the profession. This view is shared by many who yearn for a more visible, meaningful role. I firmly believe that the primary role of a planner should be that of a change agent who is creative, innovative, connected and passionate. This desire is not exclusive to young planners. It is shared by those of all ages who know that change is the only fixed point of stability in a planner’s career.

Interconnected Challenges for Planners

One of biggest challenges we face is how to cope with the health needs of the aging baby boom population. Starting in 2011 the first baby boomers turn 65. From 2011 through 2031 enormous financial pressures will be placed on the province. Health care already occupies 42% of the provincial budget. Reports forecast a doubling of new cases of dementia and a tenfold economic burden by 2038. I am already familiar with this burden, as are many others. Addressing these health realities will encompass land use issues, funding sources, community support services and social cohesion. What role will the planners play in shaping an innovative response to this crisis?

Given the backlog of infrastructure needs in the province, education pressures, the loss of conventional manufacturing jobs, energy demands and substantial deficit budget forecasts for years to come, new revenue sources and cut-backs will be hotly debated. This applies to all levels of government and will therefore impact the programs and objectives of planners throughout the province. Despite these shortfalls, people will most likely continue to demand the services they expect. The real challenge for planners will be to help provide accurate information on the choices available and the consequences of making those choices so that intelligent decisions can be made. Where will the money come from to meet these needs? Are people ready to discuss funding shortfalls or are we doomed to reduce our expectations? Planners have a huge role to play in being on the front lines if we wish to shape the future. This requires that planners take a leadership role in helping to define alternative visions.

Integrating new immigrants and refugees into the mainstream at a much faster rate will become more important than ever for our future prosperity and peace. Canada will continue to be a primary destination for about 250,000 immigrants per year from every corner of the world with the majority settling in the Toronto city region. We are indeed

a place that is “at home with the world.” Creation of new mentorship programs, scholarships for young immigrants and changes to the Canada Student Financial Assistance Act to enable refugees to become eligible for student loans as “protected persons” prior to becoming landed immigrants are recent success stories. Many more initiatives of this type will be needed.

A New Role for City Planning Departments?

Planning departments are under increasing pressure to cut back on programs, functions and staff. For example, Toronto’s City Planning department currently has over 60 vacant positions with the prospect of more to come once the 2010 Operating budget is finally adopted. This represents about 20% of the total establishment and clearly makes it extremely difficult to deliver planning services, yet few know about this. To make matters worse, the majority of the staff budget is funded from development application fees. This ludicrous situation means that the strength of the department is dependent on the level of development. To me, it makes sense to fund the planning department from general tax revenue so that it does not experience wild fluctuations. One can easily make the case that a strong department is needed even more in down times when it can turn its attention to pressing communities in need.

Toronto is not alone in this predicament. The Los Angeles city planning department is currently facing a staff reduction of one third or more from a staff of 400. The department is currently preparing for a new budget reality. Ottawa’s planning department recently emerged from a corporate realignment exercise called “Renewing the Organization: The Approach to Change” that distinguishes between thinking about the city of today (focusing on service excellence and improving the citizens’ interactions with the department) and the city of tomorrow (focusing on infrastructure services and community sustainability). The new organization assigns different staff development teams to urban, suburban and rural areas of the city and devotes staff to Policy, Urban Design and Transportation Planning.

Toronto’s City Planning department could also benefit from a major rethink. The next two years represent an unprecedented opportunity to rethink the mission, mandate and priorities of the department, with the election of a new mayor and council, the retirement of senior-level management staff and commencement of a mandatory five-year review of the official plan. There is also a chance to revisit past decisions and take a fresh perspective. For example, such important functions such as the Waterfront, Public Realm and Tower Renewal in addition to Neighbourhood Action Teams concentrating on Toronto’s 13 priority neighbourhoods exist as either separate offices or are nested within other departments. The irony is that many staff for these new units come from the depleted planning department. My sense is that these functions could have more impact if they were linked and integrated directly into a rethought mission for the city planning department with resulting cost savings.

Building A Civil Society

Given the extent of these challenges and the likelihood that financial cutbacks are likely to be with us for some time, how will it be possible to build a civil society?

In my view, one of the most important roles for future planners will be to use their skills as connectors between problems and solutions and convenors of diverse people to capitalize on the power and influence of numerous outside networks to help focus on the core priorities within their respective cities and regions. Rather than try to cover all the bases on their own, planning departments should focus on establishing strong, ongoing connections to outside expertise that is only too ready to help with the collective task of city building.

Perhaps the most powerful example is the Toronto City Summit Alliance under the leadership of the late David Pecaut. This brilliant, energetic man didn’t wait for city hall to get things done, so he put together an amazing network of CEOs and community leaders in both the private and public sector to just do it! The 2007 Toronto Summit led to a powerful document called “Making Big Things Happen” that addressed a broad range of priority topics, but more importantly the Alliance’s activities led to action. It supported the creation of Metrolinx, the annual arts festival Luminato, legislative changes to facilitate the integration of new Canadians into the work force, mentorship programs, programs to achieve income security for working adults, Diverse City and the Emerging Leaders Network. I fully expect this activity to continue under the new leadership of John Tory and look forward to the next summit in 2011.

All of this was done outside of City Hall. So planning departments should not feel like they need to tackle the problems of the city on their own, as there are others who want to help. But City Hall does need to reach out and invite outside networks into the city hall tent. They need to form linkages, develop working relationships and build sustainable partnerships to harness the power of major community leaders to push elected representatives to get things done. The list of such organizations in a large city like Toronto is endless and would include the Centre for Social Innovation, the Toronto Community Foundation, Artscape, the University of Toronto Cities Centre, the Maytree Foundation and the Canadian Urban Institute. However, cities and regions of all sizes have their own outside expertise that local planning departments must connect with to make good things happen.

As I think about my own four decades as a city planner I am envious of young people just starting out. They will certainly have their share of major problems to solve and will need to constantly generate new ideas but what an amazing time they will have. They must resolve to love their cities and never be afraid of showing it. They must be civic entrepreneurs instead of civic bureaucrats. They must be energetic and be prepared to take risks. I can only hope that they can look back with satisfaction in 2050 at what they have accomplished and pass on their experiences to the next generation. How lucky they are!

Paul Bedford, FCIP, RPP, is contributing editor for Planning Futures. He teaches city and regional planning at the University of Toronto and Ryerson University, is a frequent speaker and writer in addition to serving on Board of Metrolinx, the National Capital Commission Planning Advisory Committee and Toronto’s Waterfront Design Review Panel. He is also a Senior Associate with the Canadian Urban Institute.

Designating Heritage Cemeteries in Oakville

Michael Seaman and Carolyn Van Slightenhorst



Cemeteries an important part of green infrastructure

The Town of Oakville has long recognized the importance of conserving its cultural heritage resources as part of its sense of community and identity. Its first community effort at heritage conservation was the Old Post Office, preserved in 1948. The Town's heritage plaque program was established in 1957, its first designation (Erchless Estate) was achieved in 1976 and the Old Oakville conservation district (1981) was one of the first created in Ontario.

The designation of heritage cemeteries is part of Oakville's heritage conservation program. Older cemeteries are visible, tangible links with people who made history. The inscriptions on their monuments tell us not only their names and dates, but often where they lived, their occupation and affiliations, the manner of their death, personal traits that survivors held dear, and names of relatives. These inscriptions instruct us about local, medical and material history, cultural geography, historical archaeology, folklore, genealogy, and much more.

A cemetery is more than a collection of interesting historical data, as precious and revealing as that may be. It is also a place—an open space populated by monuments and

vegetation—that forms a distinctive cultural heritage landscape.

Designation of cemeteries under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* promotes the recognition of these significant cultural heritage landscapes. Perhaps more importantly, designation provides a municipal council with tools to protect these resources for the future. Designation not only protects character-defining features such as monuments, vegetation and fences, but also elevates the status of the cemetery in the eyes of the *Planning Act* to that of a "protected heritage property" as defined in the Provincial Policy Statement. This requires that the municipality consider impacts on the cemetery from development or site alterations on adjacent lands.

In 1987, the Town of Oakville designated Oakville St. Mary's (established in 1858), and Bronte Cemetery (established in 1823). Five years later, it designated three more—the Munn's United Church Cemetery (1820), Merton Mount Pleasant Cemetery (1880), and the Cox Estate Pioneer Cemetery (1833).

These were all inactive cemeteries. However, the Town wanted to designate two additional municipally owned cemeteries that

are still in use—Palermo United Church Cemetery and St. Jude's Cemetery.

Palermo United Church Cemetery dates to 1818, when the property was set aside for use as a cemetery for the Methodist Church. The cemetery has cultural heritage value for its association with the development and history of the Village of Palermo, once an important stagecoach stopping place along the Dundas Street military road. The cemetery inscriptions provide important insights into the lives of the inhabitants of Palermo and the surrounding agricultural community of Trafalgar Township.

St. Jude's Cemetery is a rural 19th-century church cemetery linked to the historical development of Oakville and to many of the founding families of the Town. It was established in 1853 on five acres of land purchased by the Anglican Church of St. Jude in Oakville and continues to serve members of this church today.

Although the process took longer than that for the other cemeteries, all potential operational concerns with the proposed designations were addressed, and both St. Jude's Cemetery and the Palermo United Church Cemetery were designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The Town continues to sell interment rights at both St. Jude's and Palermo Cemeteries, while maintaining a program of maintenance of the historic grounds and monuments. The Town's Cemetery Services Section is also conducting an ongoing identification and restoration program of monuments in all Town-owned cemeteries. This program meets and exceeds recommended provincial standards as defined in the Provincial handbook, "Landscapes of Memories: A Guide for Conserving Historic Cemeteries."

The effect of designation on the day-to-day operations of these cemeteries is minimal. The designation by-laws for these cemeteries outline only a specific and limited number of works requiring a heritage permit, which allows normal operations and maintenance to continue without heritage approval. Given the way in which the designation was achieved, a heritage permit would be required in only a few instances.

The Town has now achieved its goal of protecting all of its municipally owned heritage cemeteries under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Michael Seaman, MCIP, RPP, (pictured) is the Ontario Planning Journal's contributing editor for Heritage and Manager of Heritage Planning, Town of Oakville. Carolyn Van Slightenhorst is a Heritage Planner with the town.

Calgary's example shows that Transportation Impact Assessments Can be Transit-Friendly

Tamas Hertel

To reflect growing interest in creating sustainable communities, Transportation Impact Assessments (TIAs) are replacing traditional traffic studies as planners seek to measure the impact of multi-modal transportation systems. TIAs take into account alternative modes of transportation including walking, cycling, and public transit, and give them equal weight against traffic. This article describes how the City of Calgary has been advancing this concept when planning Transit Oriented Development (TOD) around light rail stations.

For TOD to work, there must be a high quality transit of transit service and other alternative transportation modes in order to encourage trips to be made on foot or by bicycle. Limiting parking is also important. To overcome the auto-centric bias of traffic planning, Calgary has produced Draft TIA Guidelines. The draft guidelines are unique because they emphasize the characteristics of the environment surrounding the development, and deliberately estimate fewer car trips, applying the latest methods and techniques from the United States and Canada for quantifying trip reduction factors and travel demand forecasting and distribution to take account of non-auto trips.

Transportation practitioners will assess:

- Capacity and level of service for TOD around transit stops.
- Availability of infrastructure, pedestrian, cycling and high-quality amenities.
- Programs for Transportation Demand Management implications to achieve desired targets and potential to reduce travel demand.
- Synergies between land uses/mix of tenants.
- Parking strategies.
- Transit service (e.g. frequency, capacity, origin-destination points);
- Effects of location/proximity to other activity nodes in the City (downtown, TODs, University campus).

In addition, the City has created a separate set of guidelines for developments close to major C-Train stations called Mobility Assessment and Plan (MAP) Guidelines, which will apply to areas near high-frequency transit service with transit priority features.

The MAP Guidelines are based on a "Transportation Sustainability Triangle"—an inverted triangle that places the most sustainable travel modes (walking, cycling) on the top tier followed by transit and carpooling on the second tier and single occupancy vehicle travel on the bottom tier. A new measure called "Quality of Service" considers average delay, frequency of service, facilities (crosswalks, bike racks, etc), and environment (street lights, lighting) within a MAP.

The MAP Guidelines will eventually be used to analyze high-density TOD developments. The final TIA Guidelines will be reserved for applications in more suburban settings and will depend on the results of application and monitoring of MAPs. As new developments are planned and assessed in accordance with the final TIA Guidelines, the City will be able to gather data on actual trip generation and modal

distribution. This data could then be used to prepare custom trip generation rates for Calgary and could eventually inform rate adjustment factors for the different land use categories in trip generation documents such as the ITE Trip Generation Manual.

These guidelines could also be applied to Ontario municipalities experiencing rapid growth and diminishing land supply, allowing them to guide TIAs that give automobile, transit, and active transportation equal consideration and best reflect the built environment within which these developments are being proposed.


Tamas Hertel is a Transportation Planner at Dillon Consulting Limited and was part of the study team that worked on the Draft TIA Guidelines for the City of Calgary. Tamas can be reached at THertel@dillon.ca.

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Copenhagen Summit— The View from Here

Beate Bowron



So, what did over 40,000 politicians, diplomats, scientists, journalists, lobbyists and NGO activists achieve over a two-week period in Copenhagen? To be fair, they divided themselves into three “blocks”—the developed countries, including Europe, the U.S., Australia and Canada; the BASIC countries, Brazil, South Africa, India and China; and the developing world spanning the rest of Africa, the Alliance of Small Island States, the Philippines, etc. Each block had a different agenda.

The hope, especially among developing countries, had been that Copenhagen would produce a legally binding agreement to commit the big carbon emitters to specific reduction targets by 2020. Instead, the December 19th Copenhagen “Accord” is a “politically binding” deal that speaks to developed and

developing countries committing themselves to cutting emissions, voluntarily. By when? Don’t know. By how much? Don’t know. What happens, if nobody complies? Let’s talk again in Mexico City a year from now.

In addition, the 193 UN member nations agreed on preventing the average global temperature from rising by more than 2 degrees Celsius beyond pre-industrial levels. How will they do this? Don’t know. Will it be enough to prevent a climate catastrophe? Some scientists don’t think so. Tuvalu, a small island state in the Pacific, argued emotionally that it will be under water by 2020, unless the target is set at 1.5 degrees Celsius. Does this matter? Ask the millions who live in the floodplains of Bangladesh.

There were also pledges from the developed nations, notably the U.S. and the

European Union, to sizable financial aid to help developing countries cope with the current impacts of climate change.

Realistically, could Copenhagen have achieved anything different? The European press, in particular the German papers, now advocate for Europe to go it alone, to safeguard its considerable achievements and commitments to the future by imposing climate tariffs. These tariffs would be imposed by states with “real” climate targets on imports from states without such targets.

However, perhaps Copenhagen did achieve something meaningful. For the first time the debate, if not the outcome, has become real. Crucial economic implications of cutting emissions are out on the table. Political constraints, especially in the U.S. and China, are there for all to see. China and India have agreed to be included in global reporting of emission reduction plans. International monitoring of some type has been agreed to. As *Time* magazine put it: “Climate change policy has moved beyond hot air to economic reality, it’s going to get harder and that’s a good thing.”

Beate Bowron, FCIP, RPP, is contributing editor for Climate Change, and the principal of Etcetera consulting practice.

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Birds and Trees: How the New Endangered Species Act and Other Sensitive Uses May Affect Developments



Eric K. Gillespie



PHOTO: STEVE ROME

Some ecosystems more sensitive than others

Over the past year the Ontario government and the development community have been working to implement the Endangered Species Act, 2007. The ESA significantly expands the range of protected flora and fauna. While at the time of writing the relevant regulations are not yet in force, the ESA will also likely create major new challenges for certain proponents as it seeks to protect significant amounts of habitat as well as the identified species.

The fact that the ESA remains a work in progress was highlighted in a recent OMB case involving an application for a Category 2 (Quarry Below the Water Table) extraction licence under the *Aggregate Resources Act* near Havelock in Peterborough County. The same hearing also appears to demonstrate the effects that nearby sensitive land uses can have, even if they are located relatively far away from a proposed development and the proposal meets all regulatory requirements.

Drain Bros. Excavating Ltd. sought to extract up to 20,000 metric tonnes per year from a 71-hectare site containing approximately 30 million tonnes of aggregates. The application was objected to by, among others, the Ministry of Natural Resources. The MNR's concerns arose because of the presence of butternut trees at the site. Butternut trees are one of numerous new species now recognized under the ESA. However, given its recent addition, when the licence was initially sought, the MNR had yet to develop the recovery strategy protocol.

Shortly before the hearing the MNR was able to grant a permit pursuant to section 17(2)(c) of the ESA that permitted the removal of certain trees based on additional plantings of the same species being done in other locations. This resolution was satisfactory to the proponent, the MNR and ultimately the Board. Still, in light of the number of new species for which strategies may

not have been established, the time required to address such concerns may be a significant factor that should be borne in mind when determining schedules for new projects.

Once the MNR's and certain other municipal concerns were resolved, the remaining objections came from local residents. Often, given the policy and planning framework applied to the aggregate industry, these types of issues can be addressed through conditions of licence. However, in this case the OMB directed the Minister of Natural Resources not to issue a licence, effectively preventing any extraction.

The licence was denied based on the Board's review of evidence presented regarding The Centre for the Conservation of Specialized Species (operated by the Ketola family). For more than 20 years, the Centre has focused on the breeding in captivity of many threatened or endangered avian species, primarily birds of prey. At the same time, the Centre is located more than 1.25 kilometres away from the proposed quarry. The quarry lands were appropriately designated and zoned. As noted in the decision, "(t)he dilemma facing the Board is that both the quarry use and (the Centre's) activity are sanctioned and permitted by the existing local planning policies." In addition, expert evidence established that the quarry would operate within all existing requirements for noise, vibration and blast overpressure. Why then was the licence not approved?

The Board found that the "startling effects" from blasting referenced by a number of experts would be real and likely detrimental to the Centre's ability to operate. The OMB stated "(i)t is the Board's finding that further work is required to show that these two important land uses can co-exist as contemplated by subsection 12(1) of the *Aggregate Resources Act*. There is an onus on both parties to work toward this end bearing in mind their individual interests and the public good resulting from both uses operating successfully. It is the Board's finding that the negative effects of the Drain Bros. proposed quarry have not been minimized as required by the *Aggregate Resources Act* with respect to the Ketolas' property and their aviaries and that until the impacts of blasting at the quarry on the Ketolas' aviary and birds is known and it can be established that no serious 'startling effects' would be induced to the birds, that the Quarry Licence should not be issued."

The Board appeared to leave open the possibility of the licence being granted if mitigation, including the option of relocation of the Centre, could be achieved. Since the hearing, the parties have been in discussions and a

re-attendance before the Board is now being scheduled for early in 2010.

On the one hand, cases of this nature may appear to turn on their own facts. At the same time, the decision could clearly have implications for any development that may have noise, vibration or other impacts on another land use, even if that receptor is located a significant distance away. Although a proposal may meet every regulatory guideline and criteria, where the evidence still demonstrates the likelihood of impacts on another property that could be further mitigated, an approval may be denied. Consequently, good planning dictates that all actual surrounding land uses be carefully considered when a proposal with the potential for such impacts is being reviewed.

Source: OMB Decision issued July 23, 2009
OMB Case No.: PL070944
OMB File No.: 070098
OMB Members: J.P. Atcheson

Eric Gillespie is a lawyer practicing primarily in the environmental and land use planning area. He is the contributing editor for the OMB column. Readers with suggestions for future articles or who wish to contribute their own comments are encouraged to contact him at any time. Eric can be reached at egillespie@gillespielaw.ca.

Management

Challenges for the new decade

John Farrow

In the frantic pace of organizational life, it is often our habit to energetically respond to each new request and each new pressure. It is important to do this well; but for planners who are providing leadership to their staff and their community, this is not enough. As leaders, you need to stop and ask the questions, How has the world changed? and How must I respond by changing what I do?

Each community is different but here are six major trends and the challenges that most will face.

Climate change: The need for meaningful action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is now firmly embedded in the public psyche and, notwithstanding the uncertainty of senior government policy making, now is the appropriate time for you to table initiatives for action. The opportunity for leadership by



local planners has never been better or more urgently required. Some examples are tabling proposals to reduce the capacity of the road system and putting upper limits on the amount of parking that can be provided in new development.

The economic base has eroded: A number of forecasts size the Ontario auto sector at 60% of previous levels, but China will become the world's major manufacturer and this impacts all sectors. Planning departments in many communities must now move from managing growth to managing regeneration. This will require new initiatives and new skills. Do you have a plan in place to address this problem this year?

Municipal and provincial revenues will likely decline: Slower economic growth and the need to repay exceptionally high levels of government debt will reduce government transfers. At the same time, citizens will be resistant to increases in taxes because of their own high debt levels. A major squeeze is ahead, and now is the time to anticipate this by planning to do more with less. For example critically examine all new hires and make sure all capital expenditures minimize future maintenance costs. Environmental sustainability is now reinforced by the need for financial sustainability.

Women in the workforce: Recessions accelerate trends, and one example is that women

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will soon comprise more than 50% of the workforce. The way that city hall operates has not fully responded to this trend. We need to work harder to make the workplace more friendly for women and at the same time provide municipal services they can more easily access. Banks offer a good model. They open in the evenings and on weekends, and offer flexible work opportunities. Shouldn't municipal governments follow their lead?

We need to set global standards: Anyone who has visited China in the last five years comes back amazed at the pace of change and the speed with which building is put in place. During the SARS crisis a new hospital was built from scratch in 40 days. We need to challenge ourselves to redesign the planning system, so we can meet global standards. Competitive indexes indicate that we need to improve our approval systems. Speed is not the only standard, but we need to selectively ask ourselves how we can raise our game.

Be more strategic: A number of worthwhile initiatives that would yield benefit in terms of climate change or economic competitiveness are being held up by planning processes that emphasize local interests over the greater public good. The UK has recently acknowledged this problem, responding by establishing a national "Infrastructure Planning Commission" that will remove strategic public infrastructure approvals from the local approval process. One argument for doing this was the need to expeditiously reach decisions on new power generation projects, such as wind farms and nuclear generating stations. Shouldn't Ontario examine whether this idea has merit here? [Indeed, some would say that the *Green Energy Act* goes down this path: Editor.]

We are coming out of what is being called "The Great Recession." This label signals that what is occurring is outside normal economic cycles. Whatever the new normal is, we have not seen it yet. The recovery will likely take a long time, so there are probably a number of unpleasant surprises ahead. Planners need to meet the challenge of more rapid change by looking ahead, being realistic, and adapting what they do and how they plan. It's a challenge our communities and our clients need us to embrace.

John Farrow, MCIP, RPP, is Chairman, LEA Group Holdings Inc. and contributing editor for Management for the Ontario Planning Journal.



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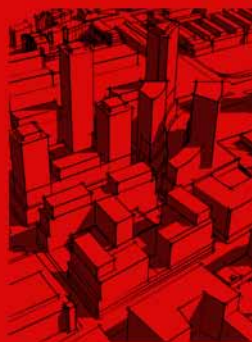
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The Story of Brownfields and Smart Growth in Kingston Ontario

From Contamination to Revitalization

Edited by Pamela Welbourn, Harry Cleghorn,
Joseph Davis, Stephen Rose
325 pages; Classroom Complete Press
www.classroomcomplete.com,
Order number CC9250

This is a must-read for anyone interested in the sometimes arcane but always fascinating topic of brownfields redevelopment. The editors have compiled contributions from elected officials, government, private-sector experts, and academics. The intended audience includes the interested public but the book has sufficient heft to be useful to planners and the many other professional disciplines involved in the sector.



The book is divided into four sections. The first provides a general context, and contains helpful definitions and straightforward explanations of some of the more complicated science related to toxicology and other technicalities. The second section offers a number of case studies detailing the Kingston experience, covering technical, political and social dimensions. Section three expands the scope to other parts of Ontario and the rest of Canada. Of particular interest here is that the reader will find a variety of unique circumstances as well as some common threads, making the job of translating the messages contained in the case studies to one's own experience that much easier.

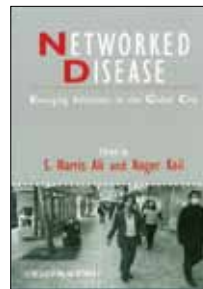
The book concludes with a focus on the variety of approaches that are possible. On a procedural note, the recently adopted regulation 153/04 was still out for discussion when the book went to print. Because reaction to what many perceive to be tougher standards is still unfolding, it will be interesting to see if the editors follow this up with a new version in a year or two.

Networked Disease— Emerging Infections in the Global City

Edited by S. Harris Ali and Roger Keil
Published by Wiley-Blackwell
ISBN 978-1-4051-6133-6
356 pages

At a time when OPPI is focusing its attention on Healthy Communities, this timely volume brings a fresh perspective on the complex interactions at work in urban environments when connections and linkages between global cities are burgeoning.

Preparing for pandemics and other disasters is now part of the municipal lexicon but planners do not typically get exposed (no pun intended) to the challenges associated with modifying health systems to deal with the fallout associated with rampant disease. The impetus for this book springs from responses to SARS. Both editors are associated with York University. Harris Ali is an environmental sociologist who teaches in the Environmental Studies program at York. Roger Keil is Director of the City Institute and a professor in the same faculty as Ali. Keil has long been interested in the impacts of globalization on city regions around the globe. The shock of Walkerton, followed by SARS, coupled with the decision to establish the City Institute, inspired Ali and Keil to join forces to forge a manuscript that links two disciplines. The result is a fascinating compendium that offers some historical perspective as well as a tour of conditions and a comparison of official responses to disease outbreaks in Hong Kong, Singapore and Toronto. Discussions about global cities frequently focus on visible and traceable trends that are intuitive to most readers, but this substantial volume, clocking in at more than 350 pages with references and index, offers



some fascinating insights on links to racism, terrorism and even the fragility of the global economy. Since its publication in 2008, the world has endured a wrenching recession and experienced H1N1—a pandemic that underperformed relative to the hype induced in the media. Planners will appreciate the care taken by the editors to cover such a breadth of complex issues in an accessible way—although it would be an exaggeration to suggest that this is light reading. To present biophysical, political, economic and cultural factors through a single lens is clearly a challenge but one that the authors appear to have managed handily.

Changing Toronto: Governing Urban Neoliberalism

Julie-Anne Boudreau, Roger Keil
and Douglas Young
University of Toronto Press
ISBN 978-1-44260-093-5
246 pages

For anyone who lived through the spate of amalgamations that swept Ontario in the 1990s, this book offers a new perspective on how Toronto managed the transition to its current state—or to be more accurate, a series of perspectives, because the path through the maze of adjusting to changes in governance is never linear. The first chapter should be considered optional for anyone not ready to engage in combat with obscure concepts like neoliberalism. For planners with a practical bent, the book really gets going when the authors challenge the notion of Toronto being a “city that works.” The next few chapters cover the angst among the chattering classes about the so-called “megacity,” and the doomed efforts to halt the tide of amalgamation in the face of the “commonsense revolution.” The authors—Boudreau holds the Canada



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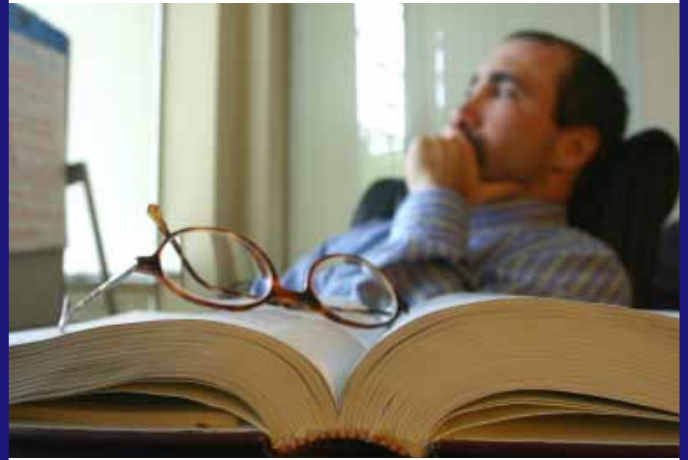
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Research Chair on the City and Issues of Insecurity, Keil is Director of York's City Institute, and Young teaches urban studies at the same institution—make direct links with rapidly changing demographics and declining income among ethnic minorities, offering a rather uncomfortable analysis that sets the concept of multiculturalism on its head. Next on the agenda is a critique of Toronto's quest for a new official plan and the city's evolving role in the region. What sets this book apart, however, is the way that issues such as social housing, the pricing of water, transportation and mini political wars over

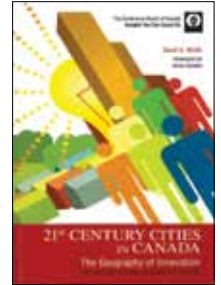
controlling the region's watersheds are interwoven with day-to-day, bread-and-butter matters like development control and urban design. This volume offers a glimpse into a reading list not likely to be easily sourced in Indigo. One criticism of this and similar books published primarily for an academic audience is that the illustrations are rather murky. The good news is that the book has some lively moments that help recall some of the more interesting political challenges faced by Torontonians in recent years—the analysis offers insights that are applicable anywhere.

21st Century Cities in Canada—The Geography of Innovation

David A. Wolfe

Published by the Conference Board of Canada
ISBN-13: 978-0-88763-946-3; 220 pages

This well-written volume is both a primer and source of inspiration. Another reason to add this book to your collection is that one of the commentators (the book comes out of a conference debate) is the late David Pecaut. Fittingly, David Wolfe dedicates the book to Pecaut, arguably one of the brightest lights on the urban scene in Ontario in the past few decades. Wolfe's day job is teaching political science at the University of Toronto, but his research on innovation and creativity in city regions puts him in constant touch with the "real" world. A foreword



by Anne Golden, and commentaries from David Pecaut, Mayor Carl Zehr and Judith Wolfson combine to round out a thoroughly readable tour of theory, experience and example. The reader is also asked to view city regions through a variety of lenses—how does city size affect things? Does the diversity of the economy have an impact? Do larger city regions fare better because of synergies between different sectors? What happens to the social dynamics at play when a city region grows too large for easy interaction? Wolfe concludes that a city region's future is "contingent, not pre-determined." By the same token, places stuck in an uncompetitive groove can take steps to influence outcomes.

Reviews by Ontario Planning Journal staff. Dave Aston, MCIP, RPP, is contributing editor for In Print. He can be reached at daston@mhbcplanning.com.



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