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Adam Nicklin, RPP is principal and co-founder of Public Work, the design firm behind Toronto's ambitious Under Gardiner project.

Fred Kent is the founder and president of Project for Public Spaces and a leading authority on the

revitalization of public spaces.

Early bird registration remains open until July 29th, so [register](#) now.

Welcome our new Student Delegate knowledge

Join OPPI in welcoming our 2016-2017 Student Delegate, Scott Plante. Scott follows in the footsteps of past Student Delegates, who have provided outstanding leadership.

OPPI thanks Kelly Graham for her hard work, foresight and contributions as the 2015-2016 Student Delegate. Kelly, along with her peers on the [Student Liaison Committee](#), worked hard to link students, Council and OPPI Members.



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

COVER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS **Row 1:** Kelsey Carriere & Louise Willard, Nikolas Koschany, John FitzGibbon (Wayne Caldwell's New York field trip); **Row 2:** Dr. Aseem Inam (Dr. Inam with students & Thorncliffe Park residents), Michael Uttley (O'Keefe Lane), John FitzGibbon; **Row 3:** Julie Welch (Dr. Caldwell welcomes), Caroline Morrow (Auroville), Kelsey Carriere & Louise Willard; **Row 4:** Amy Shanks/David Gordon (workshop), Jessica Jiang (Amman), Sarah Brown (design charrette); **Row 5:** Waterloo School of Planning-Oxford Brookes University Partnership (Warwick Castle visit), Michael Collens (transit inequities), Caroline Morrow (Ben, Joanna, Thomas & Dominik)



Ryerson University



City Building through Partnership

By Chris De Sousa, RPP

One of the strengths of planning as a discipline, profession, and a calling is that it requires the formation and cultivation of partnerships among disciplines, sectors, and stakeholders in order to address complex problems and unlock opportunities in a meaningful way. As planning educators, we seek to teach students about the wide array of issues, objectives, and perspectives that they will encounter on a daily basis in their careers to make them better partners and mediators of partnerships. While some might find this approach too overwhelming or diffuse, we believe addressing matters via partnership to be not only necessary for devising equitable and resilient strategies, but also rewarding and fun.

All undergraduate and graduate programs in the School of Urban and Regional Planning offer a core curriculum that provides the theoretical, subject, and methodological foundation required for working in our complex environment. Our studio stream of classes allow students to apply their knowledge and skills to solve real-world problems and to do so in consideration of multiple perspectives, stakeholders, and tools. Our public, private, and nonprofit partnerships are integral to the delivery of our curriculum. In addition to our partners regularly speaking in our classes, they act as clients for the almost 30 student consulting teams that are busy working on client-based studio projects every year. Some of our recent studio client partners included BILD (Building Industry and Land Development Association), City of Toronto, District of Muskoka, Downtown Yonge Business Improvement Area, Eabameton First Nation in Fort Hope, Evergreen Canada, IBI Group, Metrolinx, Ontario Growth Secretariat, and the Toronto Centre for Active Transportation. Each year, our students also have the opportunity to gain valuable work experience with a variety of placement partners such as the Canadian Urban Institute, City of Toronto, DiamondCorp, Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Sustainable Thinking and Expression on Public Spaces (STEPS) Initiative, LiveWorkLearnPlay, Planning Partnership, and Toronto Financial District BIA. Another set of important partnerships are our student exchange partners who include Cardiff University in Wales, Glasgow Caledonian

University in Scotland, Sheffield Hallam University and Birmingham City University in the UK, Curtin University in Perth, University of South Australia in Adelaide and RMIT in Melbourne.

Our faculty are also involved in a series of research and practice partnerships. Over the last two years, Dr. Raktim Mitra has been collaborating with the Toronto Centre for Active Transportation and University of Toronto's Dr. Paul Hess in exploring Complete Street projects in the Greater Golden Horseshoe Region. Results from their research were recently published in the form of an illustrated book titled "[Complete Street Transformations in the Greater Golden Horseshoe Region](#)." Supported by the Ontario Government's Places to Grow Implementation Fund, the book features detailed case studies of street transformations using Complete Street principles, as well as some evidence of the impacts of these street redesigns on travel, safety, level of service, and surrounding neighbourhoods. The book has generated much attention within a very short period of time and Mitra and his partners hope that planners, urban designers, and engineers will benefit from using this book as a resource in advancing current active transportation planning practice.

Professors Mitra and David Amborski also contributed to a multi-university collaborative project focusing on post-secondary student transportation issues within the GTHA. Named StudentMoveTO, the project is a collaboration among researchers and students from Ryerson University, OCAD University, the University of Toronto and York University. The researchers aim to create a platform to enable evidence-based discussion, debate, and examination of the challenges and opportunities relating to the everyday mobility of young adults studying in Toronto's universities, a group that is likely under-represented in current transportation surveys and policies. A large student travel survey was conducted as part of this initiative, and the data comprising more than 15,000 records, which is the largest of its kind, is publicly available at www.studentmoveto.ca. Ongoing and upcoming research based on this data will enable further collaboration among students, researchers, university administrators, transportation planners/engineers, grass-roots

organizations and popular media, and will inform future transportation policy in the GTHA region.

Professor Nina-Marie Lister is the recent recipient of a SSHRC Partnership Development Grant that will support the examination of integrated planning and design strategies for landscape infrastructure. She is primary investigator, with collaborators at the University of Toronto, Montana State University, and Royal Roads University and partnerships with the City of Toronto (Environmental Planning), Toronto Zoo, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, City of Edmonton, Mistakiis Institute, Western Transportation Institute, and ARC Solutions.org. In addition, Lister has two studio research-teaching partnerships through her Ecological Design Lab. The first is with Ryerson Urban Water, the City of Toronto Green Streets initiative, the Dutch Consulate and the Kingdom of the Netherlands to investigate strategies for climate change adaptation and design for resilience in the context of urban stormwater and flood mitigation. The second is a six studio series partnership with Evergreen to develop plans for the Lower Don Valley trail, park, and ravine network, as well as a connectivity strategy focused around access into the valley at evergreen brickworks.

Since 2013, Professor Shelagh McCartney has been involved in a socially innovative partnership with Eabametoong First Nation centred on mutual sharing and focused on community planning and housing. Working with elders and youth to (re)imagine their community spaces and vision alternative futures, the project—Maamawi-abiiit-Bawajigaywin: Visioning our future dwelling together—addresses how remote and isolated First Nation communities suffer serious consequences to their health and wellbeing as a result of the housing provision system. In partnership with Dr. Judy Finlay (Ryerson Social Work) and the + city lab, McCartney is also looking at how housing is part of a community health network and how making specific changes to homes could impact broader community health. Breaking a history of inadequate and inappropriate housing, this partnership between Professors McCartney and Finlay, +city lab, and Nibinamik First Nation puts local knowledge at the centre of decision-making to bring a creative, socially innovative approach to First Nation housing. Simply put, current houses and housing layouts do not work in Nibinamik, nor do they work in many other First Nation communities in Northern Ontario, as

they are not culturally or environmentally specific. In all, the partnership is looking to build not just more houses, but different homes that can serve as healthy models for change.

Dr. Matthias Sweet and several Ryerson students (Chris Yuen MPL 2017, Christina Borowiec MPL 2017, and Victoria Kaatz BURPL 2017) have partnered with the City of Toronto to conduct a study using big data to inform transportation planning. In addition, Sweet and Kailey Laidlaw (MPL 2017) have begun a research project for the Centre for Urban Research and Land Development on consumer demand for autonomous vehicles and expected implications for urban planning.

Professor Amborski and I continue to work with two Faculty of Community Services-based research centres to expand our partnerships and to provide research and information that is relevant to planners, policy-makers, and others working in the field. Both organizations have an advisory panel made up of committed and engaged partners who help us identify the most pressing urban economic and city building issues facing our great region.

In all, working through a partnership approach allows us to employ multiple tools and to understand multiple problems from multiple perspectives. While sometimes complicated, partnerships are integral to who we are as planners, how we see the world, and how we identify and solve problems facing our cities and regions in a way that helps our partners and communities. Contemplating planning without this partnership approach makes me think of the famous quote by psychologist Abraham Maslow, “If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail.” Sounds straightforward, but that is definitely not the way great cities are planned and built for everyone.

Christopher De Sousa, RPP, is a member of OPPI and CIP and is a professor and director of the School of Urban and Regional Planning at Ryerson University. De Sousa's research activities focus on various aspects of brownfield redevelopment, urban environmental management, parks planning, and sustainability reporting in Canada and the United States.



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Libraries as Inclusive Public Spaces

By Bailey Bradshaw

Amidst evolving social, technological and built landscapes, libraries are public spaces which provide essential social services and fill an integral role in cities. As an urban planning student interested in the creation of inclusive public spaces, I have been intrigued by the approach different Canadian cities take to developing libraries.

This spring in Eastern Ontario, public alarm was raised over additions to the Kingston Frontenac Public Library's Code of Conduct. Policies discouraging "offensive body odour" and stating that patrons must be "engaged in library services" were criticized by community members for being exclusionary and targeting marginalized community members who rely heavily on the use of the library. The community group Libraries Are For Everyone was formed in response, and its presence at a library board of directors meeting resulted in the deferring of the code of conduct's implementation and the beginning a community consultation process.¹

The policies introduced in the KFPL Code of Conduct appear to target some of the most important services libraries provide. As long as people face homelessness, unemployment or a lack of community support, libraries' capacity to provide access to safe, climate-controlled spaces, computers, online and in-print resources, and social interaction remains extremely important.

Studies examining the use of libraries in Norway and Sweden found that the majority of library patrons are not engaging in book-lending services, but visit libraries for

their multitude of other uses.² Some public libraries across Canada, including those in Winnipeg, Edmonton and Hamilton have worked to address a greater range of patron needs by having a social worker on staff.³

Libraries provide a space for interaction and community for those lacking social connections in other areas of their lives. In cities like Toronto, low-income households have largely shifted from downtown neighbourhoods to inner-city suburbs, while many social services continue to be located in the city centre.⁴ Libraries can play an intermediary role in providing some of the resources and services which are otherwise difficult to access. Libraries are a rare public space which breaks down social divisions and provides space and resources for all.



Bailey Bradshaw is a member of OPPI. She is going into her fourth year of the Urban and Regional Planning program at Ryerson University and is a student member of OPPI.

Footnotes

- 1 Crosier, S. (2016, April 28). Library code to be reassessed. *Kingston Whig-Standard*.
- 2 Aabø, S. and Audunson, R. (2012). Use of library space and the library as place. *Library & Information Science Research*, 34, 138-149.
- 3 Reith, T. and Huncar, A. (2014, November 20). Homeless find hope, refuge and community at public libraries. *CBC News Edmonton*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/homeless-find-hope-refuge-and-community-at-public-libraries-1.2841221>
- 4 Hulchanski, J.D. (2010). *The three cities within Toronto*. Toronto: Cities Centre Press.

Development Permit System Benefits

By Kelly Graham

My research focused on the Development Permit System and its potential to help municipalities achieve the intensification objectives of the provincial Growth Plan.¹ I examined the DPS by-laws for the four Ontario municipalities that have implemented one—Brampton, Gananoque, Lake of Bays and Carlton Place—and compared them for structure and content. Next, I assessed how the DPS might facilitate intensification projects. Finally, I looked at how the DPS can incorporate conditions for community benefit without the use of Section 37.

I found that the DPS can facilitate intensification in a substantive way by incorporating more progressive policies related to parking, parkland dedication requirements, urban design, secondary suites and bonusing. Also, it offers short timelines, fast approvals, and a range of variations in permitted development standards. But the DPS is challenging to implement. It requires comprehensive public engagement to ensure that the resulting policies and development standards

accurately reflect the community's desire for the future.

Municipalities considering the DPS should look at how Vancouver processes development applications, where the whole process of negotiation is open to the public, and various committees weigh in on the merits of a proposed development.² The community is heavily involved in the visioning and goal setting process, and this consensus has resulted in a strong sense of trust among citizens, planners, politicians and developers.



Kelly Graham is a member of OPPI and a graduate of the Masters in Planning program at Ryerson University. She was the 2015-2016 Student Delegate to OPPI and led the Student Liaison Committee. Kelly is now a junior planner with Weston Consulting. The full version of my major research paper is available through the Ryerson Digital Repository.

Footnotes

- 1 Talen, E. (2012). *City Rules: How Regulations Affect Urban Form*. Washington, D.C.: Island Press. Page 176.
- 2 Grant, J. L. (2009). Experiential Planning: A Practitioner's Account of Vancouver's Success. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 75(3), 358-370. <http://doi.org/10.1080/01944360902965875>

Colombia Placemaking Case Studies

By *Nikolas Koschany*

In Colombia, South America, placemaking is being used as a tool to integrate squatter areas into the urban fabrics of Bogota and Medellin. Many interventions also integrate some form of transit flow, so the placemaking dynamic in a centre may shift from being completely community based to city-network based, as more people visit the area.

As part of Ryerson's field research project, I spent two weeks in Colombia. I visited three squatter areas—Quan Maititres, Comuna 13 and Santo Domingo—and conducted qualitative observations, various headcounts and primary interviews to determine how the introduction of flow affected community and placemaking dynamics.

The introduction of flow into squatter areas was found to decrease rather than increase hostility between insiders and outsiders within the centre. Placemaking either acts as a great unifier through triangulation elements (such as soccer in Quan Maititres) or creates a busy atmosphere so that outsiders and insiders become non-differentiable (like in Santo Domingo).

The research also found that the introduction of flow into a squatter area does not automatically erode the community-based nature of the centre. In Comuna 13, the escalators have become a tourist attraction, yet in the

micro-centres created at the bases of the escalators, I witnessed families using the spaces as outdoor living rooms, even as tourists visited the area. The overlap between a global tourist network and a local community network shows that network-based and community-based places can exist simultaneously, though it is unclear whether this state of co-existence is temporary or permanent.

The research also found that different flows have different effects on placemaking depending on whether they are public or private, outdoor or enclosed, and centralized or decentralized. In Quan Maititres, those who owned cars used the community centre less because one reason for going there (to catch the bus) was rendered redundant. Cars and buses alike also become isolated rooms once moving, thereby hindering placemaking at the ground level. In contrast, the escalators in Comuna 13 and the metro-cable in Santo Domingo created a more public atmosphere that helped placemaking.

Overall, placemaking and transit interventions have had a more positive effect on squatter areas than slum clearance strategies of the past.



Nikolas Koschany is a member of OPPI and a recent graduate of Ryerson's School of Urban and Regional Planning. His interests lie in using urban design to leverage social equity for marginalized populations, and the power of urban networks for community unification.

Engaging Youth

By *Catriona Moggach & Kailey Laidlaw*



Catriona Moggach



Kailey Laidlaw

At Ryerson, we feel that youth empowerment and inclusion is integral to creating a new generation of actively engaged citizens. This is why a group of students created R U a Planner?, a joint initiative between Ryerson Planning Graduate Student Association and Ryerson Association of Planning Students within the School of Urban and Regional Planning.

Our group began in 2014 when some members of the first year graduate class visited high schools in the Toronto area to engage students in a discussion about urban planning, how they can get involved, and why it is important for youth to have a voice in the decisions that shape their communities. The goal is to empower students to think critically about their cities and how they can help facilitate positive change within them.

In the fall of 2015, the R U a Planner? program expanded. Working closely with Toronto planning staff, students facilitated workshops in eight schools located in seven wards. Overall, the R U a Planner? Program engaged 367 high school students.

The future of our cities depends on having citizens who will be actively engaged and knowledgeable about planning issues affecting their neighbourhoods and communities.

Catriona Moggach and Kailey Laidlaw are members of OPPI and of the R U a Planner? executive team. They recently completed their first year of the M.Pl program at Ryerson University. For more information about R U a Planner? contact ruap@ryerson.ca.

Students take on Madison's Development Review

By *Scott Plante*

Over the winter 2016 semester, one of Ryerson's client-based planning studio groups was assigned a development review project with the Madison Group.

The team was asked to analyze the Madison Group's downtown Toronto site to determine permitted uses and the maximum permitted height and density. Members analyzed different development potentials of a residential / mixed use project by creating a pro forma based on anticipated land value, market conditions, and other financial material. The analysis demonstrated the benefit to Madison in both dollar and GFA (gross floor area) terms.

Site plans, 3D massing models, maps, and other graphics were produced through AutoCAD, Google Sketch Up, Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop to add a visual component to the final public presentation



and report. These graphics helped to evaluate the relationship between the site and the surrounding properties.

The team recommended a development concept to Madison that would realize the greatest financial returns in the future and provided justification for why the development meshes with public policy goals.

The team comprised four divisions: Project Management Team—Michael Reisman, Tetyana Bailey, Alexa Cooper and Scott Plante. Feasibility Team—Graham Frank, Joshua Cipolletta and Nick Tassone. Policy Specialists—Daniel DiBattista, Matthew Ilkiw, Mario Lio and Anthony Cicchi. Design Team—Giordano Labile and Julian Ho Young Cadogan. Scott Plante, the 2016-2017 OPPI Student Delegate, and the project management team are all entering their fourth year of Ryerson's Urban and Regional Planning program.

Reimagining Spaces through Design Competitions

By Michael Uttley

In 2015, Ryerson University's Faculty of Arts initiated the Reimagining O'Keefe Lane Design Competition. A call for entries was made to students across a number of disciplines. I submitted as part of a team that included four fourth-year planning students: Paolo Brindley-Pantalone, Adam Harrison, Arash Oturkar and me. We allocated much of our winter break to creating a design that we were proud of, and which would hopefully garner the interest of the competition judges.

After three weeks of visiting the laneway, researching, discussing constraints, debating solutions, rendering, or debriefing over a few pints, we completed our design. Our proposal aims to address the lack of useful space for pedestrians, safety concerns and the appearance of the laneway. It also strives to enhance the public image of the Ryerson campus and to redefine the role of O'Keefe Lane within the Downtown Yonge neighbourhood.

Our process was guided by four thematic principles: connection, inclusion, character and layers. The principle of connection broadly focuses on integrating the laneway with adjacent areas and fostering connections between people and the space. Inclusion places an emphasis on making the laneway welcoming and suitable for all users, including students, local workers and residents, drivers, cyclists, people with disabilities, and members of the nearby Covenant House youth shelter. Character ensures the design will complement and enhance the existing features of the laneway, providing a safeguard against the introduction of elements which are contextually inappropriate. Finally, layers, which may be physical and conceptual, modern and historical or natural and built.

The relationships and interplay between these principles serves as the foundation for our design and was the source of the more original and interesting elements of our proposal, notably the floating courtyard. These principles also ensured that our design was considerate of user conflicts, disability access, lighting and other practical considerations. Our submission resonated with the panel of judges and was selected as the winner of the competition in late February.



Entering this competition with Paolo, Adam and Arash was one of the most rewarding, inspiring, and enlightening experiences of my undergraduate term. For me it was a chance to apply my interest in the artistic side of planning and an opportunity to leave a legacy with my school and my community.

Michael Uttley is a member of OPPI and a 2016 graduate of Ryerson University's Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning program. He is the recipient of the Award for Superior Performance in Design and the Ryerson Dean's Essay Prize.

Measuring What Matters

By Yvonne Verlinden & Christopher Yuen

"Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts." This quote from Einstein applies to the work of planners as Ontario aims for more compact, walkable development.

Perhaps it is time to stop relying on metrics, such as service levels, which inherently treat free-flowing traffic as a universally desired ideal. As transit, cycling, and walking become priorities in city-building, our future development processes should measure these desired outcomes as comprehensively as they measure traffic congestion today.

Transportation impact studies commonly measure roadway performance using service levels, a grading system for streets based on vehicle flow through intersections. A road can receive a score from A to F, with A meaning there is completely free-flowing motor traffic, and F indicating severe congestion.

A study is triggered if the development is anticipated to add 100 or more vehicles during peak hour in the peak direction of travel. In principle, all transportation modes are to be included in the study, and the developer must ensure that vehicle level of service does not drop below E, transit will not be adversely impacted, pedestrian and cyclists' needs are safely accommodated, and sufficient capacity exists across all modes. However, because the trigger mechanism is related to motor vehicles exclusively, and because there is no standard for determining acceptable accommodations for transit, pedestrian and cycling, in practice, mitigation measures often continue to focus on the automobile.

Exclusively protecting service levels can also skew development prospects in urban areas where traffic congestion is commonplace but walking, cycling and transit are practical travel options. Common mitigation measures include dual left-turn lanes, lengthened traffic signal cycles, road widenings, or grade separation, all of which have negative impacts on the pedestrian environment.

While municipalities have discretion over what mitigation measures developers are ultimately required to fund, the explicit focus on quantitative service level targets compared to the much more qualitative evaluation of non-driving modes could be a source of bias in the development process.

Over the past several years, other jurisdictions have re-considered the use of level of service as a planning policy metric. The California Environmental Quality Act, a rigorous environmental assessment process that previously evaluated development proposals on level of service impacts was revised in 2014 to instead evaluate proposals based on vehicle miles driven. Now, instead of incentivising built form that ensures



Yvonne Verlinden



Christopher Yuen

PHOTO: ANTHONY SMITH

the free flow of cars, the act encourages development that reduces the need for vehicular travel. In 2016, the San Francisco Planning Commission followed suit, scrapping level of service from its environmental review process.

In Ontario's path towards more compact cities, less dependent on automobiles, perhaps it is time to reduce reliance on auto-centric metrics.

Both *Yvonne Verlinden*, a member of OPPI, and *Christopher Yuen* will be starting their final year of the Master of Planning program at Ryerson University in fall 2016. Their areas of focus are road re-design and transportation planning.

A Successful Year

By Emma Abramowicz

The Ryerson Planning Graduate Student Association (RPGSA) is proud to have been awarded the Ryerson Graduate Course Union of the Year, in recognition of two busy semesters of extracurricular programming. Under the leadership of president Dominic Tremblay the six-member RPGSA executive strove to provide new and valuable services for Ryerson's Master of Planning students through the 2015-16 school year.

This year, we initiated a number of landmark programs aimed at strengthening the academic and social experience at Ryerson and preparing our graduates for professional work. January featured our inaugural Pro Week, which involved planning-focused resume and portfolio workshops alongside a professional headshots session. It ended with a professional speed dating night, which drew 80+ Ryerson students to meet and engage with

20 planning professionals working in diverse fields.

In September and February, the RPGSA partnered with students at York and U of T for two planning students' networking nights. We also organized software workshops in Excel, InDesign and ArcGIS. Our professional development programs benefitted from the significant talent within our cohort, with software workshops led by Graham Wilson, Neil Loewen and Anthony Smith, our professional headshots photographed by Oliver Rojas, Anthony Smith and Sam Carter-Shamai, and our resume workshop led in part by David Cooper.

The executive took an active role in shaping the future of Ryerson's graduate planning program this year, soliciting and aggregating feedback from students on Ryerson's program structure and on its summer internship requirement. This feedback has been welcomed by faculty directors as they engage in program reviews.

Finally, 2015-16 was a landmark year not only for our Pro Week, but for two additional programs: the R U a Planner? outreach program, and the first annual Major Research Party at which graduating students discussed their research within faculty-moderated panels, celebrating their academic achievements on the eve of convocation.

The 2015-16 RPGSA comprises Dominic Tremblay (president), Casey Craig (vice-president), Neil Loewen (treasurer), Emma Abramowicz (secretary), Brodie Johnson (first-year rep) and Christopher Yuen (sustainable SURP rep). Emma Abramowicz is a member of OPPI.



PHOTO: ANTHONY SOTOMAYOR

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Global to Local Partnerships

By Dave Gordon, RPP

Partnerships at the Queen's School of Urban and Regional Planning (SURP) bridge several scales from global to national to regional and local.

Our [China projects teams](#), led by Professors Hok-Lin Leung, RPP and John Meligrana, RPP, have trained hundreds of Chinese land use planners over the past 20 years, and scores of SURP graduate students have enjoyed internships and projects. Two SURP graduate students are interns at the Ministry of Land and Resources in Beijing as this issue goes to press. The school also maintains research and teaching partnerships with Fudan University (Shanghai) and Tsinghua University (Beijing).

Professor Ajay Agarwal, RPP developed SURP's partnerships in India with the assistance of the Shastri Foundation, Auroville Township and BVDU University (Pune). He has led graduate project courses in [Pune \(heritage preservation\)](#) and three in Auroville, most recently to develop a community participation framework.

Queen's has a long history of partnerships with Canada's federal government. The school partnered with the Treasury Board to form the [National Executive Forum on Public Property](#), a national non-profit organization for research and sharing best practices in public land management, use and development. Forum members include executives from seven federal departments, 12 provinces / territories and the nation's seven largest cities. The forum's most recent symposium was May 2016 in Ville de Québec, examining heritage properties. SURP has also completed project courses with the Rideau Canal, the National Capital Commission and the departments of Defence and Public Works, most recently for a 2015 plan for redevelopment of [Confederation Heights](#) in the national capital region.

At the regional level, Professors Leela Viswanathan, RPP and Graham Whitelaw, RPP have developed [research partnerships with indigenous communities](#) in central and northern Ontario. The school has been most active in eastern Ontario, where it has developed multimodal transport policies for the Ottawa airport, reviewed climate change policies for the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority and, with the City of Ottawa, prepared a series of [Transit-Oriented Development plans](#) for stations on its new LRT line.

SURP's local partnership with the City of Kingston has included faculty assistance for its new [Waterfront Master Plan](#), and graduate student projects addressing [social development planning in Rideau Heights](#), green streets, and best practices for sustainable development. Partnerships with the local Social Planning Council and Health Units have resulted in plans for a social

enterprise centre and [active transportation strategies](#) for local institutions, led by Professor Patricia Collins.

A common approach across these activities is working with our partners to determine their needs. For example, for the forum, we convene professional and academic resources from across Canada and internationally to address the symposium topics chosen by its members. Similarly, our institutional partners pick the topics for our graduate student workshop projects, subject only to constraints on what can be accomplished in a 15-week term.

Over the years, we have discovered that graduate planning students can be particularly useful to partners in visioning, background research, assembling best practices and preliminary plans. In addition, the university setting allows partners to explore more audacious ideas with other stakeholders in a more neutral and less threatening forum: "after all, it is just an academic exercise..." Major projects such as redevelopment of CFB Rockcliffe, revitalization of Kingston's Williamsville and intensification of Ottawa's Tunney's Pasture all got first proposals as SURP workshop courses. Most recently, SURP students made a [front-page proposal for North Kingston](#) and enlivened [debate over the future of the Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway](#) along the Ottawa River, recommending that the NCC "put the park back into the Parkway" by converting two of its four traffic lanes to active transportation.

Partnerships must be mutually-beneficial to be sustainable over many years. Our partners get professional quality work that assists them on priority topics. They provide real projects, real budgets and senior professional staff that the university appoints as part-time adjunct faculty, in the same way that physicians in our teaching hospitals are appointed as clinical faculty in our medical school. These adjunct faculty are a treasured resource in our school. Together, we create learning experiences that are highly valued by our graduate students and a key component of the professional planning education offered at Queen's.

*Dr. David Gordon, RPP is a member of OPPI and a fellow of CIP. He is a professor and director of the School of Urban and Regional Planning in the Queen's Department of Geography and Planning. He has collaborated with partners on over 20 projects in the Ottawa area. Dave's books include *Planning Canadian Communities* (2014 with Gerald Hodge) and *Town and Crown: An Illustrated History of Canada's Capital* (2015). His current research includes analysis of Canada's suburbs and comparisons to Australia.*



Land Management in Oaxaca, Mexico

By Caroline Morrow



The Queen's International Experience Award provided me with an incredible opportunity to learn about land and resource management in an international context. In April I travelled to Oaxaca, a state in southern Mexico that is famed for its rich cultural and biological heritage, but that struggles with some of the highest poverty rates in the country. Although farming is widely practiced, the state is facing an obesity epidemic and threats to community food sovereignty. The context of Oaxaca's food systems and land management strategies is unique, but it is possible that several lessons can be applied to the Canadian context.

Land management is intrinsically tied to food security and food sovereignty. The way we use our land and how we develop our natural resources has profound effects on local people, especially those who rely on the land for subsistence activities such as hunting and farming. In both Canada and Oaxaca, many resource rich areas are located within traditional Indigenous territories. Oaxaca is home to 16 different Indigenous groups. The state's hilly landscape means that many of these communities are remote and subsistence agriculture plays a key role in food security.

For the resident Indigenous communities there are a number of parallels between the land management challenges of Northern Canada and Oaxaca, including tenuous food security, high rates of obesity and development pressures on their traditional territories. Co-management is a common land management strategy in Canada, whereby the federal government and Indigenous groups share decision-making power. During my time in Mexico, I was eager to learn about alternate land management strategies, such as communal land management and hear about the effects of de-centralized management on residents.

There are two types of communally-managed lands in Oaxaca, in addition to privately-managed lands. The communally-managed lands were developed from the traditional territories of Indigenous groups or from

private lands that were redistributed to communities. I visited a number of communities in the Sierra Norte just north of Oaxaca City which manage their forests, farms and communities through a communal land management system. An inter-community assembly meets to make decisions about the location of farms, hunting limits and the extraction of forest timber. A resident of one of these communities told me that decision-making power lies in the hands of the people, not the federal government. However, from other interviewees, I heard that government programs and subsidies still influence resource extraction and farming practices to an extent. Regardless, the decision-making power of these communities remains high.

Although it may not be possible to attribute Oaxaca's rich biodiversity to communal land management, it likely plays a key role. To ensure their continued survival, these communities have an interest in ensuring responsible resource management. By regulating extractive activities, communities can continue to practice subsistence agriculture and benefit from local resources in the long-term. Communal land management gives these communities greater control over their food systems and more decision-making power over what they eat, which contributes to greater food sovereignty.

Caroline Morrow is a member of OPPI and recently completed her Masters of Planning at Queen's University with a specialty in Environmental Services. Her research interests include land management, planning with Indigenous peoples and community engagement.

Rebuilding Christchurch, New Zealand

By Shazeen Tejani

It's every planner's dream to build a city from scratch. But what if it was a city devastated by two major earthquakes, a mere six months apart? This was the reality facing the citizens, planners and engineers of Christchurch in 2010 and 2011.

In what was previously an unknown seismic zone, Christchurch was hit with an earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale 10km below ground in September 2010 and another measuring 6.3 in February 2011 less than 5km below ground. The second earthquake delivered a devastating blow to the city's infrastructure, destroyed a majority of its downtown and rendered several suburbs red zones. To put things into context, over 1,700 of Christchurch's 2,300 commercial buildings in the city's core were deemed unstable and uninhabitable after the earthquakes that occurred in these two years. Rebuilding the city was nearly impossible, due to over 8,300 aftershocks in the year that followed.

The Stronger Christchurch Infrastructure Rebuild Team was formed through a relationship agreement alliance. Owner participant organizations comprise



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representatives from three public sector funding agencies: Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority, Christchurch council, and the New Zealand Transport Agency. Non-owner participants comprised five private construction companies. The team estimated the rebuild would be a \$2-3-billion.

What makes this partnership model so unique and transferrable to other cities across the world, is the alliance which encourages both collaboration and competition. The team's role is to identify, define, prioritize and design programmes to be undertaken by selected contractors, which are competitively awarded based on performance measures such as timeliness and adherence to the budget. Construction fees are subject to any surplus or loss resulting from differences between actual costs and the allocated budget, and fees are shared by all five construction companies. Thus collaboration results from a desire to keep project costs lower than the assigned budget, with companies often lending resources to each other achieve the overall project goal. Projects are completed within the allocated funding while supporting the local economy.

Overall, this model has been largely successful in achieving its goals, with nearly 78 per cent of the projected work completed on time and close to budget. However, one of the biggest challenges in recent years has been costs, which are expected to exceed the cost-share agreement originally determined by the funding agencies. This has required the team to scale back its planned projects to suit available funds.

The City of Vancouver has been anticipating a major earthquake, predicted by some experts to reach 9.0 on

the Richter scale. While the city has prepared an Earthquake Response Plan, based largely on the actions taken by Christchurch, Vancouver still lacks an effective framework to address major issues related to the rebuilding of critical infrastructure and the various required funding strategies. The model employed in Christchurch allows public sector funders to develop a framework that assigns responsibilities for particular infrastructure projects anticipated in the recovery process. Economic and disaster modelling can provide funders with a budget. Setting clear priorities ensures that key players are responsible for contributing the necessary funds to rebuild critical infrastructure.

Shazeen Tejani is a 2015 graduate of Queen's School of Urban and Regional Planning. Now practicing in the field of transportation planning, Shazeen continues to explore the different ways creative partnerships and ideas can make our cities safer and more livable today and in the future.

Revitalizing Ontario Small Towns

By Jessica D'Aoust

The downtown main street of small towns is traditionally the economic, cultural and social heart of the community. Considering modern threats to main streets, revitalization strategies are essential to ensuring longevity and vitality of small towns' cores, in terms of economy, built environment, heritage and identity.



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Despite mainstreet's importance, a shift toward suburban sprawl and commercial big box development has often led to its demise.^{1 2} A practical and holistic revitalization toolkit, for small Canadian towns has been created to mitigate these challenges, called the Main Street Approach. It focuses on organization, marketing and promotion, economic and commercial development, and design and physical improvements.³

To better understand existing municipal tools for downtown revitalization in Ontario, I analyzed and compared policies of the towns of Carleton Place and Perth using the four pillars of the approach as benchmarks for best practices. My research assesses how the towns' policies encourage revitalization in terms of economy, built form, heritage and identity. The research also provides recommendations for similar-sized towns to incorporate downtown revitalization principles in their own policies.

My findings show that while these municipalities have effective strategies in place for downtown revitalization, there are policy gaps that, if addressed, could help to improve the vitality of their downtowns. It is important to note that organizations such as Business Improvement Associations and Chambers of Commerce can act as champions of the downtown core, and can implement revitalization efforts and programming at the community level to create lasting and meaningful change.

Jessica D'Aoust is a member of OPPI and has recently completed the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program at Queen's University, with a focus in land use and real estate development.



Footnotes

- 1 LeBlanc, F. (2011). The Main Street Canada Approach for small historic towns. *Municipal Engineer*, 164(ME3) 185-193.
- 2 Robertson, K.A. (1999). Can small-city downtowns remain viable? *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 65(3), 270-283.
- 3 Heritage Canada Foundation (2009). The Main Street program: Past and present. Prepared for Saskatchewan Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport. Retrieved from <http://www.pcs.gov.sk.ca/msprogramhcf>.

Knowledge Transfer from Toronto to Amman

By Jessica Jiang

In 2006, the Jordanian capital city of Amman appointed a team of Toronto-based planners from planningAlliance to collaborate with the local planning authority on a new Amman Master Plan. The city was in dire need of an updated strategy for managing growth as its population was expected to triple over the next 20 years. The resulting Amman Master Plan 2025 won two prestigious awards, including the 2010 Canadian Institute of Planners Award of Excellence.



My research examined the cross-national transfer of planning knowledge between Toronto and Amman. Specifically, I wanted to understand how consensus for the master plan was achieved among the planning partners, and what influence the master plan has had on the city's urban form a decade after its implementation.

As a part of my field work I travelled to Amman in April 2015 and interviewed planners from Toronto and Amman who collaborated on the Amman Master Plan. A concise summary of my research findings follows.

I learned from the Amman planner that there is an urgent need to revise the Amman Master Plan due to the

influx of refugees as a result of the Syrian Crisis. The refugees are in need of places to live and adequate services, but Jordan's current infrastructure is unable to accommodate such rapid population growth. There is also a need to think about critical social dimensions in planning for a city experiencing rapid migrant influx. I learned that there is cultural segregation within Jordan, with many locals losing their jobs due to cheaper refugee labour. According to the UNHCR, in December 2015, 937,830 Syrian refugees resided in Jordan, which has a resident population of around 8 million people.

Additionally, there are several planning challenges that have hindered the implementation of the master plan, such as the hilly topography, land ownership negotiations and cultural sensitivities. In Amman, collaboration between agencies is difficult. In addition, the water utilities and school system operate independently of the municipality making it difficult to involve them in planning decisions. Similarly, religious sites are typically donated by the public and governed by an independent body so the city has no jurisdiction over these areas. Finally, the planner mentioned that the locals like to keep residential areas and commercial areas separate and are generally opposed to integrating mixed-use developments into their neighbourhoods.

Although Amman's urban form has not yet developed as projected by the master plan, there is potential for the city to grow following its vision and guidelines.

Jessica Jiang recently graduated from Queen's School of Urban and Regional Planning.



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Bridging Socio-Spatial Divides in Cape Town

By Miranda Spessot

Once a top-down device to impose order and control, urban planning is now being used in Cape Town, South Africa to overcome the spatial legacies of apartheid, empower residents and unify the fragmented city. In May 2015 I had the opportunity to travel to Cape Town to better understand how physical design and public engagement processes are being used in former townships to promote the regeneration of these historically marginalized areas.



I explored two initiatives, Langa Quarter and Violence Prevention Through Urban Upgrading Program. Both have achieved success by complementing investments in public amenities with investments in people and fostering local ownership over the projects. The planners' main roles involved helping stakeholders navigate highly technical land use development processes and facilitating community engagement. Both initiatives underscore the importance of building local capacity and providing opportunities for a mix of land uses and employment opportunities.

The first initiative, led by non-profit iKhaya le Langa, envisions Langa Quarter, a vibrant cultural precinct that will attract visitors while providing economic opportunities for local residents. Still in the early stages of implementation, the initiative has already transformed an old primary school into a community hub, complete with meeting spaces, a café and free WiFi, and created economic opportunities for residents through a homestay network and art gallery collective. To encourage more small-scale businesses, land use permissions were expanded to allow a mix of uses and local businesses such as restaurants and guesthouses. Khaya le Langa's success thus far can be attributed to its asset-based approach that considered Langa's existing qualities and unique history as a starting point for development, its ability to leverage public and private sector partnerships, and the extensive involvement of local residents.

The second initiative, The Violence Prevention Through Urban Upgrading Program, has had marked success in Khayelitsha, reducing crime by as much as 40 per cent since its inception in 2006. Beginning with community-based mapping of crime locations allowed for early identification of key issues and priority areas for intervention. Strategic investments created high-quality public spaces and community facilities along a central walking route. In addition to pedestrian lighting, planters, seating and decorated trash bins, live-work units with small at-grade shops help generate economic activity and provide eyes on the street. The creation of high quality, aesthetically pleasing spaces has dramatically improved living conditions for residents, while programming and events have enhanced the sense of community. The program's investment in people has been equally important. Locals assisted with construction

and many are employed in the management of public facilities. An important first step was building trust with the community and ensuring that residents felt a sense of ownership over the project. Residents and business owners were engaged across all demographics, through transparent outreach programs.

As Canadian municipalities work to revitalize low-income neighbourhoods, these cases can offer insights on collaboration and community mobilization.

Miranda Spessot recently graduated from Queen's University, School of Urban and Regional Planning.

Community Engagement in Auroville

By Caroline Morrow

For students in Queen's School of Urban and Regional Planning, the second-year project course is a capstone experience. It offers an opportunity to work with real clients and gain hands-on project management experience. As a component of the 2015-2016 international project course, led by Dr. Ajay Agarwal, a group of 10 students travelled to Auroville, India to develop a community participation framework.



Auroville, founded in 1968, is an experimental community where curiosity and creative problem-solving are encouraged. In order to better understand the unique context of Auroville, the students spent the first half of the fall semester interviewing residents about current planning and consultation processes via Skype and an online survey. With guidance from adjunct lecturer Sue Cumming, RPP, the project team undertook an extensive literature review on the theory and practice of public participation frameworks and techniques, using case studies from around the world. With this research the team developed a draft framework, which was refined through consultation events in Auroville.

This course provided the project team with international planning and consultation experience, including a number of lessons transferable to the Ontario context. One of the biggest take-away points from the project was the importance of setting expectations. Like many consulting groups, the team was faced with divergent expectations from their client, community groups and local residents. To mitigate conflict down the road, the project team learned to clearly lay out expectations and establish roles early in the project.

During this process, the team found that it was also important to consider local power structures, as these may not be the same as those in Ontario. Awareness of the local context can help planners develop more inclusive consultation plans. As in Ontario, effective engagement in Auroville means designing an inclusive consultation process that is meaningful to people from diverse backgrounds.

During the project, the team also learned the importance of maintaining effective communication between event participants and organizers. This can be

achieved through initiatives such as making participation plans and timelines publicly accessible and opting to use plain language. For instance, based on interactions with the community during the initial presentation, the team re-worded its framework to remove technical language. Engagement types were changed from “inform, consult, involve and collaborate” to “tell, listen, discuss and work together.”

Although planning in an international context, such as India, presents many unique challenges, the team developed skills in project management, facilitation and communication that can be applied to planning work in a variety of contexts, including Ontario.

The project team comprised Benjamin Goodge, Brandon Henderson, Dominik Matusik, Caroline Morrow, Michael Norris, Asia Pineau, Joanna Salsberg, Heather Scrannage, Benjamin Segal-Daly and Thomas Spolsky, under the guidance of Dr. Ajay Agarwal. Caroline Morrow is a member of OPPI and recently completed her Masters of Planning at Queen's University with a specialty in Environmental Services.

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Name Change Reflects Thriving Department

By Richard J. DiFrancesco, RPP

During the 2015-2016 academic year the Department of Geography and Program in Planning became the Department of Geography & Planning. While subtle, this change simplifies our name and better reflects the dual nature of the department.

While the department is typically a dynamic and stimulating environment, it was made even more so over the past year thanks to the John Bousfield Distinguished Visitorship in Planning.

This past year Dr. Aseem Inam from the Parson's School of Design in New York City was our Bousfield Visiting Scholar and Mr. Robert Dowler, a professional planner with 33 years of planning experience in municipal and provincial government, was our Bousfield Visiting Practitioner. Both of our Bousfield Distinguished Visitors taught courses, gave public lectures and led a variety of activities which allowed planning students to get involved with the planning profession and the public, both at home and abroad.

Inam and students in his urban design courses teamed up with the Thorncliffe Park Women's Committee, as well as local politicians and residents to craft a revitalization plan that could bring improved cycling paths and a new marketplace to one of Toronto's Priority Neighbourhoods. One proposal calls for the creation of a new open market or community café, which would operate as a weekly market where residents could cook and sell food as well as clothing and other items. Such a public space, it was found, would allow for the establishment of informal businesses, social interaction, and multiple forms of public use—all critical to the establishment of self-esteem and a sense of community among residents, many of whom are recent immigrants to Canada.¹

In another special topics course, entitled Las Vegas: The Prismatic City, Inam and a group of planning students conducted seminars and group research on the issues and challenges faced by the City of Las Vegas. Participants explored how this city acts as a prism through which we can re-assess and re-evaluate problems experienced in other cities worldwide. Students capped off the course with a four-day trip to Las Vegas (partially funded by the Planning Alumni Committee) that included site visits, research and meetings with planning officials. Students presented their projects in an open forum in April.

Dowler taught a course entitled, The Planner's Role in Supporting Public Decision-Making: Case Studies in Professional Practice, which exposed students to governance structures that planners typically encounter in



supporting decision-making processes. Participants focussed on exploring the success criteria for effective decision-making, how planners successfully engage with governance and decision-making structures at various levels, and elements of the perfect planning brief.

The 2016 first-year class, led by adjunct professor John Farrow, travelled to Denver Colorado for a four-day trip that included guided tours of Denver neighbourhoods. Among them was Mariposa, an award-winning affordable and sustainable mixed-income housing development located one block from light rail and managed by the Denver Housing Authority. Students also attended presentations by municipal and regional planning officials regarding Denver's Transit-Oriented Development Strategic Plan and other themes, and had plenty of time to experience the local ambiance (and natural beauty) of Denver and adjacent Boulder.

Many of our doctoral students are involved in comprehensive research projects which will ultimately inform the work of practicing planners. Doctoral research projects underway focus on regional transportation planning, the impacts of current usage patterns of *Section 37* of the *Planning Act* by the development industry in Toronto, transportation planning for people with disabilities and many other fascinating and relevant topics.

Richard DiFrancesco is a member of OPPI and an associate professor as well as being the associate chair and director of planning in the Department of Geography & Planning at the University of Toronto. His research is focussed on the connection between regional economic dynamics and changing knowledge network structures within global value chains.

Footnote

- 1 Gilbert Ngabo (2016). "More cycling paths, marketplace, on the way for revitalization of Thorncliffe Park." in Metro News, April 25, 2016 (see <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/04/25/thorncliffe-park-to-be-revitalized.html>)

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Designing Vibrant Communities

By Kelsey Carriere & Louise Willard

What do vibrant communities look like and how do planners design them? This is the question that our urban design studio sought to answer during an eight-month community engagement and research project in Thorncliffe Park, a high-rise tower neighbourhood in East Toronto.

What we discovered over the ensuing months of photographing, sketching, mapping, interviewing and conducting community workshops was that Thorncliffe Park is a truly remarkable neighbourhood. We observed that residents occupy and use the neighbourhood in ways that were not anticipated when it was initially designed. For example, community organizations have converted a previously empty park—R.V Burgess Park—into a thriving marketplace for local women, a space for the neighbourhood's many youth to connect, and a hub for community gardeners. This led us to focus our research on the relationships among planning, design and the essential elements of vibrant communities.

As we tried to understand the essential elements of community vibrancy, we began to realize that people are essential to vibrant communities. People re-create and use space in new ways to meet their social, economic and cultural needs. Moreover, individuals could, through collaboration, create formal initiatives to optimize the use of those spaces for multiple purposes.

Through our involvement in Thorncliffe Park, we began to grasp the extraordinary effectiveness of community-based leaders in activating vibrancy, because of their intimate connection to local issues. We realized that our role as future planners is to think about designing vibrancy as more than a short-term intervention, but as a long-term process requiring the involvement of community organizations. While the physical design of a space is critically important, space can be equally shaped by how people use it. They just need the tools, inspiration and desire for change.

Kelsey Carriere is a member of OPPI. She is exploring the role design and community engagement can play in the sustainable transformation of cities through her Master of Urban Planning program. Louise Willard is a member of OPPI and is in the Master of Science in Planning Program at the University of Toronto. She is exploring in how regions, cities and communities develop collaborative strategies and processes that are actionable and measurable.



Kelsey Carriere



Louise Willard

Improving Public Participation

By Matthew Hilder

Through interviews with municipal and private sector planners, political representatives, and community organizations, my research found that three conditions must be met for meaningful participation to be realized: There needs to be an existing community capacity and understanding of the planning process. The process design must be inclusive and actively promote engagement of underrepresented groups. And there needs to be a culture of collaboration between development applicants and city staff.

My interviews with community organizations indicated that many local groups are ready and willing to work collaboratively with planning staff to undertake more inclusive and educational engagement practices. Opportunities exist to leverage the capacity of these community organizations. They can contribute by supporting communication and outreach, liaising between planning staff and underrepresented communities, and working as neighbourhood champions that promote participation that is truly representative of the local. This work is most important in diverse and gentrifying neighbourhoods and can help planners achieve a greater focus on equity in our practice.

Matthew Hilder is a recent graduate of the University of Toronto's Master of Science in Planning program. His research investigated the politics of participation in land use planning matters and its implications for practice.

Why Planners Should Care About Food Waste

By Tammara Soma

After the seminal paper on food system planning published by Pothukuchi and Kaufman (2000) entitled "The food system: A stranger to the planning field," the planning community is increasingly aware of the importance of food system considerations in planning for sustainable cities. Much of the research that has followed involves the investigation of farm-to-table issues. This means that a growing number of planners are tackling topics such as urban agriculture, food deserts and retail planning, and are exploring ways to protect prime farmlands. What has been missing, however, is awareness of the planner's role in dealing with the food waste problem or the farm-to-table-to-dump component.

After working as a food system planner, I decided to pursue doctoral studies in planning and found food waste to be an understudied field in our discipline. In my research, I am investigating ways in which planners can contribute to the prevention and better management of food waste in Bogor, Indonesia.

In developing countries such as Indonesia rapid urbanization has meant that a growing number of people



are living away from the expensive city core and commuting to work. Time scarcity and the growth of supermarkets/hypermarkets have also transformed the dynamic of household food consumption from a “buy today, eat today” practice to a “shop once a week and stock up” model.

In Bogor, 69 per cent of the waste collected by the municipality is categorized as food waste, only 1 per cent is composted while the rest goes into an open dump landfill. A disaster waiting to happen, in 2005, 157 waste pickers and their families perished when a landfill in Indonesia collapsed due to a methane explosion caused by decomposing food waste. While this may not be as likely to occur in Canadian landfills, food waste is a critical issue that is affected by planning decisions, and that can be ameliorated through better planning policies.

In partnership with the municipality, indigenous leaders, food charities and the University of Toronto, I am currently in the initial stages of developing a food systems lab to tackle the issue of food waste in Toronto. Contact me if you are interested in contributing to this initiative.

Tammara Soma is a doctoral candidate in planning at the University of Toronto and a Pierre Elliott Trudeau Doctoral Scholar. She is also the recipient of the 2010 OPPI Wayne Caldwell Scholarship. She is the co-founder of the International Food Loss and Food Waste Studies group and a professional food system planner.

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Securitization and Planning

By Michelle Kearns & Nathan Stewart

This spring, the University of Toronto’s Faculty of Arts and Science sent eight students to Jerusalem, Israel.

With the help of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem’s Urban Clinic and Toronto’s Dr. Shauna Brail, the students toured the city’s neighbourhoods, explored placemaking and urban regeneration projects, and learned from leaders in Jerusalem’s planning community. What follows are a few insights we learned about safety and the city in one of the world’s most complex places.

The 2011 opening of Jerusalem’s first LRT line transformed how residents move around the city. Safety is paramount—the stations are clean, well-lit and typically supervised by armed police officers. Like many other services in Jerusalem, ticketing information is available in the city’s three major languages, ensuring that almost everyone knows how to organize themselves within the system.

The city has made efforts to involve all street users in redevelopment plans. Jaffa Road, near city hall, has been transformed from a typical bidirectional roadway into an LRT-only thoroughfare, with no grade separation between



Michelle Kearns



Nathan Stewart

pedestrian and transit users. As a result, the sightlines for security personnel have been greatly expanded without the clutter of private automobiles. Ridership on the Jaffa Road LRT has greatly surpassed expectations.

Cycling infrastructure in the city is meticulously secured against traffic. We did not see any on-street painted bike lines—the style that Toronto has installed for years. The main road up to Hebrew U is lined with bike lanes protected from moving traffic by a continuous concrete curb and a row of parked cars.

The needs of families are the priority in almost every planning initiative. For example, a community garden was sure to ban pesticides because children will be playing in the area. In the apartment blocks of Kiryat Hayovel, we were amazed to see some of the area’s most striking features were child-oriented playgrounds, and stroller parking took precedent over elevators. At a redevelopment site in West Jerusalem, we learned that developers need to build a kindergarten or nursery for the neighbourhood every time they build more than 500 units.

The basis of security in Jerusalem can be found at the very core of the city’s planning philosophy, which holds that the city’s ethno-religious groups must be kept spatially separated in order for the urban system to function. In today’s Jerusalem, land uses are explicitly tied to identity and the collective identities of many of Jerusalem’s ethno-religious groups are mutually exclusive. This is illustrated by the city’s four unique city centres—one for the ultra-orthodox Jewish Community, one for the secular Jewish/Christian community, one for the Arab community, and the highly contested old city.

As explained to us by a planning team working on an urban regeneration project in the Southwestern neighbourhood of Kiryat Hayovel, developers in Jerusalem have been given a means through which concessions, such as increased density, can be granted by the municipal government. However, unlike section 37 provisions in Ontario, to add two storeys to a high-density development developers need to retroactively provide earthquake proofing for the building and add a bomb shelter to every unit.

From this experience we learned that the overwhelming importance placed on security in policy and actions is crucial to understanding management of space and place in Jerusalem.

Michelle Kearns, a member of OPPI, and Nathan Stewart are MScPl students at the University of Toronto. Check out their tour at #UofTJeru.



Interdisciplinary and Innovative Education

By Jennifer Foster, RPP

The Planning Program in the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University provides a comprehensive, critical and interdisciplinary education in how visions and decisions are and could be made to advance environmental protection and social justice. Students and faculty members take on some of the most complex and challenging issues of contemporary planning by incorporating both theoretical and applied approaches to planning through a sequence of courses, field experiences, workshops and experiential learning opportunities. Students emerge with hands on experience, a network of professional connections, and a heightened critical awareness of the intricacies of the planning world.



International workshops have become a popular feature of the program. In recent years, intensive workshop courses have been offered in Frankfurt, Montpellier, Shanghai and Johannesburg. Meanwhile, there have been intensive, open-access workshops in communities like Toronto's Jane Finch neighbourhood that explore community-based strategies for sustainable futures.

The research conducted by Planning Program faculty members is also cutting edge. Professor Stefan Kipfer's research focuses on issues such as public housing redevelopment, place-based urban policy and public transit. Professor Peter Mulvihill is completing a book (with FES colleague Harris Ali) on alternative approaches to environmental management. His other current interests include strategic environmental assessment, the social acceptability of wind energy projects, and sustainability focused scenario planning. Professor Laura Taylor is co-editor of *A Comparative Political Ecology of Exurbia: Planning, Environmental Management, and Landscape* (Springer). Professor Liette Gilbert, who is currently the FES Graduate Program director, continues her research on immigration, multiculturalism and citizenship. In particular, she has been focusing on how Lac Megantic is coping with the oil disaster, as well as the different and complex processes of sub/urbanization in Mexico City. Senior scholar and retired faculty member Barbara Rahder continues to advance critical thinking and practical approaches to social justice, women and planning resilience, in addition to her ongoing work as a Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Planners and organizer of Planners Network at both the local and international scales. Senior scholar and retired faculty member Gerda Wekerle is completing SSHRC-funded research on land and environmental conflicts in southern Ontario to understand the movement of soil from downtown development sites to locations in the Toronto region. And, my research explores the planning

dimensions of urban environmental justice, habitat creation and post-industrial greenspace in cities.

One of the strengths of the York Planning Program is its critical interdisciplinary focus. For instance, as the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Justice, Professor Deborah McGregor's research has provided much guidance on indigenous knowledge systems and approaches to planning. Professors Roger Keil and Ute Leher's collaborative research on the Global Suburbanisms project incorporates dozens of partners across Canada and the world to build insight into the diverse forms of suburbanism as well as the production and governance of global suburban space. Professor Martin Bunch offers insights on systems thinking and community-based water management, and Professor Rod MacRae continues to research food policy and food systems planning. Professor Abidin Kusno's research on the history and theory of architecture, urban design and planning informs discussions on global/local power, inequality and the environment in efforts to achieve a sustainable urban world. Finally, as chair of Neotropical Conservation and director of the Las Nubes Project in Costa Rica, Professor Felipe Montoya brings important insight into the relationships among planning, environmental conservation in the Neo-tropics and community development.

Jennifer Foster, RPP is a member of OPPI and the coordinator of the Planning Program and the Urban Ecologies program at York University.

Public Transit and the Public Good

By Michael Collens & Sean Hertel, RPP

Transit is important for unlocking the opportunities that urban living affords. In the face of increasing costs of living and stagnating wages, the ability to travel conveniently and economically to access services, amenities and employment opportunities within and beyond your neighbourhood or community becomes especially critical for a good quality of life. Through this lens, transit infrastructure becomes more than a physical asset, it is a social good that has the power to make a positive difference in the emotional, physical and economic wellbeing of residents. However, transit equity is not something that just happens. It has to be planned.

Next Stop: Equity - Routes to fairer transit access in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, by Sean Hertel, Roger Keil and Michael Collens, summarizes an 18-month research program housed at the City Institute at York University (CITY) and funded by the Province of

Ontario's transit agency, Metrolinx. It is one of the academic reports supporting the review of The Big Move. Published in February 2016, the report aims to contribute to planning theory and practice by defining what equity is in a transit and planning context, telling stories of everyday life and challenges faced by transit captives in marginalized communities, and making recommendations for how to ensure transit will improve social equity.

An undercurrent to the research is that there are a number of unintended consequences in planning transit improvements and supportive land uses. Among these is the pervasive displacement of people and businesses as land values increase along new or improved transit spines, especially rail. Most often these are lower income residents—those who could benefit the most from better transit—and small, independent businesses.

Based on the results of our research 18 recommendations were organized into three themes. The first concerns how to incorporate transit equity into The Big Move. Transit equity should be clearly defined and included as a stated objective of the plan, with criteria to ensure projects achieve transit equity objectives. This provides a common language for stakeholders and a way to test proposals to gauge progress towards improving transit equity. The definition of transit accessibility needs to expand beyond addressing barriers for persons with disabilities, as essential as such measures are, to include other forms of inaccessibility. These include affordability, barriers related to race, gender and age, greater travel choice, and access to important community amenities and services to strengthen the ability of transit to support community resiliency.

The second articulates ways to ensure that transit investments contribute to social equity. Well planned transit projects are more than tools to improve mobility. They are powerful catalysts in improving the desirability of neighbourhoods by opening the door to more opportunities through greater accessibility. However, that attractiveness has the potential to displace residents and employers as neighbourhoods attract redevelopment (e.g., gentrification). Therefore, transit planning should include an inventory and analysis of housing and retail/commercial opportunities and price points, and establish targets to include a healthy and accessible supply of affordable housing, employment opportunities and retail spaces when a new transit line or service comes into operation.

The third is intended to ensure residents can afford to access transit across all levels of income and circumstance. The research has shown that cost is a prohibitive barrier to mobility. The development of a GTHA-wide framework for the universal provision of discounted transit passes for low-income persons is needed to bring a regional perspective and consistent application to affordable fares. Statistics Canada's definition of low-income is a useful benchmark for eligibility in order to support the working poor. The current piecemeal approach to discounted post-secondary student pricing should be replaced with a GTHA-wide pass, and expanded to include students enrolled in private career training and skills upgrading programs.

GTHA residents face inequities when it comes to accessing transit. The unprecedented investments in infrastructure being made at the local, provincial and federal levels have the potential to reshape the mobility

landscape. But mobility is not the same as accessibility. Accessibility is about how to reach and take advantage of opportunities. Transit can be a door to employment, education, housing and social opportunities, but that door is sometimes inadvertently locked to some residents. Infrastructure decisions impact on social equity. Our report identifies tools to ensure that the benefits are shared broadly by defining what equity means and making sure that investments work to reduce social inequity.

Planners and the policies they shape and implement indeed have a profound impact, although sometimes unidentified and unintended, on how equitably the spaces and places we help create are accessed and enjoyed. Being more deliberate about equity through planning will not only advance the impact and reach of the profession, but it will also make lasting structural changes to how infrastructure is prioritized and utilized.

Sean Hertel, RPP, is a member of OPPI and CIP. He leads an urban planning consulting practice and is a researcher at the City Institute at York University, specializing in transit-oriented development, housing and suburbs. Michael Collens is a member of OPPI. He is in his second year of the Masters in Environmental Studies program at York University, concentrating on planning for sustainability and equitability in public transportation. The authors thank Metrolinx and the City Institute for supporting their research.



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Preparing for Electric Vehicles

By Brandon Slopack

The recent Tesla Model 3 announcement has reinvigorated the buzz around electric vehicles but will Ontario municipalities be prepared to meet the future demand for electric vehicle infrastructure?



The rationale is clear. Transportation is the cause of 34 per cent of the province's greenhouse gas emissions.¹ Converting to electric vehicles significantly reduces these emissions when the electricity used to power them is produced mainly from clean energy sources. Research funded by National Resources Canada shows that conversion to electric vehicles could reduce emissions by 85 per cent in Ontario.²

While the province recently set a goal that 12 per cent of all vehicles on the road will be electric by 2020, as part of its Climate Change Action Plan³, it appears to be falling short on delivering the infrastructure to support this goal. Meanwhile, a number of jurisdictions across North America have passed EV-ready building codes that require installation of electrical receptacles (rough-ins) in new developments.

Pending provincial regulations, Ontario municipal planners have a few tools they can utilize to help prepare for a roll out of EV infrastructure. These include official plan and community energy plan policies, parking rate zoning by-laws, site plan approval conditions, subdivision agreements, and municipal green building standards.

Brandon Slopack is a member of OPPI and a recent graduate of York University's Masters in Environmental Studies (planning). He is passionate about planning, sustainable transportation, and community energy.

Footnotes

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- 2 Natural Resources Canada. (2009). Electric Vehicle Technology Roadmap for Canada. Retrieved from http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2010/nrcan/M154-33-2009-eng.pdf
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Homelessness and Recidivism

By Julia Bahen

My graduate research project examines the relationship between homelessness, incarceration and discharge planning through a case study of Reintegration Centre, which the John Howard Society of Toronto recently opened in south Etobicoke, across the street from the Toronto South Detention Centre. The research examines the factors that led to the centre's establishment and finds individuals released from pretrial custody receive inadequate discharge planning, hindering their ability to reintegrate. A lack of support services leaves individuals without the assistance they require, and many former inmates become homeless and re-offend, fueling a cycle with severe consequences.



The Reintegration Centre aims to provide a safe and welcoming environment for inmates upon release, with clothes, food, logistical supports and referrals. The centre operates as a service hub with four partner organizations onsite. Service providers attempt to address the immediate and diverse needs of previously incarcerated individuals, which is difficult due to the complexity of need and systemic issues, such as the lack of transitional housing.

While evaluation and monitoring of the Reintegration Centre's programs have yet to be completed, anecdotal evidence illustrates its successful impact on recidivism.

Julia Bahen recently completed her Master's in Environmental Studies, specializing in planning, at York University.



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Spotlight on Students

By John Fitzgibbon, RPP



The School of Rural Planning at Guelph prides itself on the work of its students. They carry out research on a wide range of issues that impact rural communities and local government. They go on to professional careers in a variety of employment situations. All of the faculty is proud of their accomplishments and the contribution they make to the profession. The following highlights the work of our students.

Meaghan Luis recently finished her major paper on the adaptations required for Algonquin Park as a result of the many challenges that increased park use, forest harvesting, climate change and invasive species have on planning for the park. Algonquin Park in Ontario hosts a range of often conflicting uses. It is both a popular tourist destination with specific areas of forest designated for commercial logging. Many of its lakes and rivers are popular canoe routes and areas of the park are also reserves for endangered species. The park planners attempt to manage these many uses through an integrated system of policy and strategic planning. The qualitative case study uses key informant interviews and policy scenario exercises with both management and park users to critically analyze both the strategic policy framework and the specific environmental assessment policies used to minimize negative environmental impacts.

The results indicate that the different park uses operate largely independent of one another and limit environmental protection. Improvements based on the issues identified by study informants are suggested to improve EA policy implementation. These recommendations could provide direction towards a park management system that balances environmental protection with various park uses and strengthens response to the growing future impact of managing invasive species in a changing climate. Meaghan is now employed by R.J. Burnside Associates in Orangeville Ontario.

Bryce Sharpe's research focused on the Mennonite community in Ontario, and land use policy and regulation for farm parcel creation. It compared planning approaches and outcomes between Lancaster County, Pennsylvania and the Region of Waterloo, Ontario with a special emphasis on minimum lot size standards in two townships. The situation in Lancaster County confirms that Ontario's basis for its existing standards is generally correct from a planning perspective. Policy avenues for small-acreage that could possibly benefit agriculture, housing and employment for the Mennonite farm community exist; exploring these avenues will require careful, thoughtful, and collaborative deliberation. This study

also looked at adaptation and policy perspectives on small-acreage Mennonite farms across three townships in Ontario. Informants in this study are earning a living on farm parcels that would otherwise be refused under existing standards. For certain production systems, existing standards appear to be serving their intended function. They may also lead to large parcels that are not necessarily required for certain forms of agriculture that are well suited to fewer acres and a unique cultural setting. The study offered a number of reflections. Any further subdivision of farms in support of the Mennonite farm community must be weighed against certain impediments and realities that need to be viewed through a systems lens. A number of recommendations for beneficial practices when planning for the Mennonite farm community were also made. Bryce is now employed as a junior planner in the Town of Muskoka Lakes.

Angus Grant for his research mobilized an evaluation of a youth engagement program in the Philippines using a participatory evaluation and video production methodology, which gave the data collection and documentation role over to the program participants. He is currently a consultant and has provided services to a range of development organizations including the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences, Plan Canada, Health Partners International Canada, and the Aga Khan Foundation Canada.

Josephine Bamanya is researching indigenous traditional knowledge currently integrated in the farming practices in 3 villages in the Mukono district in Uganda, and is examining its potential contribution to climate change adaptation development needs (e.g., food security, livelihood security in Uganda). This study will contribute to a better understanding of the relevance of indigenous knowledge in sustaining agriculture development practice amid climate change uncertainties. The study will also inform the conceptualization of mechanisms for integrating indigenous knowledge with formal science knowledge to improve the transformation of Ugandan agriculture in the 21st century. Josephine is currently in the field collecting her research data. The research will assist in planning changes in land use practice to adapt to climate change in Africa.

Paul Simon, Ben Kissner and Stephanie Worrone are researching the role of privately owned and operated water and wastewater systems in Ontario. Ben and Paul are working in southern Ontario and Stephanie is working in Northern Ontario. They have found that the private water and wastewater systems are very wide spread in the province and play an important

role in development especially in the rural tourism areas along the Great Lakes and in the cottage areas of Muskoka, Halliburton and northern Ontario. These systems have recently been the subject of changes to the approval and management requirements under the *Safe drinking Water Act* and *Health and Long Term Care Act*. Municipalities are now responsible for monitoring drinking water for these systems through Health Units. This is going well after some initial funding problems were solved. The key issue for approval of these facilities is the responsibility agreement that the municipality must negotiate with the owner/operator. Ben Paul and Stephanie have developed a report on the approvals process and are currently developing a model by-law for the requirements of these responsibility agreements. Another finding is that the monitoring process, while well managed for drinking water by the Health Units, is limited to non-existent for wastewater systems in many municipalities. The ultimate goal of the Ben, Paul and Stephanie's research will be a better process for management of the approval process and management and planning for rural development on private water services.

Ben is now employed by Municipal Affairs and Housing in Sudbury and Paul is a junior planner in the Municipality of Rocky View in Alberta. Stephanie is currently collecting field information in northwestern Ontario and hopes to finish her research this fall.

Just a couple of notes about faculty. Harry Cummings will be retiring soon and we are welcoming Ryan Gibson to our faculty in a position that was made possible through the LIBRO credit union. Wayne Caldwell is interim dean of the college while the search for a new dean is underway and Al Lauzon is acting director of the School. Ryan will be teaching in the area of local and community economic development. We are also anticipating the recruitment of a number of new faculty in the areas of planning for Aboriginal communities and Environmental Stewardship. The stewardship position was made possible through the Latonnell endowment fund.

Recently the program was expanded to include extension and capacity building. This specialization will provide a wide range of both subject matter and methodology for our planning students. Included in the program is communications and public involvement, adult education and human resources development and community extension practice. This is an important addition for us as the role of planner as communicator and manager of public involvement in planning practice becomes more important in the practice of planning. It is especially important in rural practice where communities often lack the capacity to be effectively involved in decisions regarding development in their communities.

John FitzGibbon PhD, RPP, is a member of OPPI and CIP. He has been coordinator of the Rural Planning program at Guelph for the past 6 months. He has been faculty in the rural program for 31 years and specializes in water resources planning and environmental planning and management.

Measuring Prime Farmland Conversion

By Sara Epp, Anissa McAlpine & James Newlands

Prime agricultural land in Ontario continues to be an attractive location for non-farm development despite provincial policies aimed at protecting farmland for the future. In order to evaluate current trends in farmland loss and examine the policies that direct farmland preservation, a major research study is being undertaken by students at the University of Guelph under the direction of Dr. Wayne Caldwell.

The goal of this study is to develop a methodology that can be replicated across Ontario to measure the amount of farmland converted to a variety of non-farm land uses. In many instances, land use decisions are made decades before the bulldozer hits the ground and as such, official plan amendments are an ideal tool in the early identification of farmland conversion.

The study methodology primarily involved the review of regional/county and local official plan amendments. Key informant interviews, provincial plans and other base data, such as the census, are also being used to inform the study. With the intention of capturing farmland conversion before and after the implementation of the *Greenbelt Plan*, we have chosen to look at documents dating from 2000 through 2014. Thus far, the methodology has been applied to 10 counties/regions, including eight within the Greenbelt.

Initial findings suggest that the *Greenbelt Act* has been effective in preventing the conversion of prime agricultural land to non-farm uses. Outside of the Greenbelt, prime farmland continues to be converted, although rates vary by county/region and related development pressures. Some variation in agricultural land use policy is seen across the case study areas, affecting the types of official plan amendments that are triggered and the amount of farmland loss captured. Where permitted agricultural uses are more narrowly defined and a greater number of official plan amendments are triggered to permit "site-specific non-agricultural uses." Aggregate land uses policies also varied by region/county and only those requiring official plan amendments for new aggregate operations have been captured in the study. Overall, the initial findings predictably indicate that communities adjacent to Toronto have higher rates of prime farmland conversion.

In the ongoing review of Ontario's four land use plans, it is critical that agricultural policy be addressed and that farmland preservation policies be informed by accurate data on the state of agricultural land conversion. Only then can the broad range of other factors impacting farmland loss be considered and best practices for maintaining farmland be proposed. The final report for this study, expected in 2017, will provide a better understanding of the state of Ontario's farmland, including a measure of farmland loss and an analysis of policy variation.

Sara Epp is a PhD student in the Rural Studies program at the University of Guelph. Her current research is exploring



Sara Epp



Anissa McAlpine



James Newlands

the impacts of land use planning policies on small-scale multifunctional farms. *Anissa McAlpine* is a second year MSc candidate in the Rural Planning and Development program at the University of Guelph. Her research explores agricultural land use protection policies in Ontario and British Columbia. *James Newlands* is an MSc student in the University of Guelph's Rural Planning and Development Program. His research interests are in farmland preservation and food security. All three are members of OPPI.

First-ever Rural Romp

By *Rebecca McEvoy* & *Taylor Wellings*

In March the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development, in partnership with the OPPI Student Liaison Committee, hosted the inaugural Rural Romp. A celebration of the unique challenges and opportunities of rural planning, the event featured a welcome by Dr. Wayne Caldwell, interim dean of the Ontario Agricultural College, and a keynote delivered by Monica Walker-Bolton of the Huron County Planning Department.

In her keynote address, Walker-Bolton presented the top-10 myths of rural planning, Letterman-style. A good chuckle was had by all as she worked her way down the list of myths: If there's no population growth, there's no work; there's no diversity in rural areas, and so forth. She brought great humour and enthusiasm to her keynote, in addition to some great case studies from Huron County.

The inaugural Rural Romp afforded students from across the province an opportunity to learn about the unique challenges of planning in rural areas and allowed University of Guelph students to showcase their research.

Rebecca McEvoy and *Taylor Wellings* are members of OPPI and students in the Master of Science Rural Planning and Development program at the University of Guelph. They are both student members of OPPI and serve as the student representatives for the University of Guelph on the OPPI Student Liaison Committee.



Rebecca McEvoy



Taylor Wellings

Ontario Green Legacy Program

By *Matthew Colley*, *Heather Glasgow*, *James Newlands* & *Jonathan Pauk*

Wellington County is a largely agricultural community west of Toronto. Current tree cover is approximately 17 per cent and prime agricultural land represents about 70 per cent of the area. In 2004, Wellington County council established a county-wide Green Legacy Program, with the goal of planting 150,000 trees to celebrate the county's 150th anniversary.¹ By the end of 2016, just 12 years after its creation, over two-million trees have been planted through the programme with the aid of organizations, volunteers and school children.¹ It has become the largest municipal tree planting program in North America.

Tree planting initiatives play a significant role in the reforestation and rehabilitation of deforested areas, and create many environmental benefits, such as erosion control, source water protection, wind protection, carbon absorption, and species conservation.² The planting of trees can also produce many communal benefits by promoting sustainable and healthy living, enhancing aesthetics, improving property values and connecting residents to the natural landscape. For farmers, there is plenty of research showing increased crop yields in fields protected by windbreaks.

The success of the Green Legacy Program in Wellington County is visible across the county. With a commitment to planting 150-million trees for the celebration of this country's 150th anniversary, this is the perfect time for the provincial government to use the principles of the this program as a foundation for its own tree planting initiative.³ What a celebration that would be!

Matthew Colley, *Heather Glasgow*, *James Newlands* and *Jonathan Pauk* are all members of OPPI and Master of Science students at the University of Guelph's Rural Planning and Development Program.

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Matthew Colley



Heather Glasgow



James Newlands



Jonathan Pauk



Partnerships Driving Excellence

By Clarence Woodsma, RPP

One of the most exciting and rewarding dimensions of being a planning educator is realized through the partnerships that are an integral part of what we do. In my role as director of the School of Planning at Waterloo, I have a unique perspective on the many and varied partnerships that are the foundation of our program.

“Nolle Usu” is Latin for “theory and practice.” It appears on our school crest and is also reflected in the yin and yang symbol incorporated in our school of planning ring. As the first example of an essential planning partnership, it symbolizes the interdependence between the academic and professional planning realms. Rather than “academics do theory” and “professionals do practice,” the reality of planning education, like the real world, is a mixture of theory and practice. Even more so, there is an inherent partnership between them as mutually beneficial outcomes are more likely when theory and practice are at the table together.

Of course, our status as a professional planning school, accredited through the PSB, is the legal embodiment of the partnership between the academic and professional realm. The planning education we offer meets the high standards both in terms of the provincial expectations for university undergraduate and graduate learning, but also the standards for educating future members of the Canadian professional planning community. And formally, planning educators, students and administrators, share a vibrant connection through our engagement with OPPI. There are countless examples of mutually beneficial partnerships between OPPI members and the planning schools to draw on.

At Waterloo, these professional partnerships take many forms. Each academic term, dozens of professionals share their expertise in our classes, as guest lecturers, term project reviewers, or as clients for major student studio projects. Having reviewed thousands of course evaluations over the years, I can assure readers that students love the opportunities to gain insights on professional practice from our guests. Similarly, I always enjoy the energetic conversations with those professionals who just experienced the challenging, bright, and enthusiastic students in our classes.

Outside of the classroom, we also see the importance of partnerships. Our co-operative work terms and internships rely on longstanding partnerships with employers big and small. Whether municipal, regional or provincial government, private sector or NGO, each year we place hundreds of students across Ontario and the world in planning practice work opportunities.

Again, it’s a mutually beneficial experience where students gain amazing practice experiences that complement their education and employers experience an infusion of creative, energetic thinkers with fresh perspectives.

A final example of a partnership key to our success would be the partnership we enjoy with the graduates of our program; our alumni. Like all academic institutions, our alumni are a special group with the most direct and tangible connection to our institution. We have graduated well over a thousand students since the late 1960s and they truly are an amazing group. Amazing for what many of them have accomplished, and also remarkable for what they give back to our programs. Since 1990, one particular group of alumni—the University of Waterloo Planning Alumni of Toronto (UWPAT)—has volunteered countless hours in its efforts to host the annual Toronto Planning Dinner. The motivation for members’ efforts is to support our educational offerings and they have certainly become an essential partner in the success of our programs.

These are a few examples of the partnerships that are essential to planning education in Ontario and key to our success at Waterloo. Chances are, you may already have a connection with your local planning school and I am confident it has been a great experience. If not, it is definitely an option worth exploring and a partnership you’ll not regret.

Clarence Woodsma, Ph.D., RPP is a member of OPPI and CIP and director of the School of Planning at the University of Waterloo. He is also a member of the Association of Canadian University Planning Programs executive and volunteers as the Southwest Region representative on OPPI’s PKE Committee.



WatOx-OxWat Partnership

By Robert Shipley, RPP (Ret.)

“I graduated from planning at Waterloo and I went to Oxford you know!”

In my 25 years at Waterloo as a grad student and faculty member the phrase linking Waterloo to Oxford was one of the most common lines I heard at alumni gatherings. Over those 30-plus years about 20 students a year experienced the trip to the fabled English city of learning. That means in excess of 600 Waterloo graduates can make the claim.

What we are talking about is actually a course

entitled “Theory and Practice of Planning in the UK.” It all started with two Oxford Brookes University graduates who conceived the idea of senior planning students from each country having the opportunity to experience practice in the other. The WatOx - OxWat exchange was born.

Initially the Canadian students spent 5 weeks in Oxford at the end of their winter term. They generally stayed in residence, went on two field trips a week to such shrines of planning as Bath, Welwyn Garden City, and Milton Keynes and participated in classes with the British students. The Brits came to Canada during the early summer for three weeks, and given our distances, they spent more time on the road than in classes.

The OxWat part of the exchange, that is the British students coming to Canada, lasted until the late 1990s but for a number of reasons it has not happened since. Cost was a factor but mostly the Brookes students were simply presented with other options for field trips such as Barcelona, Rome, Copenhagen... tough competition at half the price.

A mainstay of the Oxford experience for Waterloo students was the magical guiding of our Oxford colleague Mike Breakell. Mike had taught at Brookes for eons, or so it seemed, and he knew virtually everything there was to know about planning issues in the U.K. He also had a veritable web of professional contacts across southern England and so the visiting Canadians had the unprecedented opportunity to meet the most dynamic people in the profession. For example, before it was even completed the Waterloo contingent had a tour of First Canadian Place and Canary Wharf. Local planners in Portsmouth, Winchester, London and Salisbury were recruited by Mike as guides and his running commentary from the front of the bus is legendary.

A parallel benefit for these trips was the advantages it presented to the accompanying faculty members. A chance to visit another country and introduction to the cutting edge of planning and development issues was very appealing. This was a particular advantage to our writer who ran both ends of the trip for seven years. The contacts at Brookes led to my inclusion in a multi-year research project funded by the UK Heritage Lottery Fund.

There can be few university exchange programs more long-lasting, mutually beneficial and exciting than the Waterloo-Oxford Brookes Planning School program. For a good proportion of the hundreds of students who have enjoyed the trip it was quite honestly a life-changing experience.

Robert Shipley, RPP (Ret.) is a member of OPPI. He retired from the Waterloo School of Planning in 2016 after 20 years of teaching, administration and research.

Because of his interest in heritage he was particularly fortunate to have been able to spend so much time in Oxford where for many years he held the position of Visiting Research Fellow at Brookes University.



Augmented Reality and Cultural Heritage

By Katy Belshaw

Mobile technologies are changing the way people access information so it is vital that cultural institutions learn how to use and integrate mobile technologies into their programming.

While there are quite a few museums and art galleries that use digital technologies for the collection, preservation, exploration and diffusion of cultural heritage (Fritz, Susperregui, & Linaza, 2005) most are at a crossroads. They must respond to the evolving expectations of visitors by learning how best to integrate digital, and specifically mobile technologies, into their programming (Spallazzo, 2012). However, they are neither prepared nor technically equipped with resources to design effective digital experiences (Spallazzo, 2012). For this reason, the implementation of digital interpretations for cultural institutions has primarily been outsourced and programming has evolved into a digitization of traditional visiting models (Spallazzo, 2012). This translates into a poor user experience and digital technologies not being exploited for innovative, creative and positive results (Spallazzo, 2012).

To facilitate seamless and intuitive use of digital technology, tools need to be developed that allow for new ways of interacting with cultural heritage. This will greatly improve the quality of the relationship between people and heritage.

One such tool, when paired with mobile technology, is augmented reality. Recent developments in augmented reality technology have made it possible for applications to run on consumer level devices (Mura, Zanin, Andreatta, & Chippendale, 2012). Due to these advancements and improvements in mobile phones, geographic referenced archives of data and location software, augmented reality is beginning to move from research laboratories into larger consumer markets (Nielson, 2013). Therefore, it is now possible for cultural heritage institutions to effectively use mobile applications of augmented reality (Spallazzo et al., 2011).

Such applications offer a number of potential benefit, such as improved quantification and measurements for cultural heritage landscapes, leading to new forms of interpretation, documentation and conservation (Kolen et al., 2014). These can help to integrate landscape heritage meaning into planning and design visions (Kolen et al., 2014).

Katy Belshaw is a member of OPPI and a second year Masters student in the School of Planning at the University of Waterloo. Her research interests are in cultural heritage, cultural planning, community engagement and the use of digital technologies to enhance social learning.



Innovation through Community Collaboration in Design

By Sarah Brown

Site design courses in planning are a unique space for exercising creativity. Considerations related to the built, natural, social, cultural, political and economic elements of a site can restrict creativity. However, instead of feeling boxed in by the practical objectives of the design process, these constraints can inspire innovative solutions.



In the fall semester of 2015, third year undergraduate planning students at the University of Waterloo demonstrated this balance between pragmatic and imaginative thinking. The class was able to create designs that benefitted members of a community beyond the conclusion of the course.

Students were presented with the task of designing the adaptive reuse of the former Guelph Correctional Centre by engaging with the non-profit, citizen-led group Yorklands Green Hub (YGH). YGH is working to transform 47 acres and one original building into a sustainable environmental hub for public education, research and recreation. Students worked in teams, each focusing on a different dimension of the site's potential future. Topics included ecotourism, heritage revitalization, urban agriculture, habitat protection and connectivity. The groups were asked to examine the site through the lens of their unique topic and YGH's vision while applying their valuable skills and insights as upper year planning students.

Partnering with Guelph community members involved in this initiative fostered an understanding of the impact design can have on the public. As a designer it is not just your own perspective that you operate within—you must think about the people who will ultimately use and engage with your implemented vision.

Community engagement continued until the end of the course when students presented their completed projects. It was encouraging to see student planners treat the community's vision with care as they produced their comprehensive site plans. Students were sensitive to current site conditions and the unique heritage of the site. In addressing environmental concerns, students were successful in exploring approaches for enhancing connectivity through thoughtful spatial and programming elements.

Applying their knowledge of theory, policy, zoning, urban design principles and community engagement, each design team addressed an exciting aspect of adaptive reuse at the former Guelph Correctional Centre. Education at the University of Waterloo allows students to engage in projects which can connect community members, professionals and emerging planners in innovative problem solving processes and exciting design initiatives.

Sarah Brown is a member of OPPI and a PhD student in the School of Planning at the University of Waterloo. Her previous studies were in landscape architecture at the University of Guelph. Sarah's research focuses on sound in cities from an urban planning perspective and the impact acoustic conditions have on the well-being of urban populations.

Emergency Planning and the Sharing Economy

By Kevin McKrow

I had just moved to the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) residence to live and work in Calgary when over 88,000¹ people evacuated Fort McMurray. Through work with the City of Calgary, and the many community groups I met along the way, I realized that the sharing economy has a crucial role to play in evacuation planning and management.



In those first few crucial days following the provincial state of emergency, Calgarians used the popular application Airbnb to list their spare bedrooms at low or no cost exclusively to Fort McMurray evacuees. Bedrooms and basements across downtown Calgary began to fill up quickly. Additionally, many of these temporary spaces were located in mixed-use neighbourhoods, such as the Beltline, with close proximity to transit and community services for those who fled without private vehicles. And, using popular online marketplaces such as Kijiji and Craigslist, people offered rides to grocery stores and even longer hauls to Edmonton and neighbouring communities.

Academic institutions in Calgary that had recently cleared out their students for the summer term hosted evacuees and community service agencies. SAIT, for example, hosted over 400 evacuees, Alberta Health Services, The Red Cross and City of Calgary services. Furthermore, SAIT eased the transition for residents by opening the doors to its athletic facilities, gyms, pool, fields and other activities for families and children.

During times of evacuation and natural disasters, the government does indeed have a crucial role to play in ensuring our safety and relocation. However, a lesson learned in Alberta is that the sharing economy can work alongside the government and relieve some pressures in those first few crucial days.

Kevin McKrow is a member of OPPI and a third year planning (co-op) student at the University of Waterloo. He is currently completing a four-month work term with the City of Calgary.

Footnote

¹ Edmonton Journal. (May 6, 2016). Fort McMurray wildfires: Alberta bans off-highway vehicles in bid to prevent new fires.

STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE

Fresh ideas from future planning professionals

By Kelly Graham



On November 7, 2015, in honour of World Town Planning Day, the OPPI Student Liaison Committee organized a case competition for students to apply their skills and knowledge to an actual planning challenge. The task was to develop a vision for the Queenston traffic circle in the City of Hamilton. City planners supported the students in preparing the case and helped out on the day of the event.

The Queenston traffic circle is the eastern terminus of the Metrolinx-funded Hamilton LRT, to be built along one of the busiest thoroughfares in the city. The city has enacted an interim control by-law to restrict development while it determines the best policies to maximize the potential of the corridor.

The day began with an informative presentation about the site from Hamilton community planners Christine Newbold and Catherine Parsons. Then six groups of students from accredited planning programs spent the day analyzing and formulating recommendations.

At the end of the day, students gathered to present their recommendations to an audience of students and professionals. Four professional planners acted as judges: Jason Thorne, Christine Newbold, Justine Giancola and Brandon Sloan.

Common themes in the teams' proposals included:

- A vision for the area as a local and regional node
- New public space community activities and public art
- Space for riders to transfer between the LRT and other modes, including active transportation
- Connected and animated adjacent green space.

All of the teams produced high-quality work in a short amount of time. First prize, admission to the 2016 OPPI symposium, was awarded to the team of graduate students from Ryerson University.

Special thanks to the City of Hamilton and Ryerson University for their generous support of this event.

Kelly Graham is a member of OPPI and a graduate of the Masters in Planning program at Ryerson University. She was the 2015-2016 Student Delegate to OPPI and led the Student Liaison Committee.

Participating teams

- **Ryerson University MPI team (first prize)**—Chris Erl, Nathan Bunio, Vincent Racine, Yvonne Verlinden & Keira Webster
- **Ryerson University BURPI team (runner up)**—Kristina Galinac, Alex Gaio, Matt Kavanaugh, Ashley Paton & Michael Reisman
- **University of Toronto MSc planning team**—Michael Hoelscher, Jessica Krushnisky, Emily Macrae, Carolina Martelo, Meaghan Maund & Carolina Santos
- **University of Waterloo undergraduate planning team**—Jinny Tran, Tony Zhuang, Yishan Liu, Iris Chan, Cici Chen & Vivian Wong
- **University of Waterloo mixed-discipline team**—Becky Loi, Vivian Gomes, Paul Cech & Nicole Goodbrand
- **Hybrid team representing University of Guelph and York University**—Chabeeitha Parameswaran, Stephanie Worrone & Darren Pigliacelli

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In Conversation with Andrea Bourrie

Public Realm

This is the fourth in a series of conversations with OPPI President Andrea Bourrie. Interviewed by OPPI Director Justine Giancola, Andrea talks about the importance of the public realm. The following text has been condensed and edited; the full interview is available [online](#).

JG: What is the public realm and why is it important?

AB: The public realm in our communities comprises streets, pathways, rights-of-way, parks, open spaces and civic building and facilities. This is where we interact, where we see our neighbours, people we know and plenty of people that we don't know. The most vibrant and liveable places have the best public realms.



The quality of our public realm is important because it brings people together in a community and it connects us to each other. For me the best public realms

include such places as the Bruce Trail, Dufferin Milton Quarry, Toronto Waterfront Trail and in Ottawa, the Spark Street Mall and down by the canal. When I think of some of the favourite places that I have been, they all had great public realms. They are places where people remember how being there made them feel.

JG: Let's talk about some of the challenges concerning the public realm, such as programming, maintenance, inclusiveness and adaptability?

AB: It is not enough to simply create the public realm and then walk away. It needs to be maintained. Also, programming and events help people use the public realm in ways that can be engaging and exciting. There are many different approaches and options to consider—scale, cost and timeframe—but getting the right mix of large and small scale, long and short term and old and new is important. Also, reuse of public spaces for public use can present communities with some very exciting opportunities as an underused or derelict park or rail corridor is turned into a space that people enjoy.

The public realm must be well maintained. Spaces need to be safe, well-used and inviting. And they need to be flexible, to adapt over time, resilient in the face of four-season weather and global climate change, and responsive to evolving community needs.

Inclusiveness is not only the right thing to do, it is the law. The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act requires it. Community members should be able to access the public realm whether they are young or old, able-bodied or not. Their experience should be comfortable, desirable and safe.

Many elements of the public realm perform more than one function. They offer an opportunity to experience different elements at different times and in different contexts. Public

libraries are an excellent example of a part of the public realm that performs many functions.

JG: What does public art bring to the public realm? Why are heritage buildings in the public realm so important?

AB: Public art can be experienced in many ways—visual, tactile, audio—and offers a great opportunity to bring vibrancy and a distinctive flavor to communities. Similarly, connecting a community to its past through the public realm can help tell its story and can add layers of meaning and engagement. People have a lot of connection to spaces defined by heritage buildings.

JG: What role do planners and planning play in the public realm?

AB: Given their skills planners have an important role to play in creating and fostering great public realm spaces. Often planners work as part of multidisciplinary teams on public realm projects. Working with stakeholders, planners help to ensure public realms are responsive to communities. This may mean addressing such issues as connectivity, human scale, aesthetics, active transportation, the environment, heritage and cultural issues. It may also mean getting involved in designing elements of the public realm.

The leadership the Institute is providing through the upcoming symposium and Call to Action will give focus to the public realm and its critical importance to healthy, sustainable communities.

JG: Can you tell me about some of the highlights of the 2016 Symposium that is taking place in Hamilton October 5-6 and the Call to Action, Healthy Communities and Planning for the Public Realm?

AB: We have great speakers including Fred Kent from the Project for Public Spaces, who is going to talk about what makes a great civic gathering place. Fred is a specialist on placemaking which is rooted in community-based participation and grass roots collaboration. Placemaking guides the planning, design, management and programming of public spaces.

The symposium also features Public Works Adam Nicklin and City of Toronto's Harold Madi, both are noted for their work with the public realm. Additionally, there will be numerous opportunities to interact with the public realm through mobile workshops and walking tours.

The OPPI Planning Issues Strategy Group and its Community Design Working Group will be highlighting its work on the Call to Action, which will be released November 8 to help celebrate World Town Planning Day.

JG: Thank-you Andrea for taking the time to chat with me today.

Do you have any ideas for future podcasts? Let us know at info@ontarioplanners.ca.

Fred Kent

On the Public Realm

Fred Kent is a leading authority on revitalizing city spaces and one of the foremost thinkers in livability, smart growth and the future of the city. As founder and president of **Project for Public Spaces**, he is known throughout the world as a dynamic speaker and a prolific ideas man.



Fred views placemaking as a community movement, through which people can help define their future and the way they engage and use public spaces and interact with other people.

Each year, Fred and the PPS staff travel over 150,000 miles to offer technical assistance to communities worldwide and to train people in placemaking techniques. The PPS mantra is “the community is the expert.”

“[PPS has] worked in 46 countries, 3,000 communities and 1,000 cities.” These include Bryant Park, Rockefeller Center, and Times Square in New York City, Discovery Green in Houston, Campus Martius in Detroit, Main Street in Littleton, Granville Island in Vancouver and a City-Wide Placemaking Campaign in Chicago.

OPPI staff met with 2016 OPPI Symposium keynote Fred Kent in May to talk about the importance of the public realm and its contribution to vibrant communities. The conversation also touched on the role of planners in creating and fostering the public realm. The following text has been condensed and edited.

I have travelled 5-million miles, all over the world, and when we go to places, we immediately discuss how a place is functioning for people. How they engage, how they relax, do they slow down when they're walking, are they in places that are comfortable for them? Everyone senses the same feelings, even though they may not be able to verbalize it in the same way. Organic, natural, self-managing public spaces really speak to a feeling of ownership and the welcome feeling people experience in them.



WHAT MAKES A GREAT PLACE?
 PROJECT FOR PUBLIC SPACES

In a really deep sense, the success of the public realm is about amenities and these are very simple ingredients such as a bench to sit or moveable seats. If you have a restaurant and public seating, you will start to get people coming.

Once you get a place, what happens over time, is that it ripens and becomes more self-managing and self-policing and people start governing it by themselves. The market is probably the most complicated management system in the world. Everyone in the market needs to respect each other.

I would shy away from investing too much money in a public space, and let it grow over time. Too much money will actually prevent you from getting the outcomes you want. It needs to go through a period of 3-5 years to really grow into itself. Quicker, lighter, cheaper and faster.

Starting to change a public realm can be intimidating. Bryant Park is the best managed public space anywhere in the world and my favourite public space. But that doesn't mean it is perfect. You can't bring chalk and draw on the pavement or bring your guitar and play, and homeless people are not as welcome. Every day is the same. Union Park is not well managed, which means it is far more edgy and inclusive and you really feel as if you are in an urban public space. It is organic where every day is different than the day before. Very exciting and pretty energizing and eye-opening. You will see all types of things going on. You would probably remember more of Union Park than you do of Bryant Park. Madison Square is a good example of a mix of these two approaches. But a vibrant urban area needs a variety of options.

First and foremost communities need to be at the forefront. They need to experiment and re-write the rules. Then you need the professions and the city agencies, but government can be an obstacle.

This is where a big shift needs to take place. The public realm needs a discipline, and not a design discipline, to champion and foster it. It has to be someone that understands the needs of a community and the program a community can come up with, and how infrastructure can support that. The planning field can play that role, facilitating and leveraging the creativity of the community. The outcomes will be ones that cost less and provide more in the way of perception. A city is defined by its community and not by a designer from Los Angeles, for example.

My final word would be that if you realize that by turning everything upside down the outcomes can be extraordinary, you will be so much more excited about the future because you know it will deliver the outcomes that people want. You will see that it is working for people and for communities and adding to their well-being and feelings of ownership, and creating places people can thrive in. And now I am doing that.

JULY/AUGUST ALERT

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