

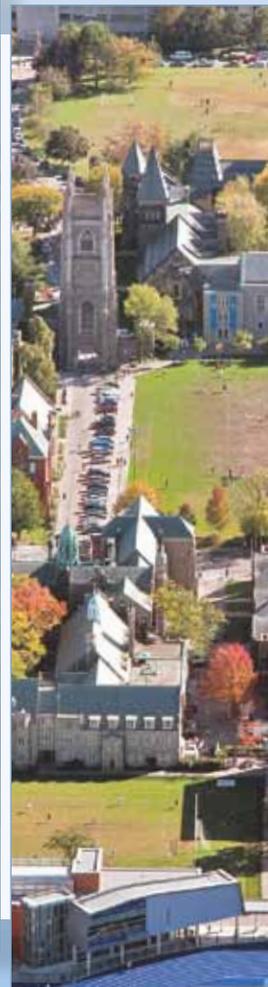
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OPPI's e-newsletter helps you stay abreast of the latest announcements and information. Check out the headlines and read the articles in the e-mail notice you receive or click on the Members Update icon on the OPPI homepage.

Further information is available on the OPPI website at www.ontarioplanners.on.ca





IMAGE: RYERSON UNIVERSITY

School of Urban and
Regional Planning

Ryerson as city-builder

By Mitch Kosny

Planning and new development at Ryerson is helping to re-shape the central area of Toronto. Our new Athletics and Recreation Centre at Maple Leaf Gardens will open soon and feature a NHL-sized ice rink on the third floor.

Work has already started on closing off the section of Gould and Victoria streets that run through the heart of the campus. This central area will soon be a pedestrian mall with kiosks, café-style chairs and tables, and trees: it will finally be a ‘people-friendly’ environment!

Planned for the corner of Yonge and Gould streets where Sam the Record Man once stood, the bold new Ryerson Student Learning Centre will provide students with an outstanding environment to study, collaborate and discover. The building also makes a powerful statement in its urban neighbourhood. It will mark Ryerson’s new face on Yonge Street, integrating the campus into the fabric of the city. Designed by the architectural team of Zeidler Partnership Architects of Toronto and Snøhetta of Oslo, Norway and New York City, the centre will feature a dazzling glass façade, a welcomed elevated plaza, a bridge to the existing library and a range of academic, study and collaborative space for students, faculty and staff. The building’s Yonge Street frontage will feature premium retail. Construction will begin late this year with completion in winter 2014.

Happenings at the School of Urban and Regional Planning

At the end of the day, the school is about students, alumni and faculty.

Our faculty continue to be as active in the classroom as they are in professional practice.

Dr. Sandeep Agrawal, MCIP, RPP, is director of the school’s Graduate Program in Urban Development and a member of the City of Toronto Committee of Adjustment. He was also recently appointed to the Allocations and Agency Relations Committee at United Way Toronto.

Dr. Pamela Robinson, MCIP, RPP, is the recipient of funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities

Research Council to explore a new technology that facilitates communication between government and citizens on the issue of climate change.

Nina-Marie Lister, MCIP, RPP, was a visiting associate professor from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design during 2010-11. Her research looks at waterfront cities’ strategies to cope with, and capitalize on, climate change.

Ron Keeble, MCIP, RPP, has just completed an eight-year term as registrar for the Ontario Professional Planners Institute and a six-year term as co-chair of the National Membership Committee of the Canadian Institute of Planners and the CIP Planning for the Future project. Currently he is a member of the OPPI Professional Practice Advisory Committee.

Dr. Zhixi Cecilia Zhuang is currently conducting research on ethnic retailing activities in suburban municipalities in the Greater Toronto Area, including Brampton, Vaughan and Markham.

Dr. Mitchell Kosny, MCIP, RPP, will be completing a three-year term as interim director of the school in July 2011. Most recently, he has been working with Ryerson’s Chang School of Continuing Education to develop a new Ryerson Program in Community Engagement, Leadership and Development.

What has really added value to this school over the past few years has been the quality of part-time faculty who are so excited about teaching here. We have professionals such as former City of Toronto chief planner Paul Bedford, FCIP, RPP; former senior policy advisor to ministers of Public Infrastructure Renewal, Municipal Affairs,

Planning Schools Go Viral

OPJ asked the directors of each of the Ontario Planning Schools—Guelph, Queen’s, Ryerson, Toronto, Waterloo, York—to contribute to the first annual OPJ Planning School edition. We asked them to share with the planning community the research efforts being undertaken by faculty and students. What follows is a series of articles highlighting the exciting initiatives underway and focused on the unique attributes of each school.

Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat and the Ontario SuperBuild Corporation Nancy Alcock; Hemson Consultants municipal finance practice partner/leader Craig Binning; SGA-IBI Architects project manager Don Verbanac, MCIP, RPP; The Planning Partnership urban designer and planner Ruth Porras, MCIP, RPP; Build Toronto planning director Carlo Bonanni, MCIP, RPP; planningAlliance urban designer Rei Tasaka; City of Toronto research and innovation manager Tom Ostler, MCIP, RPP; Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation program director John Fraser; former Queen's University School of Urban and Regional Planning director Mohammed Qadeer, FCIP, RPP; Aird & Berlis partners, municipal and land use planning group, Eileen Costello and Leo Longo; former Commonwealth Association of Planners, Women in Planning Network coordinator Olusola Olufemi, MCIP, RPP; The Planning Partnership partner Harold Madi, MCIP, RPP; The Canadian Urban Institute education and research director Glenn Miller, FCIP, RPP; Municipality of Meaford Chief Administrative Officer Frank Miele; and Weir Foulds partner Ian Lord.

The school has also been incredibly fortunate to have many colleagues—Dr. James Mars, MCIP, RPP and Dr. Beth Milroy, FCIP, RPP—who continue as adjunct faculty.

The experience of students here can be characterized by one word: engaged.

During this past year in our Advanced Planning Studios, students completed consultant projects for a wide range of clients including the creation of a sustainable development plan for the Town of Huntsville; site redevelopment in Burlington for the Ontario Realty Corporation; proposal for a multi-media studio as part of the Lawrence Heights regeneration for United Way Toronto; planning approaches for increasing land densities

in Durham, Peel and York regions; comprehensive mapping analysis of inner-city lanes for Councillor Adam Vaughan; and policies for affordable home ownership completed for Home Ownership Alternatives Non-Profit Corporation.

The Ryerson Association of Planning Students continues to be very active and has secured \$10,000 of Student Engagement Funding from Ryerson University to build its Speaker Series and Alumni Networking Event; assist students in attending the annual Canadian Association of Planning Students Conference (over 60 students attended the CAPS Conference in Waterloo this past year with many making presentations); and develop a School of Urban and Regional Planning week-long EXPO.

Our Ryerson Planning Alumni has long been “the model” of alumni associations across the university. While their Annual Spring Reception held in May is now in its twelfth year and gathered a record number of sponsors, they continue adding value to the school. This year they provided a new scholarship for students in the graduate program. They also sponsored a Place Making Design Competition, open to all Ryerson students, for the redesign of the school's home at 105 Bond Street in downtown Toronto.

Demand for planners remains strong. The school received over 700 applications for fall term 2010 entry to its undergraduate program and 300 applications—for 25 spots—for the relatively new MPL Program.

And that just scratches the surface of what's been going on here over the past year...!

Dr. Mitchell Kosny, MCIP, RPP, is director (interim) and professor at the Ryerson University School of Urban and Regional Planning.

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Environmental design and rural development

By Harry Cummings

Harry Cummings' research has a strong focus on evaluation and includes both international and Canadian projects. Most of his work focuses around program evaluation and he is currently working on the evaluation of a number of youth programs that are designed to reduce the probability of criminal behaviour. These include alternate youth schooling and counselling programs in Guelph, York Region and Toronto. In the international domain his recent work has focused on malaria eradication programs in Burundi, Nigeria, Madagascar, Togo and Mali with the Canadian Red Cross.

Harry has done a lot of health research in rural Ontario in recent years. Presently he is doing research in Huron and Perth counties on the health human resources needed to support rural development. In the regional and rural economic area, he has focused on Ontario's greenbelt and the size, importance and viability of agriculture in the greenbelt. Municipal planning research includes agricultural development planning for small farms and local food systems in Elgin and Waterloo.

David Douglas, MCIP, RPP (Ret.), professor emeritus, is a member of a four university research team—Memorial, Concordia, Northern British Columbia, Guelph—investigating the role and relevance of new regionalism in regional development planning in Canada. Perspectives, including place-based development, innovation, multi-level governance, urban-rural interdependencies and integrated approaches to development, are being investigated in Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia.

David is finishing a chapter on radical practice in rural planning and development and the prospects for its emergence in conditions

of societal and environmental stress as the limits to sustainability are approached. He continues his research on the connections between planning theories and professional practice in the field, using Irish and Canadian case studies.

Research projects of Wayne Caldwell, MCIP, RPP, focus on conflict resolution, agri-environmental planning and rural communities, planning regulation and siting of livestock facilities, and farmland preservation. Each project transfers findings to the planning community through websites, illustrated user guides, workshops and videos. Full project details and reports are available at www.waynecaldwell.ca.

One of Wayne's current projects develops planning strategies for resilience, as rural communities face the dual impacts of climate change and rising energy prices. This research looks to local and international case studies to find best practices and capacity for resilience. Results will be communicated through a symposium and a best practice manual for rural communities. Contributing graduate students include Émanuèle Lapierre Fortin, Erica Ferguson, Kate Procter, Eric Marr and Paul Kraehling.

Another major ongoing research project is Wayne's assessment of severance activity in agricultural designations. This study spans twenty years' work with over 100 municipalities, covering virtually all prime agricultural lands in Ontario. The study clarifies the impacts of changes to the *Provincial Policy Statement* in 1995 and 2005, reflecting trends in the creation of retirement lots and surplus dwelling severances in agricultural designations. A guide for planners and decision makers will be available in fall 2011, prepared by Wayne and graduate student Arthur Churchyard.

Nonita Yap (summer of 2011) is on a 40-day volunteer assignment at the School of Environmental Science and Management, University of the Philippines, Los Baños, under the Balik Scientist program of the Department of Science and Technology of the Philippines. She has been doing a range of activities in response to needs of the University of the Philippines. She has taught a few classes in the graduate EIA course and served on the review panel for EIA reports.

She had just completed a week-long training on “Lean and Clean Manufacturing” to local micro, small and medium industries in Batangas city. The participants included staff of junk shops, car repair shops, gas stations, poultry and piggery operations, feedmills, hospital waste managers and environmental officers of Local Government Units.

Nonita also ran a day-long seminar on “Greening the economy through industrial ecology and cleaner production” to faculty and students. She has just completed a review of the School of Environmental Science and Management program and lead the creation of a new MSc in Environmental Science and Management.

Perhaps one of the best experiences Nonita had this year was a three-day reconnaissance trip to disaster affected communities in the southern Philippines. First there was the explosion of Mt. Pinatubo and then a series of floods and typhoons. Among these 20 or so communities affected the one which has recovered the most appears to be a group of indigenous people—the Aetas. This trip was part of a research proposal development on disaster resilience. We will be developing this research proposal for funding from Canada’s SSHRC.

John Devlin has recently concluded a comparative study of public participation in environmental assessment. Funded by SSHRC this study included case studies from Brazil, South Africa and the Northwest Territories. Another recently concluded study entitled, “Community Engagement for Adaptive Management in Environmental Assessment Follow-up,” was funded by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. This research profiled 10 CBRM organizations from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia. The report concluded that community-based environmental monitoring can provide usable knowledge that can support adaptive project management during implementation and decommissioning stages. John will also collaborate on the SSHRC-funded CURA project based in Nova Scotia entitled, “Community-Based Integrated Water Monitoring and Management in Nova Scotia.” He will provide comparative studies of Ontario communities involved in water monitoring and management.

Current agricultural research includes “Local Food Initiatives in Ontario from the Farmer’s Perspective,” awarded under the OMAFRA/University of Guelph research contract. This work began in September 2009 and has involved interviews with 89 farmers on 70 farms producing food for local markets in Ontario’s Waterloo Region, Prince Edward County and Sudbury Region. Waterloo and Prince Edward County were selected as exemplary cases that had established reputations for local food and regional food identities. Sudbury Region was selected as an area with a less supportive agricultural endowment and thus an area where the experience of farmers producing local food might be quite distinct. The semi-structured interviews sought to identify the challenges and opportunities presented by the growing interest in local food and garner suggestions for how policy and programs might be designed to support producer’s response to that growth. These interviews

are now being coded and analysed. A related study comparing the performance of the supply-managed sectors of chickens and eggs and the non-managed sectors of beef and pork has been initiated.

John Fitzsimons’s research areas involve farming systems development, natural resource management and rural livelihoods in the Middle East, North and West Africa and Central and Latin America, including the application of participatory research techniques, local knowledge and management systems and applied GIS/remote sensing (including MCDA). Recent and current projects focus on farmer adaptation to climate change in the savannas of northern Nigeria, agricultural development in Liberia and collaborative work on the use of multi-criteria decision analysis as a planning tool in selected greenbelts in Canada, the U.S. and Australia.

Karen Landman, MCIP, RPP, is doing research these days on food systems in general, community food hubs and urban agriculture in particular. She is also working on community-based stewardship for pollination habitat enhancement.

Don Reid, professor emeritus, is working on one particular research project, The Protected Areas and Poverty Reduction project, with the Canada-Africa Research and Learning Alliance. This alliance brings together academic institutions, government agencies and community organizations across Canada, Ghana and Tanzania. It aims to address linked challenges of reducing rural poverty and ensuring environmental sustainability by focusing on protected areas and adjacent communities in the three countries. The University of Guelph is a participant in this alliance along with partners from Ghana Sunyani Polytechnic, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Faculty of Forest Resources Technology Ghana, Tanzania College of African Wildlife Management, University of Victoria, University of Guelph and Vancouver Island University. Don is the University of Guelph’s principal researcher on this project. There are many non-academic, government and NGO partners in this alliance from both Canada and Africa.

The project supports four streams of comparative research, asking the following questions:

1. How do we maximize the delivery of equitable benefits from protected areas to local communities?
2. How do we best manage human interactions with wildlife in and around protected areas?
3. How do we re-conceptualize and improve the governance of protected areas?
4. How can we best mobilize knowledge between and among academic researchers, community organizations, visitors and managers?

This project is funded through a federal government ICURA grant from SSHRC and IDRC.

John Fitzgibbon, MCIP, RPP, is carrying out a number of research projects with an environmental orientation. These focus on watersheds, agriculture, environmental planning, and a variety of topics in Canada and internationally.

Dr. Harry Cummings, MCIP, RPP, is professor and graduate program coordinator at Guelph University’s School of Environmental Design and Rural Development.



PHOTO: MICHAEL MANETT PLANNING SERVICES LTD.

Sampling our breadth and scope

By Kanishka Goonewardena

All of us at the Program in Planning at the University of Toronto had a very busy and eventful year as usual, doing all the different kinds of things we do as best as we can. Here is just a taste of it, sampling the breadth and depth of our work over the 2010-2011 academic year.

Talking of taste, check out 'Street Meat' on Youtube (www.youtube.com/watch?v=qg8Mps9L_bA): a 10 minute video produced by Deb Cowan's undergraduate students on Toronto's notorious street food policy!

Based on work done for Deb's class, some students led real Jane's Walks in Scarborough this year. Another highlight of Deb's work this year—in collaboration with her doctoral student Vanessa Parlette—includes a critical study of Toronto's Priority Neighbourhoods framework and the question of investment in Toronto's inner suburbs. The report co-authored by Deborah Cowen and Vanessa Parlette, *Inner Suburbs at Stake: Social Investment in Scarborough*, will be released at a special event organized by the U of T Cities Centre, June 16, 6-9 p.m. I expect this report to change the way we think, not only about Toronto's inner suburbs, but about how we have been attempting to deal with their challenges.

The inner suburbs and their discontents featured prominently in our program. Sue Ruddick's Planning and Social Policy seminar collaborated with East Scarborough Storefront, a service hub in one of the Priority Neighbourhoods, to examine how particular social policies work on the ground and how local conditions shape policy implementation. This work enabled students to think beyond 'policy silos' towards a holistic 'planning web' comprising multiple relationships.

Paul Hess also has been in the news, most recently in a column

by Marcus Gee (*Globe and Mail*, 27 May 2011) on walkability in the suburbs. He has been doing stellar research and writing on this topic over the years, some of it in collaboration with Jane Farrow of Jane's Walk fame, focussing on making a real difference to the built environment of Toronto's inner suburbs. Paul also examined these questions concerning built form and social justice in his Advanced Studio in Urban Design and Planning.

Virginia Maclaren, MCIP, RPP, and Harriet Friedman taught our Planning Workshop; the theme this year was food. Students worked on topics such as urban agriculture, the Ontario Food Terminal, food desserts, and the local food economy.

Matti Siemiaticky was on well-deserved parental leave for a good part of last year, but only after taking our students through the rigors of his methods and other courses.

Ryerson, York and U of T held a joint workshop in the fall of 2010 on Working in Groups as a required element of each university's studio courses, taking advantage of having three planning schools in the same city.

I saw some excellent current issues papers completed this spring by our class of 2009-2011, such as the study of the relationship between aesthetics and politics in community-led urban design initiatives of the Parkdale-Roncesvalles area by Brendon Goodmurphy, which drew high praise from external examiner York University's Deborah Brandt. Also, Kunimoto Kamizaki's excellent research on the possibilities of radical planning.

Katharine N. Rankin supervised both Brendan and Kuni, and her own work this year focused on Maoist revolutionaries in Nepal, especially the openings for local-level planning in the context of radical political transformations led by the Maoists. She works also on commercial gentrification in Toronto, which is not

led by Maoists, but involved such wonderful students as Brendon and Kuni.

Although there is a connection between Mao and Pierre Macherey via the latter's legendary teacher Louis Althusser, this is not necessarily the focus of Sue Ruddick's English translation of Macherey's *Hegel ou Spinoza? as Hegel or Spinoza?* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2011). It includes a preface written by Sue contextualizing the significance of Spinoza and Hegel in French philosophy. This publication is a landmark event in critical theory for English-speaking readers and it takes the appreciation of Spinoza in radical thought to a new level. Related to this work, Sue has written several scholarly essays such as 'The Politics of Affect' in *Theory Culture and Society*, suggesting Spinoza as a metaphysical basis for understanding different collaborative approaches to planning that move beyond strict oppositional politics or a descent into pluralist relativism. This is theoretical scholarship of the highest order.

The terrific architect and critic from Mumbai, Prasad Shetty, co-founder of Collective Research Initiatives Trust and indefatigable urbanist, was also our John Bousfield Distinguished Visitor in Planning this year. He spent a month with us in the spring of 2011, delivered the Bousfield Lecture entitled 'Frothing Urbanisms' and led several workshops on planning in global cities of the south. Prasad also participated in a workshop on the meaning of planning and community engagement with Lori Martin (City of Toronto) and Gaetan Heroux (Downtown Eastside activist and independent scholar). It was real pleasure to have Prasad with us and be enriched by his enormous knowledge of and enthusiasm for urbanism.

The best news I have to report is that our students have done really well. Some of our graduating students have already found excellent jobs in the federal government, City of Toronto, Toronto Community Housing Corporation and other interesting places. Continuing students have performed extraordinarily well in OGS and SSHRC competitions. Three of our four incoming Planning PhD students have won the coveted 'super SSHRC' awards. That's a record hard to beat, and I am looking forward very much to working with them.

Much of my own time this year was spent on administrative work, including some pleasant tasks such as organizing Prasad's visit to Toronto. But I did manage to write a long essay on the French Marxist philosopher Henri Lefebvre for the new *Wiley-Blackwell Companion for Contemporary Social Theorists*, edited by George Ritzer and Jeff Stepnisky (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011). I also wrote on cricket and capital following the recent cricket world cup for the Sri Lankan political quarterly "Dissenting Dialogues: Space, Time and Cricket." My essay dealing with Rob Ford, Richard Florida and the possibility of radical urbanism—Urban Politics: Short Course—will appear this summer in *Scapegoat*, a bi-annual Toronto-based publication on architecture, landscape and political economy edited by some of the most creative and critical minds at U of T. See www.scapegoatjournal.org and watch for the launch of the next issue of this journal. *Scapegoat* throws the best parties in Toronto—for planners as well as ordinary people. I hope to see you there!

Dr. Kanishka Goonewardena is director of the Program in Planning at the University of Toronto.

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Balancing the “why” with the “how”

By Clarence Woudsma

I'd like to thank the editors of the *Ontario Planning Journal* for providing this wonderful opportunity to share with the readership a few examples of the broad spectrum of research undertaken by faculty members of the School of Planning at the University of Waterloo.

At the onset, I'd like to outline a number of important aspects of our research. First, as faculty, we are passionate about planning and the opportunity, through our research, to explore the many challenging questions associated with the discipline and practice of planning is one of the joys of academic life. We share this joy with many people—undergraduates and graduate students, other academics, community members, decision makers and practicing planners.

More than five hundred students are currently enrolled in our programs from cooperative undergraduate, through Masters, to Doctoral. The experiences of our undergraduate students, in their co-op placements, provide us with insights that influence our ideas and understanding of what happens “on the ground.” Our graduate students, undertaking their own in-depth research, are an integral part of our efforts to create new planning knowledge and perspectives.

The connection of our research with communities and support for decision makers is a core principle of our research ethos. Practicing professional planners are essential in our approach to research, which seeks to balance the “why” of planning with the “how” of planning. We thank you for your collective efforts in responding to our many requests over the years—to be a partner in a project, provide access to much needed data, respond to survey requests or

simply to have taken the time to engage us in a discussion.

So what do we do? What are we working on these days? Our school complement of 16 faculty is engaged in an exciting array of planning research that falls in line with our long standing mission “planning to create healthy communities.” In the following paragraphs, I'll introduce you to select members of our school and describe examples of their current planning research. I trust you'll find these stories resonate with your own planning interests, activities and backgrounds. They may give you pause to reflect, provide inspiration, consternation, or at a minimum, give you a clearer picture of the hard research work we treasure.

Laura Johnson, MCIP, RPP, is an award winning author and scholar whose work epitomizes our efforts to provide community relevant research. The ongoing redevelopment of Regent Park public housing in Toronto's downtown is attracting the attention of planners, developers and housing officials worldwide. Various jurisdictions are following this innovative public-private partnership to determine whether it successfully transforms a 60-year-old deteriorating island of concentrated poverty into a thriving, socially mixed, environmentally sustainable, higher density community. Laura is leading a longitudinal study, documenting the phased \$1-billion redevelopment initiative from the perspectives of a sample of the original low-income tenants. Funded by grants from Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Johnson and a team of graduate and undergraduate student investigators have conducted repeated interviews with Regent Park tenants

since their displacement in 2006 and following their resettlement in new housing starting in 2010. The innovative project has used digital multimedia as a means to give tenants a voice in the research process.

Another example of community focused research comes from Robert Shipley, MCIP, RPP, and his team at the Heritage Resource Centre. Funded by a grant from the Trillium Foundation, the year-long project analyzing Heritage Conservation Districts (HCD) was a joint effort by the Architectural Conservation of Ontario, Community Heritage Ontario and a number of local historical societies in places such as Ottawa and Huron County. Robert's team played a coordinating role and conducted much of the analytical work, which involved interviews, surveys and empirical analysis.

In spite of being seen by many planners as the preferred way to manage character areas in both urban and rural areas, HCDs are still opposed by some people. The study set out to answer their concerns. Are HCDs overly restrictive and bureaucratic? Apparently they are not since most applications for alterations were allowed and the process usually took less than a month to complete. Are people happy with living and owning properties in districts? It seems that most are. Of the 681 people interviewed, over 70 per cent were very satisfied or satisfied. Does the HCD negatively influence property values? Robert's rigorous comparative assessment of actual property sale data provided a resounding no, with 75 per cent of sale prices with HCDs performing at or above the average of the market.

Jane Law is involved in an exciting and timely research project that provides a very explicit example of our interdisciplinary approach to tackling planning issues. Her research has been conducted in collaboration with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Department of Health Studies and Gerontology at the University of Waterloo. Their work explores the impact of wind turbines on the environment, and specifically its impact on public health. Geographic Information Systems and advanced spatial analysis methods are applied to map the locations of wind turbines in Ontario and explore how these turbines might or might not have an impact on public health using geographically-referenced health data. This in-depth work also explores factors such as turbine size; setbacks and turbine locations; wind turbine syndrome; noise and visual impact; landscape impact; sustainability impact; and public participation/community engagement.

Jane's expertise in cutting edge spatial analysis also has recently been applied to investigating links between social disorganization and juvenile offender behaviour, as well as exploring the relationship between traffic injuries and the built environment.

Dawn Parker is internationally recognized for her ground breaking work in developing more sophisticated, detailed models of land market interactions. These models incorporate the high degree of complexity and variation across households and across space that we see in the real world. Her goal is to help planners better understand relationships among residential land use, land management and ecosystem functions, focusing in particular on how land market dynamics influence these processes.

Dawn is collaborating with other members of the school to leverage their collective strengths and interests. Jeff Casello is

bringing in a transportation behaviour dimension in his critical examination of the potential impacts of LRT developments in Waterloo Region. Roger Suffling is exploring how Ontario householders with yards use their outdoor space and the complexities of regulating individual behaviours regarding water management and pesticides, for example. Sophisticated modeling approaches may not be for all, but they are a vital research area in the school, and as described, they ultimately are employed to tackle complex, practical issues.

My final detailed research example expands these ideas further. Michael Drescher is keenly interested in the planning of regional forest management in the Boreal forests of Ontario. He has focused his research on investigating the knowledge that is necessary to make long-term forecasts. Specifically, he has examined the different knowledge types currently being used and developed methods of objectively comparing knowledge from various sources—practitioners, literature and empirical studies. The results show that knowledge from these sources can vary substantially from each other, which can lead to considerable differences among long-term forecasts. Given the existing uncertainties in long-range forecasts, forest management planning using the principles of adaptive management—improving management plans continuously through experimentation and learning—is argued by Michael to be a more efficient approach to reaching our long-term goals for the Boreal forests.

There are many more stories I'd like to share with you. Luna Khirfan is studying the processes involved in the international exchange of urban design principles—how do these ideas develop, mature, and become adapted in jurisdictions across the globe? John Lewis is bringing his urban design and visualization expertise to bear on projects dealing with age-friendly built environments, disabled accessibility and walkability.

Markus Moos is collaborating across Canada in research that combines quantitative analysis of socio-economic and housing market changes with qualitative analysis of planning policy and public discourse. Specifically, he's asking difficult questions about the limits and implications of our densification efforts in relation to community social concerns and affordable housing.

Joe Qian brings a vital international perspective to our research via his examination of master plans and urban development in Nanjing as well as mega project impacts in Hangzhou. Geoff Lewis examines energy and the built environment, and is among the researchers set to begin an ongoing research project in our new LEED platinum home pictured on the preceding page.

There are still more researchers and many more avenues of research underway in the School of Planning at Waterloo that I haven't had a chance to describe for you. I hope that what I've provided has piqued your interest and I encourage you to visit our website, find out more, and call or email us. As I stated at the onset, research is central to what we do and involving the Ontario planning community is an essential characteristic of our work. On behalf of the school, we look forward to sharing an exciting research future with you all!

Dr. Clarence Woudsma is director of the School of Planning at the University of Waterloo.



PHOTO: GERDA WEKERLE

Research update

By Gerda Wekerle

The faculty and graduate students in York's planning program have been pushing the boundaries of planning knowledge and practice. There are new initiatives in sustainable energy and climate change that focus on applied and policy research and training. The transformation of urban landscapes and public space has engaged the efforts of faculty and students working on the renewal of apartment towers, public space, urban design and reurbanization. The changing role of suburbs, growth management and sustainability in the Toronto region and worldwide has been an ongoing and strong theme of faculty and student research. Food security is an emerging planning subfield that is attracting more students and faculty attention.

FES benefits from the contributions of outstanding and leading planning practitioners who share their knowledge of urban design, environmental planning, and negotiation and media skills. Students are taking the initiative to share their experiences and knowledge with the profession through publications, public events, films, art installations and posters.

The Faculty of Environmental Studies is engaged in a broad range of research projects.

Energy policy experts, Mark Winfield and Jose Etcheverry, are currently leading the development of the FES Sustainable Energy Initiative. The initiative aims to fulfill three key needs in Ontario: (1) applied and policy research to advance sustainable energy solutions; (2) education and training of a new generation of sustainable energy practitioners needed to respond to the demand created by the *Green Energy Act*; and (3) continuing education opportunities for professionals already working in the field. The initiative will integrate effective policy, technological and business solutions for energy sustainability.

Liette Gilbert, MCIP, RPP, is working with Phd student Teresa Abbruzzese on a project on "Creative City Thesis: Depoliticization of Talent and Tolerance." Also, her article, "Politics of Immigration and Controversial Refugee Reforms," as well as Simon Black and

Roger Keil's article, "Conquering the Urban Nation," were featured in *Canada Watch Spring 2011*.

Roger Keil is one of the York recipients of the SSHRC Major Collaborative Research Initiative examining global suburbanism. He is working with 44 researchers at 29 universities and 16 partners in 12 countries to better understand the challenges that suburbanization poses in a globalizing world. FES professors, Ute Lehrer, Liette Gilbert and Stefan Kipfer, MCIP, RPP, are co-researchers in the initiative as well as Douglas Young (FES Alumnus).

Stephan Kipfer's article, "The Hordes at the Gate? Hard-Right Populism Defines Toronto Mayoral Election," was featured in *The Socialist Project Bulletin*.

Ute Lehrer contributed a book chapter on "Urban Design Process" in T. Banerjee and A. Loukaitou-Sideris' edited book on *Urban Design: Roots, Influences, and Trends. The Routledge Companion to Urban Design* (Routledge, 304-316) includes more than 50 original contributions from internationally recognized authorities in the field. Ute Lehrer, Stefan Kipfer and Roger Keil also co-authored an article on "Reurbanization in Toronto: Condominium boom and social housing revitalization" in *The Planning Review*, Volume 180, 2010.

Rod MacRae, Martin Bunch and MES alumnus Eric Gallant, Sima Patel, Marc Michalak and current student Stephanie Shaffner co-published the article "Could Toronto provide 10% of its fresh vegetable requirements from within its own boundaries?" in the *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*.

Peter Mulvihill, MCIP, RPP, recently finished his research on "Towards sustainability in Headwaters Country." This action-based research project focuses on Dufferin County, part of the Headwaters Country region north of Toronto, in which FES is part of a network of partners—Sustainability Dufferin Society—engaged in a range of sustainability initiatives.

Dean Barbara Rahder, FCIP, RPP, received a one-year extension for her SSHRC project on Social Sustainability, Diversity, and

Public Space in Three Canadian Cities. Co-investigators include Liette Gilbert and York Liberal Arts & Professional Studies professors Ranu Basu, Susan McGrath and Patricia Wood. The project uses participatory research to examine how well urban public spaces are actually meeting the needs of diverse communities in Canada, and how planning for social sustainability and diversity might better address the needs of a diverse urban populace. The project involves participants from diverse low-income communities in Montreal, Toronto and Calgary. Participants explore their experiences and perceptions of public space, mapping the opportunities and barriers they encounter within the city, and articulating what needs to change to promote a more equitable and sustainable urban future.

Anders Sandberg's new book titled *Climate Change – Who's Carrying the Burden?: The Chilly Climates of the Global Environmental Dilemma*, co-authored with MES alumnus Tor Sandberg, looks at who is most affected by climate change and the need for systematic change beyond capping and trading carbon emissions.

Laura Taylor, MCIP, RPP, with MES Planning students Denisa Gavan-Koop and Camilia Changgizi, co-organized a two-day event on civic engagement in urban revitalization held at York University March 1 and 2, 2011. Planners, activists, residents, academics and students met to share ideas and experience with case studies from Toronto and Birmingham, England. A walking tour, youth art installation, photograph exhibit, and a film capped the workshop event.

Also, Laura Taylor along with her urban-regional planning students, created posters summarizing their analysis of the Greater Golden Horseshoe Greenbelt in Toronto during the Global Greenbelts Conference held this March. The posters were displayed for the duration of the conference and provided delegates with a comprehensive picture of the issues facing contemporary greenbelt planning. Posters focused on ecological values, food security, marketing, social justice, growth management, governance and transportation.

Planning Program coordinator Gerda Wekerle, MCIP, RPP, co-authored an article with planning alumna and FES PhD student Teresa V. Abbruzzese, "Gendered Spaces of Activism in Exurbia: Politicizing an Ethics of Care from the Household to the Region." It will be forthcoming in 2011 in *Frontiers: A Women's Studies Journal* (32, 2, pages 186-231). Based on a comparison of regional planning in the Toronto region and Rochester, N.Y., Wekerle and Abbruzzese published "Producing Regionalism: Regional Movements, Ecosystems and Equity in a Fast and Slow Growth Region," in *Geojournal*, 2010 (75, 6, page 581). Wekerle and FES colleague L. Anders Sandberg published another article on their joint research

on policy and planning changes on the Oak Ridges Moraine: "Reaping Nature's Dividends: The Neoliberalization and Gentrification of Nature on the Oak Ridges Moraine," in the *Journal Of Environmental Planning and Policy*, January, 2010. Conference presentations include "Contesting Policy Discourses of Nature, Growth and Planning in the Toronto Region" at the 5th International Conference on Interpretive Policy Analysis in Grenoble France, June 2010 and "Land Use Battles, NIMBYs and the Strong Arm of the State" for the American Association of Geographers, in Washington DC, April 18 2010.

Planning student achievements are many and varied. Jason Neudorf received a Canadian Transportation Research Forum Past Presidents Award for his paper "Lessons from the Canadian Intercity Passenger Rail Experience Implications for Policy and Planning." His work was supervised by Peter Mulvihill. Jason is currently working for the World Green Building Council and in the sustainability department of InterfaceFLOR.

MES student Christina Sgro wrote an article, "New Urbanism: the face of Toronto suburbs?" featured in the September 2010 edition of *Urban Design Forum* in Melbourne Australia.

MES Planning student Marcel Gelein shared his internship experience with the Canadian Urban Institute in Kingston, Jamaica, in an article "A Time for Change?" posted on the FES website.

MES student Penny Kaill-Vinish's article "Toronto's Green Roof Policy and Rooftop Food Production" was awarded *Plan Canada* Short Article of the Year for 2010 by the Canadian Institute of Planners.

Steve W. Gitao (MES 2010 candidate) was awarded the Paul Bedford research grant by the Ontario Professional Planners Institute. Steve is exploring the relationship between the provision of accessible housing for persons with limited mobility and sustainable urban planning practices. Concepts of universal design, visit-ability and aging in place are explored as policy options for accessible housing in Ontario.

Laura Taylor with MES students Denisa Gavan-Koop, Camilia Changgizi and the CITY Institute co-organized a Tower Renewal workshop on "Transforming urban landscapes: Community perspectives" on March 1, 2011 at the York Research Tower.

MES student Erkin Ozberk won the prestigious Canadian Institute of Planners Thomas Adam Past President Scholarship Award, with a proposal for his major paper titled "Livable Densities: The Role of Local Public Space under Growth Management Planning in Ontario and Maryland." He is working with The Steps Initiative in exploring the potential of art and creative expression in public spaces for community building and public engagement.

Students enrolled in Laura Taylor's Urban and Regional Planning course co-authored an article on "Thinking Regionally" in the *Ontario Planning Journal* in 2010.

Gerda Wekerle and MES student Susan Lloyd-Swail received a MITACS/Accelerate Ontario award for an internship project on South Simcoe Green Business Transformation with Nottawasaga Futures. The research identified sustainable best practices and compared policies and practices affecting the economic development of South Simcoe. It also provided the needed information to strategically support sustainable community development models in the area through relevant policy options, business plans and community networks.

Dr. Gerda Wekerle, MCIP, RPP, is professor and planning program coordinator for York University's School of Environmental Studies.



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PHOTO: QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

Linking theory & practice

By David Gordon

The research conducted by graduate students and faculty at Queen's School of Urban and Regional Planning (SURP) makes a substantial contribution to linking theory and practice in Canadian planning. Professor Ajay Agarwal has recently joined us from USC and he continues his research of the Los Angeles urban spatial structure with a book chapter published and an article in *Urban Studies* in press. Ajay is also embarking on a new project researching the impact of public transit in Toronto's urban form.

A new edition of Dr. David Gordon's book *Planning Twentieth Century Capital Cities* (Routledge, London) was published last year. He continues a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grant to investigate the number of Canadians who live in suburbs. We guesstimate about two-thirds of our population lives in conventional suburbs, but, surprisingly, there is neither an accurate estimate nor an accepted definition of this important component of our urban areas. Dave's book on the planning history of Canada's capital city (link: <http://www.planningcanadascapital.ca>) is due next year and he is currently researching the Canadian practice of Anglo-Australian urban designer Gordon Stephenson with an international team of scholars. For fun, he has been co-editing special journal issues for *Plan Canada*, *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* and *Town Planning Review*.

Dr. John Meligrana, MCIP, RPP, is investigating heritage preservation in Xi'an China, supported by the Canadian International Development Agency. He is also studying municipal government reform and boundary change both in South African and international case studies, with Robert Cameron (University of Cape Town). Prof. Meligrana and Dr. Feng Xie

(Fudan University) prepared two research papers regarding land use change in Shanghai and John will lead a team of SURP graduate students to that city in the fall for a project course.

Professor Andrejs Skaburskis published new research on gentrification and urban structure in *Urban Geography*, *Environment and Planning A* and *Urban Affairs Quarterly*, including two articles with Markus Moos, a former student and new Waterloo professor. Andrejs was awarded another SSHRC grant to examine "The Balance Between Gentrification and Filtering in Toronto's Inner-city and Older Suburbs." He continues as North American editor of *Urban Studies*, a leading international research journal.

Prof. Leela Viswanathan, MCIP, RPP, continues with her research on local sustainability, the voluntary sector, and immigration issues in southern and eastern Ontario, publishing articles in *GeoJournal* and *Plan Canada*. She has been collaborating with Dr. Meligrana and Dr. Whitelaw on research about planning pedagogy, as well as on research on local environmental planning and sustainability with First Nation communities in northern Ontario. Leela and Graham recently won a collaborative SSHRC Insight Development Grant to support this work.

Graham Whitelaw, MCIP, RPP, currently has six SSHRC funded research projects. Three deal with land use planning and environmental assessment in the Mushkegowuk Territories (western coast of James Bay). The other research projects include biodiversity science and conservation in southern Ontario; application of theory and practice to address resource development and capacity-enhancement needs; use of traditional environmental knowledge and western science as

complementary forms of knowledge. Graham's research has appeared in several scholarly journals such as the *Journal of Environmental Assessment Policy and Management* and he continues to advise STORM (Save The Oak Ridges Moraine).

The adjunct and cross-appointed faculty at SURP also contribute to knowledge about planning practice. Commentary about current real estate market issues by Dr. John Andrew, MCIP, RPP, has been covered by scores of newspapers, national TV and radio. Heritage preservation work by Dr. Carl Bray, MCIP, RPP, was a recent *Ontario Planning Journal* cover story, while CIP president Marni Cappe, MCIP, RPP, writes a regular column in *Plan Canada* which complements her SURP course on urban policy. Similarly, OPPI president Sue Cumming, MCIP, RPP, is a frequent contributor to *OPJ*, as well as an adjunct lecturer on participation techniques. Dr. Betsy Donald (Queen's Geography) continues to investigate urban agriculture and also has been researching the creative economy in small towns and rural areas in association with the Moneison Centre at the Queen's School of Business. Finally, Dr. Preston Schiller published a new book, *An Introduction to Sustainable Transportation: Policy, Planning and Implementation* (Earthscan Press, London) with his colleagues Eric Bruun (University of Pennsylvania) and Jeffrey Kenworthy (Curtin University).

SURP graduate students also contribute to the research output of the school through their project courses and theses. Each fall, several teams of graduate students prepare reports for local partners with budgets and coaching from professional agency staff. This year's projects included:

- Recommendations to increase environmental and cultural protection along the Rideau Canal World Heritage Site for Parks Canada;
- A model for a social enterprise centre for the Kingston Social Planning Council;
- Long term vision for the Billings Bridge Plaza area for the City of Ottawa Planning Department;
- Downtown strategic parking plan for the City of Kingston.

Executive summaries of these projects may be found on SURP's web site (www.queensu.ca/surp/current-students/project-courses/index.html).

Finally, every Queen's graduate student prepares a thesis or research project on a topic of personal interest, directly supervised by SURP faculty. The school maintains a library of these monographs, which include valuable research for cities across Canada and other countries. A searchable index of every thesis and report is available on the school web site www.queensu.ca/surp/research/theses-and-reports.html along with executive summaries of recent projects. As part of our on-going effort to make our work more available to the public, the full text of the most recent Master's theses and research reports are now posted electronically through the Queen's University Library (qspace.library.queensu.ca/jspui/browse_QS).

Dr. David Gordon, MCIP, RPP, is professor and director of the Queen's School of Urban and Regional Planning. He enjoys returning to his research in the summer months.

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Planning students on research

OPJ extended an invitation to planning students to submit an article on the research project they have submitted for the 2011 OPPI Conference media café

Future Directions in Planning

A personal journey

By Dilys Huang

Regardless of their level of development, cities around the world face a wide range of challenges, from land constraints to environmental degradation. Despite this reality, it is interesting to see how each city addresses its problems.

This is perhaps the reason I initially became interested in the field of planning. After my high school geography teacher introduced us to the topic of urban sprawl, I was so eager to learn more that I ended up writing an extended essay exploring this very issue in my hometown. This interest continued, convincing me to enrol in an undergraduate planning program two years ago.

In terms of the contribution that I would like to make, I hope that I can utilize my skills and apply what I am learning to improving people's quality of life. Not only should cities be healthy and safe, they also must be designed to be accessible to different target groups. An example would be to develop age-friendly cities.

Over the past few decades, we have made mistakes such as creating unsustainable cities by pursuing the so-called American Dream. As the public starts to realize that constructing highways, building houses with sprawling lawns, and using natural resources inefficiently might not be the best decisions to make, planners need to rethink how to better plan cities.

The future of planning research should focus on fixing these mistakes and finding innovative solutions that would address the changing and growing needs of cities and their citizens. As planners, we ought to look farther into the future. In addition, we need to acknowledge the significance of culture when undertaking planning initiatives. Especially in a multicultural society such as Canada, this is a key consideration if we are to develop successful and harmonious communities.

Dilys Huang has completed her second year of the Honours Planning (Co-op) program at the University of Waterloo. She is the recipient of the 2011 OPPI Undergraduate Scholarship.



Dilys Huang

Planning for District Energy

Connecting land use & energy planning

By Brad Bradford

Accounting for the conservation of energy in land use is imperative for achieving local, regional and provincial goals associated with infrastructure, the environment and energy resource management. As planners lay out the frameworks for new neighbourhoods and revisit older ones, we must ensure the parameters of land use and urban form are conducive to developing district energy systems where appropriate, as a means to accomplishing these objectives. This research will generate recommendations to assist Ontario municipalities with planning for district energy and strengthen the connection between land use and community energy management.

Numbers provided by Natural Resources Canada indicating residential energy consumption by end-use show thermal energy (space heating, space cooling, water heating) accounting for 82 per cent of total energy demand. Similarly, commercial and institutional energy consumption by end-use shows thermal energy accounts for 60 per cent of total energy consumption. This illustrates the tremendous opportunity that exists to improve thermal energy efficiency and delivery through the implementation of district energy systems.

District energy systems connect multiple thermal energy users (buildings) through a network of supply and return pipes from a centralized energy source. Hot water, steam or chilled water is distributed through the pipe network to satisfy customers' thermal energy demands. The systems can utilize ultra efficient boilers and chillers that would not normally be economically feasible in an individual building, reducing capital costs and improving efficiency. Economies of scale are achieved by aggregating thermal energy load over a variety of customers' buildings with different thermal energy requirements and variations in peak timing.



Brad Bradford

A study conducted by Jaccard, Failing and Berry was one of the first to identify the significant impact of urban form on all aspects of energy use. More specifically, their findings indicated that density and land use patterns determine the size and type of dwelling, as well as commuting distances, transportation modes and energy supply systems, which all dramatically impact energy service requirements.

Despite the influence of land-use patterns on community energy profiles and supply cost to consumers, Brent Gilmour and Julia McNally point out that energy use is often overlooked when considering the location of a new home, the operation and variety of commercial services, options for transit and the layout of road networks. This lack of consideration for urban form increases the risk of developing energy-intensive land use patterns by default.

While physical structures are largely permanent, the future of energy is highly uncertain making the benefits of integrating energy planning into the land use planning process even more compelling. Meanwhile, a review of Ontario's planning documents suggests that some communities are not giving enough consideration to the energy impacts of high-rise versus low-rise developments, density versus sprawl and mixed use versus monotone zoning.

Incorporating district energy into the municipal planning process through by-laws and site plan approvals can stimulate interest in system development and ensure no opportunities are overlooked. Municipalities can generate conditions conducive to district energy development by encouraging high-density, mixed-use urban form. When commercial and residential lands are located in close proximity, they generate significantly more demand for thermal conditioning. Higher thermal demand across a variety of building types translates into lower energy infrastructure costs amortized over a greater number of customers. Municipalities that incorporate district energy in their planning documents and approval processes, demonstrate commitment to resilient growth, economic development and long-term energy security.

Brad Bradford B.E.S., is a M.A. Planning Candidate at the University of Waterloo and is the Chief Administrative Officer with the Canadian Association of Planning Students (CAPS). He is also the recipient of the 2011 OPPI Graduate Scholarship. Brad can be reached at bbradfor@uwaterloo.ca.

Urban Environmental Principles

Comparative analysis

By Zeinab Yeganeh Keya

The aim of my research project is to analyze the environmental principles used for land use planning of Iranian communities to determine whether or not they are sufficient and applicable for conserving and improving the quality of urban environments. The research was done thorough learning from planners' policies and practices of some pioneer countries in the field of spatial planning—United States, Great Britain and Canada—whose major cities are among the world's top 50 according to eco-city ranking conducted by Mercer in 2010.

First, environmental principles were extracted from citywide plans of Iran and the selected countries and categorized into two groups. These were analyzed to determine the advantages, disadvantages and compatibility. Drawing on both groups a composite new set was proposed: homogenous and applicable environmental principles for urban land use planning in Iran.

The Region 5 Area Plan addresses issues and opportunities in the municipality of Tehran, beyond what is covered in the general Municipal Plan of Tehran. It is one of the most recently developed set of principles in the hierarchical network of environmental principles for land use planning in Iran. These, environmental principles for the distribution of urban land uses in Tehran, were compared with the principles proposed in the new set. The results revealed the Region 5 principles would be insufficient and inapplicable for improving the quality of the urban environment.

The final analysis revealed that a combination of homogenous environmental principles of urban land use planning in the sampled countries and Iran could provide an appropriate model for sustainable urban planning in Iran.



Zeinab Yeganeh Keya

Zeinab Yeganeh Keya has recently graduated from University of Tehran with a degree in environmental planning and management. For more information about this research, please contact her at kimiyayeganeh@yahoo.com. Keya's advisor, Shahrzad Faryadi, is an assistant professor of city and regional planning at the University of Tehran and may be reached at sfaryadi@ut.ac.ir.

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IMAGE: DREW ADAMS

Corridor intensification through three-to-six storey, grade-related dwellings

Overlooked Intensification Model

Low-rise, high-density housing

By Drew Adams

Clearly the suburban parts of our cities will demand increasing attention in coming years with special focus on retrofitting, intensification and diversification toward more sustaining forms. While vast amounts of under-utilized, highly-accessible and well-served suburban lands hold significant potential, development tends to favour a continuation of conventional forms of suburban living. Status quo responses tend to be the norm when challenged with density in such forms as the Vancouver-style podium—point towers often paired with town home bases. Even mid-rise forms, which are desirable from many perspectives, are often met with questions of economic viability. Thus I have chosen to focus my Masters of Architecture research on low-rise, high-density housing as an alternative model.

The research focuses on greyfield corridors, and formulates a series of housing prototypes capable of adaptation to a wide variety of lot sizes and site conditions—from strip malls to power centres, mid-blocks to corner sites and so on. Critically, it departs from rigorous analysis of current building and zoning codes, municipal and provincial policy and real estate development logic, which together can overwhelmingly predetermine built form.

The research results point to the benefits of a suite of three-to-six storey, grade-related dwellings that emphasize daylight, views, ventilation and relation to outdoors from double exposures, as well as constructability, privacy and multi-demographic suitability. Additional development benefits also result from reduced material costs to expedited construction time to financing implications of small projects.

Although investigated on a major thoroughfare in Toronto, the model has broad applicability across the Greater Golden Horseshoe as well as in many smaller communities. In total some 550 km of corridors have been identified, demanding further study. Achieving a consistent density in the range of 130 unit/ha along these corridors offers a variety of scenarios without exceeding six storeys. This suggests a potential for creating in the order of 1.1-million units.

Low-rise, high-density residential development offers a viable and desirable alternative housing form while staking out an important and greatly neglected middle ground in the discourse on housing and intensification.

Drew Adams is a student in the University of Toronto Masters of Architecture program.

Urban Planning in China

The changing shape of cities

By Kendra FitzRandolph

The Peoples Republic of China is a booming market for many fields, and urban planning is no exception. Mass urbanization is occurring right now, as a large portion of the rural population moves to towns and villages, which are rapidly being converted into cities and newly-formed urban centres.

This demographic shift is having huge ramifications on the physical landscape of China, as well as on regional and national economic development patterns. Planners have an opportunity to develop solutions to the complex urban growth issues born out of this mass urbanization, as well as to ensure a process is set in place to direct development in a way that is socially, environmentally and economically sustainable.

Using select examples of urban centres in Mainland China, my poster presentation examines the process and implementation of a number of initiatives set out by various government levels to manage urban growth. They seek to provide development schemes that are rational, controlled and strategically planned in accordance with China's long-term urban development plan.

The poster will highlight a number of themes. It will look at the historic development of cities in China, from a traditional city design process at the 1949 founding of the Peoples Republic of China to the current philosophies of global city design. It will reflect changes in the practice of urban planning, shaped largely by political factors, which have influenced population growth, migration and the morphology of cities in China. It will also depict how changes to the Chinese landscape will influence the standard of living of the Chinese people, both in the rural areas and the urban centres.

Kendra FitzRandolph is a 2011 candidate for a Masters degree in Environmental Studies in Planning at York University. She was the OPPI representative for York University, co-chair of PlanIT (York's Planning Student Association) and continues to be a member of the OPPI Toronto District Executive Committee and MYPAC (York's Planning Alumnae Association). Kendra is the communications and marketing coordinator for Urban Strategies Inc. and can be reached at kfitzrandolph@urbanstrategies.com or kfitzrandolph@gmail.com.



PHOTO: KENDRA FITZRANDOLPH

China faces many planning challenges to manage growth in its burgeoning urban centres such as Shanghai

OPPI hones its communication tools: Tweet, text or talk

By Sue Cumming

This year, the Ontario Professional Planners Institute turns 25—an excellent time for looking back and looking forward. It's a chance to re-examine assumptions, take stock and build awareness about our profession and its relevance to the world around us. Planners are very familiar with the expression "Location, Location, Location" and this year OPPI Council is focusing much effort on "Communication, Communication, Communication." To begin we commissioned a communication audit.

OPPI has a robust communications program which includes highly regarded print (*Ontario Planning Journal*) and online tools (website, emails, information e-blasts, and the e-newsletter). One of the most important aspects of membership in OPPI is being able to learn about and stay connected to what is happening throughout the province on planning policy, legislation, projects, professional practice and membership matters. Our diversity as a profession is reflected in the changes that we have seen in how information is communicated among our own membership and with external stakeholders and individuals. With the ever increasing significance of social media in the planning arena together with the public's appetite for more visual and interactive planning tools, this comprehensive review of OPPI's communications is timely.

Although I can tweet with the best of them, I admittedly am one of those planners (call me old-fashioned) who loves a good telephone chat or even better some time with other planners on a patio somewhere talking about what matters to us as planners. I won't bore you with tales of what it was like before fax machines (really) and before email (yes, there was a time) but suffice it to say that the demand for instantaneous delivery of key messages and information is part of our everyday life. The way we connect with one another and access information is very dynamic.

A key focus of OPPI's communication audit was to learn what members wanted to hear about, when they wanted to hear it and what communication tools were most desirable. Input was received through interviews, focus groups and surveys from members and external contacts to address how and where they access information and how they would like to receive information in the future.

To grasp the communication opportunities and to meet the corresponding challenges both today and in the future, OPPI is considering how it can strengthen, improve and/or transform some of its current practices and products to make them more attractive and relevant to both the needs of its members and the overall marketing and profile of the institute itself. Currently, council is addressing such initiatives as

developing social media protocols, continuing to expand and enhance the OPPI website including investigating the possibility of developing an information platform on the website for interactive discussion on issues of common interest and enabling OPPI's IT system to distribute information to mobile/smart telephones and tablets. We are also exploring an online version of the *Ontario Planning Journal* for all of the e-readers out there (without eliminating the opportunity to get your copy out of the mailbox). As well we continue to integrate OPPI's policy and communication activities to maximize its public profile on a range of significant public policy issues.

OPPI Council is continuing to roll out its tactical plan to implement the OPPI Strategic Plan. This entails developing and refining strategies to accomplish the plan's

six priority goals. Work is also underway to explore the process and actions needed to strengthen legislation for the planning profession. Advocacy around paralegal legislation continues, new continuous professional learning courses are being developed and outreach with student and young planners is resulting in new ideas and opportunities.

Communication is vital to having an effective institute. The outcomes of the communication audit will position OPPI with a focused strategy to build online/digital communications and expand and refocus communication products and programs over the next few years. This work is of vital importance. It will be carefully reviewed and members' input sought as we move forward.

As always I look forward to hearing from you—I am but a tweet or phone call away!

Sue Cumming, MCIP, RPP, is OPPI president, principal facilitator at Cumming+Company and adjunct lecturer at Queen's School of Urban and Regional Planning. Contact Sue at 866. 611.3715 or cumming1@total.net.



Sue Cumming

Sault Ste. Marie's hub trail

By Don McConnell



Boardwalk is signature element in Sault Ste. Marie waterfront development



25 km trail encircles Sault Ste. Marie's urban area

Construction of a 25-kilometre trail encircling Sault Ste. Marie's urban area is anticipated to be completed this fall at a total cost of more than \$10-million. The basic trail design is a 3-metre asphalt path with public properties utilized as much as possible. Both local school boards supported the project by allowing the trail to be constructed over portions of various elementary schools and all three levels of government committed to its funding.

Sault Ste. Marie is a community of 77,000 residents on the north shore of the St. Mary's River situated between Lake Superior and Lake Huron. Developing the trail through its existing urban and suburban areas had its challenges.

The first section was developed as part of a road reconstruction

project and involved replacing an existing 1.2-metre concrete sidewalk with an asphalt path. The neighbours were evenly divided both for and against the project. As a result, the trail width was reduced slightly and concrete banding was added to each side. Since completion, no complaints have been received and this has become the design standard in all urban areas.

The forested rural areas presented a different set of challenges with a variety of elevation changes and the need for numerous culverts to avoid altering existing drainage patterns. Two large ravines were spanned by constructing 90-metre and 135-metre pedestrian bridges. While expensive, these bridges are interesting features in the wilderness areas and allow more residents and visitors to use the trail.



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It began in 1988, when city council approved a waterfront development strategy that included construction of a 2.5-kilometre boardwalk along the water's edge as a continuous linkage to the planned residential, cultural, office and retail developments. The boardwalk was completed in 1995 and has become the signature element in the city's waterfront redevelopment program.

In 2004, a group representing various non-motorized users joined together to create the Sault Trails Advocacy Committee. The group's intent was to provide a unified voice to encourage the development of additional non-motorized trails in the community.

A year later, the group approached city council for funding to develop plans for a 25-kilometre trail to encircle the community's urban area. The trail would connect the downtown waterfront walkway to a number of popular destinations including Algoma University, Sault College, the new Sault Area Hospital, conservation areas, parks and elementary and secondary schools. At the initial open house more than 200 residents attended to indicate their interest and support. The Hub Trail Concept and Design Study was completed in March 2006 and construction of phase one began the following year.

This was a significant undertaking for the city and the recreation, health, environmental and economic benefits have been recognized by the entire community. Like many success stories, work on the sequel is underway.

Don McConnell, MCIP, RPP, is the planning director for the City of Sault Ste. Marie and the Northern District representative on OPPI council. He can be reached at d.mcconnell@cityssm.on.ca.

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Districts & People

OAK RIDGES DISTRICT

Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan

Assessing effectiveness

By Valerie Cranmer

The results of the environmental work being conducted on the Oak Ridges Moraine by the Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition and the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation will be used to assess effectiveness of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. This was the subject of an educational symposium on April 12 sponsored OPPI Oak Ridges District.

The symposium featured two presenters: Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation advisor Fred Johnson, formerly with the Ministry of Natural Resources and now principal of Enviroscope Consulting Services; and Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition senior planner/co-ordinator David Burnett, who is also a Toronto and Region Conservation provincial and regional policy manager.

Burnett spoke about the coalition, an association of the nine conservation authorities on the Oak Ridges Moraine. Its purpose is to advance the

science and understanding of the moraine and to garner government, agency and community support for the conservation and protection of the form, function and linkages of the Oak Ridges Moraine. The coalition's goals are to:

- Define and protect natural heritage and water resource systems through watershed studies and monitoring
- Support an accessible trail system
- Ensure effective stewardship services
- Build partnerships to provide education, information and land opportunities secure land.

In addition to the 325 stewardship projects that have been completed on the moraine since 2002, the conservation authorities have been involved in 243 projects in collaboration with more than 30 partners through the Caring for the Moraine project. These projects include reforestation, riparian restoration and wetland creation or restoration. More than 2,100 ha. have been secured by the conservation authorities, bringing the total conservation holdings of environmentally significant public land on the moraine to more than 14,000 ha. The coalition also has been active in obtaining data and undertaking modelling with

regard to ground water and source water protection plans.

David Burnett offered some personal observations regarding implementation of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. He cited several examples demonstrating the plan's effectiveness as a strong conservation tool despite its perceived limitations in implementation flexibility and he noted some inconsistencies in the plan's implementation. Burnett also identified the emerging issue concerning fill, its quality and possible contribution to ground water contamination.

Fred Johnson explained the Measuring Success on the Oak Ridges Moraine project, which is intended to document successes and failures in the implementation of the plan and the foundation. The project was initiated to enhance development of indicators and investigations required as part of the upcoming 2015 review and to identify opportunities and needs for future improvements to the plan and related initiatives.

Johnson described a stakeholder survey conducted by the foundation and highlighted its key findings. Generally, respondents indicated the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan was a good plan but a number of changes were needed. These include harmonizing provincial policies and plans, and effective monitoring, as well as addressing issues related to aggregate extraction, transition policies, boundary adjustments, administration and relationship of water-taking permits, and the threat of urban

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development into countryside area designations.

It was noted in the presentation, a tremendous amount of effort has been expended by municipalities and others to ensure their policy, procedural and regulatory documents address the requirements of the plan. The province has also met many of its obligations regarding approval of all the official plans and zoning by-laws. However, there is still a need to continue to develop site alteration and tree conservation by-laws, as well as performance indicators and complete watershed plans. There is also a lack of monitoring or audit capability to track, assess and report on the compliance of various agencies to the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan in preparation for the 2015 review.

The Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation has determined the natural terrestrial cover on the moraine is in good shape but more emphasis is needed on the restoration of forest interior, prairies and grassland habitat. Portions of most of the streams on the moraine require some measure of restoration. Although there is a lack of sufficient monitoring stations and committed funding, there is an excellent basis for establishing monitoring baselines with 21 potential hydrological indicators and associated performance targets identified.

The main east-west section of the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail has been connected across the entire moraine. There have been significant improvements in related infrastructure and in establishing four trail gateways. Efforts continue to relocate portions of the trail off-road. However, Fred Johnson cautioned, maintenance of the present trail and realization of potential expansions are probably not attainable under the current Oak Ridges Trail Association model.

Johnson identified other requirements such as an Oak Ridges Moraine land securement strategy as not all environmentally significant lands can be protected by legislation alone. As well as a comprehensive, partnership-oriented program, similar to the "Caring for the Moraine" project needs to continue to reach out to private land owners as stewardship initiatives are critical for protection and in meeting restoration targets. Research and education program areas need a longer-term dedication

of resources to ensure the plan remains strong in its provisions and continues to have public support. Also a data management system has yet to be developed in cooperation with municipalities, conservation authorities and other relevant stakeholders.

Those attending the session enjoyed the candid comments of the presenters and a lively discussion following both presentations. This initial meeting provided a broader overview of the foundation's history, its accomplishments and challenges to be considered in the future.

Oak Ridges Foundation executive director Kim Gavine, together with Fred Johnson, will be speaking at the district's first annual Summer Solstice in Uxbridge on June 21st. This second presentation on the foundation reports will focus on the findings and challenges of specific interest to planners working and residing within the Oak Ridges District.

Valerie Cranmer, MCIP, RPP, is principal of Valerie Cranmer & Associates Inc. and is the policy development representative for Oak Ridges District.

WESTERN LAKE ONTARIO

Social Media for Planners Dialogue shift

By Rosalind Minaji

Social media provides professional planners with an exciting opportunity to broaden civic engagement and public participation. It creates a shift in dialogue from presentation to conversation mode. It also allows information and misinformation to be passed along to hundreds of people within seconds. Are planners ready?

Fifty planners attended a workshop on Social Media for Planners held at the Casablanca Inn in Grimsby on Tuesday April 19. The workshop was facilitated by Mark Kuznicki, principal of Remarkk! Consulting. Kuznicki's firm specializes in social media and open source approaches to community involvement. The workshop was not intended to teach planners how to set up and use various forms of social media, but rather how to consider its use as a public participation tool.

To prepare for the workshop, registrants were asked to fill out a survey

asking about their use of social media, both personally and in the workplace, as well as what they hoped to gain from the workshop. They were also asked to watch 20 minutes of online videos about a variety of social media topics including blogs, RSS feed, wikis, photo-sharing, social networking, podcasting and twitter. It was hoped that watching these videos would establish a base level of knowledge and terminology for participants.

While a large proportion of the participants own smart phones, the results of the pre-workshop survey, completed by 38 of the 50 participants, indicated a relatively low level of familiarity with and use of social media sites (except for Facebook). The main barrier listed to using social media at work was that many organizations block access to social networking sites and content. Where social media was used by a corporation, access was restricted to one or two people who approved postings or content requested by the planner.



Rosalind Minaji

Mark Kuznicki kicked off the workshop with a presentation on the ways social media is starting to be used by communities and government. He discussed the evolution from interpersonal communication (one-to-one) to mass media communication (one-to-many) and now to social media communication (many-to-many).

Planners should not simply view social media as a new way to push out a message. Instead it should be viewed as a way to engage in a conversation with the public. Social media enables new behaviours where anyone can become an author and everyone can be part of a discussion. With social media, planners have to relinquish some control over their message. You can no longer craft the perfect press release—everything is open to comment and editorializing.

Planners should not expect social media to replace face-to-face neighbourhood meetings. There will never be a time when 100 per cent of the

population will use a particular media tool—civic engagement does not work that way. But social media can be used to engage more people in a responsive way. Planners can monitor and join the conversation on various blogs and websites by scanning for key words using tools, such as Sysamos, and participating on work related blogs.

The importance of storytelling in social media cannot be over emphasized, Kuznicki told participants. Are the announcements on a city website using the same formal wording as a press release? Where are the photos and video and the community member comments?

The comment section on a website can build a story with message, conflict, involvement and resolution. Planners should post photos of the people working on applications or contributing information on behalf of the municipality, thus providing a face and a name to which community members can relate. Kuznicki provided some examples of Facebook, help desk, twitter feed, wiki and Google documents, sites being used to provide information, obtain input and collaborate with the public and other planners.

Workshop participants were divided into eight groups. Four groups were assigned one of the steps involved in a five-year comprehensive



The new social mixers

official plan review and four were assigned the steps involved in processing a rezoning application. Each group was asked to develop tactics to strategically integrate social media into the planning process. Group leaders were then asked to present the suggestions to the full group.

Interesting suggestions emerged including such ideas as:

- Gather data about potential issues using a “speakers corner” video blog
- Co-create a Flickr set of photos of the things people value about their community
- Video a “person on the street” segment with questions and answers about the official plan review
- Produce notice signs with QR codes taking you to a webpage with more details about the proposal

- Live blog—“ask a planner” with FAQs and live public participation
- Facebook meet-ups to arrange site visits and tours
- “Now and then” renderings of streetscapes on websites to spark conversation
- Interactive maps for businesses
- YouTube videos posted with “how to” information about planning
- Notice signs with Twitter hashtags which people can use to discuss the development
- Post copies of the public meeting display boards on a website after the meeting with the commenting function turned on to continue the dialogue.

In wrapping up the workshop, Mark Kuznicki encouraged planners to monitor, join, participate, create and co-create using social media. He noted the significant risk to planners in being left out of the dialogue and in not helping to organize the change.

Rosalind Minaji, MCIP, RPP, is development review coordinator with the Burlington Planning and Building Department. She is the Western Lake Ontario District representative on OPPI council.

Request for Articles

Pivotal moments in 25 years of planning

In celebration of OPPI’s 25th anniversary, OJP is seeking articles about break through or pivotal moments in planning over the past 25 years.

We want to feature as broad a base of articles as possible—reflecting the geographic breadth of Ontario, the depth and scope of the planning profession and various points of time in the history of our association.

Articles should be in the order of

500 words with high resolution images, as relevant. Each article must succinctly identify the pivotal moment. It must indicate what happened, who was involved, where it happened, when it happened and why you believe it was a pivotal moment in the practice of planning or for the planning profession.

Send an email to OPJ editor Lynn Morrow (editor@ontarioplanning.on.ca) for submission guidelines. Deadline is mid-July.



Commentary

Re-shape the way cities grow

Review by Glenn Miller

Perverse Cities—hidden subsidies, wonky policy, and urban sprawl

Pamela Blais

UBC Press 2010

237 pages (not including notes)

\$29.56 paperback edition

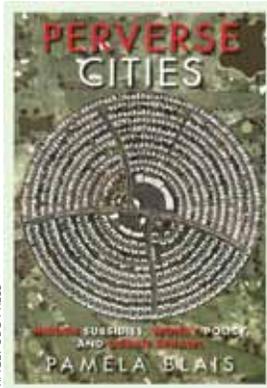
Ontario planning consultant Pamela Blais' impressive book, *Perverse Cities—hidden subsidies, wonky policy, and urban sprawl*, was a worthy finalist in April for the prestigious Donner Prize—an

annual competition for best books on public policy. Although Blais lost out to Doug Saunders' *Arrival Cities*, the fact the Donner jury settled on two books about cities from more than 60 possible contenders suggests there may be a growing appetite for exploring the complexities of cities and what makes them tick.

The driving force for *Perverse Cities* is the author's frustration with those engaged in planning and development who mouth (or write) the right words (compact form, mixed use, transit-oriented) without understanding, or possibly just not caring about, the consequences of sprawl. Blais suggests that by continuing to treat sprawl as a planning problem that can be fixed by better design, planners undermine their own credibility while at the same time giving license to the economic conditions that fuel the underlying causes.

Blais distinguishes between "the planning problem"—pointing out the costs of sprawl can only get worse as the amount of land consumed by urbanization increases faster than population growth—and the "problem with planning." She questions whether ever more extensive planning processes are adding sufficient value to warrant the expense.

The third section of the book details the numerous subsidies, cross-subsidies and incorrect pricing signals that cumulatively add up to deliver the current condition. While many of the elements described in *Perverse Cities*, such as the mechanics of development charges, will be familiar to planners, Blais' fascinating analysis of the economics of what she terms "network services" merit closer scrutiny. The arcane processes that determine the pricing of local telephone, cable and internet services, for example, and their



bizarre relationship with the scale and shape of fast-growing urban areas make for fascinating reading.

The final section, "What to Do," is, inevitably, the least satisfying. In part this is because the sensible solutions proposed require recognition of the problems of sprawl among such a wide cast of characters. For planners whose work exposes them to the development process anywhere along its supply chain, imagining how to correct the system might seem like mission impossible. After all, Blais points out, "Sprawl is the result of a few key decisions that are made millions and millions of times every day across our cities by families, consumers, employees, businesses, developers, institutions, and governments. Together, these independent decisions related to the use of land and travel ultimately determine how cities grow."

On the other hand, we can take heart from the many briefly noted examples of incremental steps being taken in municipalities across North America and beyond, which could start to make a difference. One wishes that more space had been allocated to exploring these examples and examine potentially positive impacts (and drawbacks).

As with many books about sprawl, the emphasis of *Perverse Cities* is on residential development—but like movie makers, authors should always leave the door open to a sequel, so perhaps we can anticipate another book before too long.

Glenn Miller, FCIP, RPP, is vice president of education and research with the Canadian Urban Institute in Toronto. He can be reached at gmliller@canurb.org.

OPPI Student Delegate

Networking & learning

By Christine Furtado

Each year a set of passionate, creative and curious students are welcomed into the Ontario Professional Planners Institute, a community of people who maintain a high level of professionalism and collective knowledge within the planning profession. I am honored to represent and continue the relationship built in years past by our students and the OPPI as I begin my term as the 2011-2012 OPPI student delegate.

I am currently enrolled in the Masters of Environmental Studies Program at York University specializing in urban and regional planning. My commitment to interdisciplinary research enables me to integrate issues of urban design, government policy and the natural environment into my studies. My research projects examine the relationship between culture and planning:



Christine Furtado

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Send letters about content in the *Journal* to the editor (editor@ontarioplanners.on.ca).

Direct comments or questions about Institute activities to executivedirector@ontarioplanners.on.ca

questions seemingly mundane—where, how and why people congregate and travel—and extraordinary—where, how and why people migrate, and what impact their migration has on the natural and built environment. Ultimately, I hope to complete my degree by examining these issues through an analysis of land use conflict.

I first came to planning through a creative niche in the housing and development industry, working for a Toronto design firm a few years ago. This experience led me to Germany in 2009, where I completed a summer program in sustainable infrastructure, and explored planning in a more academic environment. My international experience changed my perspective of the urban landscape at home, and I began to appreciate the nuances of urban planning upon returning to Ontario.

I was grateful that during my final year at Queen's University, where I completed a Bachelor of Science (Honors) degree, I was introduced to OPPI and began to explore what the institute was and what it means for professionals. Over the past year I have assisted a Toronto planning consultant, participated as a student liaison for the OPPI, organized Planning for the Future information sessions and found myself returning to Germany for a planning workshop to study forms of suburban development and demographic change. I am excited to share my experiences and thoughts with students and members of the OPPI over the next year. I am grateful for those who have taken time to discuss their career experiences with me.

I would like to thank and congratulate Daniel Woolfson on his

success as the OPPI student delegate for the past year. Daniel's professionalism and commitment will serve as helpful sign-posts for future delegates, and are tremendous assets as students look to continually enhance their relationship with OPPI. His work with the healthy communities project and the organization of Planning for the Future events have resulted in a fulfilling and productive year. Daniel always focused on giving students opportunities to network and learn outside of the classroom, and that is a goal I will continue to pursue. I find great value in using innovative and creative methods of communication and will help to explore exciting new way to network and learn.

As student delegate I will be a resource for students, helping to facilitate the ongoing discussion between OPPI council and Ontario's student planning community. An exciting shift towards innovative communication techniques will lead the way for future discussions and networking between planners and students—and I hope to harness these emerging resources. I will encourage new and creative ways for students to receive up-to-date information and discuss tools we need to enrich our learning experience. Students are encouraged to inquire about opportunities for volunteering at events, learning about the planning profession as a whole and about the OPPI itself. I will do my best to increase student membership and general awareness of OPPI for the future of planning. Please do not hesitate to contact me at cfurtado@yorku.ca. Here's to an exciting year!

The following members have resigned or been removed from the register

The following Full Members resigned in good standing from OPPI for the 2011 membership year:

Gary Austin	Myles Mahon
David Corks	Malcolm McIntosh
Dipak Dhrona	James McKeever
Terrance Edwards	Ron Miller
Paul English	Shima Mirkarimi
Shawna Ginsberg	Thomas Mokrzycki
Bowen	Jean-Francois Morin
Carl Januszczyk	Carla Rhody
Carolyn Johnson	Arto Tikiryian
Charles Leung	Susan Wright
	Kai Yew

The following Full Members have been removed from the register for non-payment of membership fees for 2011:

Rima Ammouri	Maggie Julian	Eric Pedersen
Corina Davy	Mark Koenig	M. Craig Piper
Rupert Dobbin	Patricia MacPherson	Katharine Rankin
Betsy Donald	Gwen Manderson	Alexandra Schaffhauser
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Vanessa Grupe	Norman Pearson	Melvin Winch
Eric Gupta		
Trevor Hesselink		
Arthur Hoole		
Melanie Horton		
Richard Jones		
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Two Sides of a Challenging Issue: People zoning

By Julia Croome and Eric K. Gillespie, contributing editor

“People zoning,” or zoning “which depends on personal characteristics of occupants of land to explain restrictions governing adjacent land uses,”¹ is an issue that arises at the OMB and is often viewed as synonymous with discrimination. The Ontario Government even went so far as to amend the *Planning Act* to explicitly prohibit the passing of zoning by-laws distinguishing between related and unrelated people with respect to land use.² Yet while recent OMB decisions and other case law points to the potential for human rights violations through people zoning, there are also indications that appropriate people zoning can and should be a tool for planners concerned with the protection of human rights.

The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* sets out the international principle of equality before the law and entitlement without discrimination to equal protection of the law. It also identifies rights to freedom of thought, conscience and religion and freedom of expression. The *Canadian Bill of Rights*, the *Canadian Human Rights Act*, the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and the *Ontario Human Rights Code*, among others, further define and set out these international principles domestically. Under the code, for example, everyone has the right to equal treatment in housing without discrimination and harassment.³

The intersection of human rights with planning can be viewed in two contrasting ways. The first is simply expressed negatively, or restrictively: while a municipality can regulate the use of lands through the mechanism of a zoning by-law, the municipality cannot regulate the user of lands. The second is as a positive obligation to have regard for the user of lands, such as by creating exceptions in zoning by-laws to allow certain uses by certain groups.⁴ The tension between these two manifestations of human rights in planning law is difficult to clearly outline, let alone navigate as a planner.

“The tension between these two manifestations of human rights in planning law is difficult to clearly outline, let alone navigate as a planner.”

A line of case law sets out instances of zoning by-laws which “people zone” in a discriminatory manner. The Supreme Court of Canada’s landmark decision in *R. v. Bell* in 1979 struck down a by-law limiting the occupation of premises to “one family alone” and defining “family” as a “group of persons interrelated by consanguinity, marriage or legal adoption.” The Supreme Court reversed the Court of Appeal, which held that given there is always an element of discrimination in a matter of zoning, so

long as a by-law applies the same way to all persons within the zone it was not discriminatory. Rather, the Supreme Court echoed the dissent written by Justice of Appeal John Watson Brooke finding the limitation was so oppressive that it could not reasonably be justified.

Most recently, last year in *Kitchener (City) Official Plan Amendment No. 58*,⁵ the City of Kitchener placed a neighbourhood ban in the Cedar Hill area on new facilities accommodating “single person, low income households” and “residential care facilities and social/supportive housing” on the ground that the area was over-concentrated with such facilities and that it was desirable to decentralize that use.

“Poor planning and poor design of the built and the developed natural environment, creating places that make some youth feel powerless and isolated, leading them to believe that their options are as limited as their horizons.”

While decentralization of uses is permitted under the city official plan, the OMB was critical of the instruments in question for a number of reasons. The city had failed to plan for the location of these uses elsewhere. It had failed to adequately assess impacts, for example by failing to ensure those affected are given a meaningful voice. It had failed to substantively consider the legal implications—Is this people zoning? What are the human rights impacts?

While people zoning in the above examples was found to be discriminatory, “land use practices are made by human beings and are made with human beings in mind as well as land resources.”⁶ There have been indications by the OMB and Ontario’s Superior Court of Justice that failure to consider the specific people affected by land uses may render a by-law inoperative.

In *Ottawa (City) Zoning By-law No. 20-2000* there was an appeal of an Ottawa zoning by-law by residents who would live adjacent to a proposed funeral home. Some of the residents raised religious and cultural grounds in their objections. OMB vice-chair Robert Owen noted, “it may well be that cities need to consider the changing demographics and decide whether and how land use planning can or should be used to reflect the changes in people’s attitudes or needs,” although he concluded that the board did not have the discretion to consider constitutional arguments.⁷ When granting leave to appeal from that decision, Divisional Court Justice Catherine D. Aitken stated that it would be

appropriate for the court to intervene where a municipality—in this case the City of Ottawa—failed to adequately protect minorities.⁸ The appeal was ultimately dismissed,⁹ but the OMB and court commentary indicates that people zoning might be appropriate where, if properly applied, it in fact protect minorities.

In the context of Section 2(b) of the Charter, Chief Justice of Canada Brian Dickson said: “The equality necessary to support religious freedom does not require identical treatment of all religions. In fact, the interests of true equality may well require differentiation in treatment... To approach the ideal of full equality before and under the law... and in human affairs an approach is all that can be expected... the main consideration must be the impact of the law on the individual or the group concerned.”¹⁰

Social science evidence supports a pressing need to proactively plan to address poverty, violence and other endemic social problems. Former Chief Justice of Ontario Roy McMurtry, in his co-authored report on youth violence published in 2008 identifies a number of root causes of risk factors for violence involving youth. He includes, “poor planning and poor design of the built and the developed natural environment, creating places that make some youth feel powerless and isolated, leading them to believe that their options are as limited as their horizons.”¹¹

Concentrations of poverty are also identified as a root cause. Planning to address these problems, which may necessarily involve people planning or zoning, must be undertaken cautiously, with an eye to the lessons of Bell and Kitchener OPA 58.

Julia Croome and Eric Gillespie are lawyers practicing primarily in the environmental and land use planning area. Eric 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. He can be reached at egillespie@gillespielaw.ca.



Eric Gillespie

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Professional Practice

Moonlighting

Dear Dilemma,

As a municipal planner (RPP), I’ve been getting ‘itchy feet’ for awhile. Recently, I decided to ‘test the waters’ before making the jump to private sector planning, working for myself and leaving the regular paycheque behind. I’ve had mixed success.

I approached several contacts, some of them former applicants (after their applications with my municipality were completed) and have now completed several ‘moonlighting’ contracts for projects outside my employer’s jurisdiction (and outside the region as well), performing background functions. While my employer does not have a prohibition against moonlighting, and I have been very careful to avoid a conflict of interest, I do not want my activities known to my bosses or colleagues yet. Obtaining clients who will accept my limitations of practice and generating enough work to be sustainable are primary difficulties, along with the minefield of operating ‘underground’ and ethically.

Am I meeting professional and ethical standards? Is there a better way to become a successful self-employed planning entrepreneur that does not leave behind the steady income until the business shows promise of an acceptable threshold income?

—Budding Entrepreneur

Dear Budding,

While you have tried to meet your responsibilities to avoid a conflict of interest by limiting your practice to clients currently outside your employer’s jurisdiction and to non-public roles, you should carefully consider all relevant parts of both the Professional Code of Practice and the Conflict of Interest Standard of Practice. You must not only avoid an actual conflict of interest, but also not perform work if there is an apparent or foreseeable conflict of interest, direct or indirect, or an appearance of impropriety without full disclosure, including related work for current or past clients and subsequent written consent by the current client or employer. The code further provides the member shall not accept anything of value, including prospective employment from any person when it could appear the offer is made for the purpose of influencing the member’s actions as an advisor to a public planning agency.

The Conflict of Interest Standard of Practice speaks not only to avoiding situations that would compromise the duty to serve the public interest, but also avoiding situations that could be perceived to compromise that duty by competing priorities and interests.

Since you have a past relationship with your new clients and a future possibility that the same former applicants could once again become current applicants within the jurisdiction in which you perform a public role, you must ensure there will be no perception of a future conflict of interest. If the past relationship were ever to become known, a perception of

conflict of interest could arise. This needs to be prevented by avoiding further pecuniary involvement with such former and possibly future applicants, and also by disclosing to your employer your private interests. Full written disclosure, including related work for current or past clients, should be provided to your employer and written consent obtained from your employer to continue in that relationship. However, to guard against a perception or an appearance of conflict of interest, the best way would be not to engage in such activity.

You should also carefully consider your obligations under any municipal conflict of interest guidelines and/or code of conduct provisions your employer may have.

In response to the second question, you may find it a less stressful and more secure form of private practice to pursue a salaried partner position in a private planning company. Redirecting your energy, to attracting clients who need a full range of “above-ground” planning services, may prove far more lucrative and fulfilling than your current practices of “underground planner.”

Yours truly in the public interest,

—Dilemma

Heritage

Living Landmarks: Designating the oak tree

By Michael Seaman, contributing editor

“You want to know what you should be designating,” Oakville resident Dr. George Chew Atkins said, “That old oak tree. There isn’t anything more historic in the entire town of Oakville than that tree.” How was I going to designate a tree? I thought to myself. It is a living thing, not a building. In the early 1990s, it just didn’t seem possible. A few years later I was to learn the Town of Caledon had just completed a unique designation of an Osage orange road side hedgerow.

Since then sweeping changes have been made to heritage legislation and the way heritage is perceived in Ontario. Chief among them was the *Ontario Heritage Act*, which moved beyond being just a mechanism to designate sites of architectural interest, to recognizing sites of broader, cultural heritage value or interest. The term “Cultural Heritage Landscape” started to emerge as a tool for identifying sites of natural, scenic and cultural interest. It was now much clearer that the heritage act could be used to conserve and protect and recognize culturally significant trees through designation.

Returning to Oakville in 2008, I discover the oak tree on Bronte Road had a name, The Woodlands White Oak Tree and awareness its importance had spread. It was no longer just a local curiosity; the tree was national star, a symbol of efforts to conserve significant



Michael Seaman

trees across Canada. In the intervening years the community had galvanized to save the tree in the face of plans to widen Bronte Road in the vicinity of the tree. A group of local citizens headed by Joyce Burnell and Jim Young asked Halton Region Council to consider options that would divert the road and preserve the tree. Council agreed but to re-route the road around the tree would cost \$343,000 and the money had to be raised by January 2007. Thanks to a remarkable fundraising effort that drew the attention of CBC’s National News and the Prince of Wales, they did just that. It was truly a heroic effort, and a testament to the cultural, natural and scenic value that many Canadians place on historic landmark trees such as this.

“We would like you to designate the Oak Tree,” became a common refrain. Since the tree was now going to be preserved, Oakville council, the community, tree preservation enthusiasts... everyone it seemed, now wanted to see the tree designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The designation was achieved, but it was no formality as the unique technical aspects of designating a tree—a living thing had to be considered. One interpretation raised the question as to whether designation was appropriate for all old trees or just those that could be considered culturally important.

While the broader question is something that still needs to be explored, it was clear that if cultural value or interest could be attached to a tree, in accordance with *Ontario Regulation 09/06*, then designation would be merited. Perhaps the best example of such a tree is the maple tree on the southwest corner of Laing Street and Memory Lane in Toronto. It is the tree that is reputed to have inspired Alexander Muir to compose the song ‘The Maple Leaf Forever’ in 1867. Another good example is the stand of grand old white oak tree located in the community of Grimsby Beach, which has long been considered to be of cultural significance. The stand of trees is possibly 300 years, and is a symbolic witness to the area’s transitions from a natural Carolinian forest to a Methodist camp ground, Canada’s first Chautauqua, and the later Grimsby Park, which was a destination for visitors from across southern Ontario. The stand had served as the picnic grounds for the park and the focus of annual Emancipation Day celebrations. The Grand Avenue tree stand was designated this past year.

While the Woodlands White Oak tree did not have a famous national song written about, nor was it a focal point of a famous Canadian park, there was an appreciation that this particular tree was special. Oakville is after all a town named after a tree. It was the majestic oak trees that dominated the landscape when



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PHOTO: MICHAEL SEAMAN

Woodlands White Oak Tree with protective fencing around it during reconstruction of Bronte Road

European settlers arrived in the early 19th century, which were felled to support thriving pioneer shipbuilding and barrel making industries. As the most publicly accessible specimen of an old growth oak tree, the Woodlands White Oak Tree had, for many, become a living symbol of the town.

A major part of its significance can ironically be attributed to the extensive community efforts to save the tree, dating back more than 35 years. It has become a symbol of natural heritage conservation in Oakville, beginning in 1972 when Dr. George Chew Atkins successfully advocated for its preservation.

The tree certainly met the criteria for designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act* as established in *Ontario Regulation 09/06*, the criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest. It also met the contextual criteria for its long-standing status as a landmark on the former Provincial Highway #25, now known as Bronte Road. Located on a high point of land north of the present Queen Elizabeth Way, the tree has been a landmark for generations as the community below grew from a wilderness to the modern town it is today.

When it came to describing the design value of the tree, it took a little more thought to determine how these criteria could be met. It was decided that this criteria could be met by virtue of it being a fine and ancient specimen of a white oak tree. The unique qualities of the tree were confirmed through an evaluation by the Ontario Heritage Tree Alliance.

Once it was determined that the Woodlands White Oak Tree would qualify for designation, the implications of designation had

to be considered. How would general maintenance and heritage permitting work and what of the issue of its mortality? Unlike a fine Georgian House, for example, the Woodlands White Oak Tree is alive and growing. What would happen if the tree died or was irreparably damaged? Since the tree was owned by the Halton Region, which is conscious of the community interest in preserving this natural landmark, it was clear in the end, that if and when the tree does die, the designation would have to be re-evaluated. Would the remaining stump still be considered significant, what about offspring, propagated from its seeds? Designation of the tree is in many ways a symbolic gesture by the town to say that this tree and its long life is important to the Town of Oakville. With respect to alterations, efforts were made to ensure work by the regional forester to maintain the tree would be administered as seamlessly as possible.

On August 9, 2010, the Planning and Development Council of the Town of Oakville unanimously recommended designation of the Woodlands White Oak Tree. The decision marking the culmination of a remarkable effort made by one community to preserve a living landmark that had inspired past and present generations so that it could continue to inspire future generations of Oakville residents.

Michael Seaman, MCIP, RPP, is director of planning with the Town of Grimsby and serves as vice chair and Ontario Governor for the Heritage Canada Foundation.

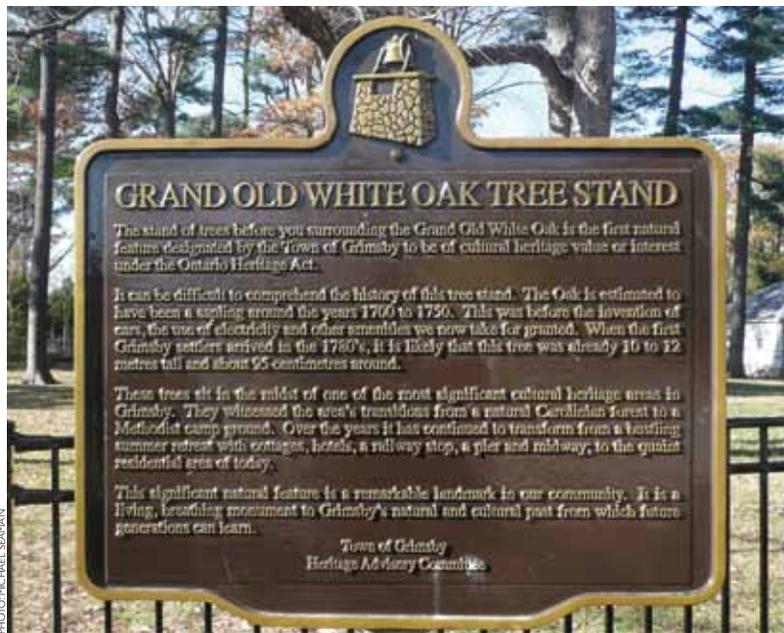


PHOTO: MICHAEL SEAMAN

Plaque commemorating designation of the Grand Avenue Tree Stand in Grimsby

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