

ONTARIO Planning JOURNAL

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ONTARIO PLANNERS: VISION • LEADERSHIP • GREAT COMMUNITIES



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Ontario Professional Planners Institute

Institut des planificateurs professionnels de l'Ontario

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ONTARIO PLANNING JOURNAL

Volume 24, Issue No. 6, 2009

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

**INSTITUT DES PLANIFICATEURS
PROFESSIONNELS
DE L'ONTARIO**

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ONTARIO PLANNERS:

VISION • LEADERSHIP • GREAT COMMUNITIES

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HEALTHY COMMUNITIES As a Way of Life

OPPI partnership with MAH

George McKibbin

DANIEL GOLEMAN writes in his book, *Ecological Intelligence*, we need to know our impacts, design improvements and share what we have learned. In preparation for the release of *Planning by Design: A Healthy Communities Handbook* by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and OPPI, I used a health science computerized search engine to retrieve articles on public health risks and the built environment to better understand the challenge we face in building a healthy environment today.

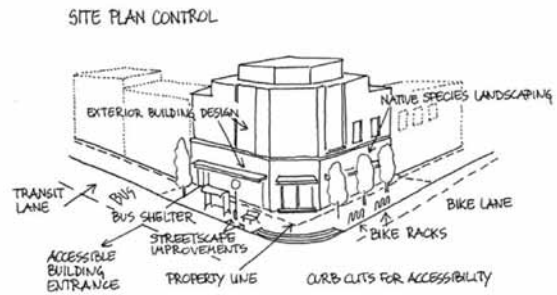
I found more than 500 articles. Interesting examples included the following:

- “Measuring the Built Environment for Physical Activity” in the *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*;
- “The Built Environment and Health: Impacts of pedestrian friendly designs on air pollution exposure” in the journal *Science of the Total Environment*;
- “The spatial dimensions of neighbourhood effects” in the journal *Social Science and Medicine*;
- “Obesity and the Built Environment: Does the Density of Neighbourhood Fast Food Outlets Matter?” in the *American Journal of Health Promotion*;
- “The Built Environment: Designing Communities to Promote Physical Activity in Children” a policy statement of the *American Academy of Pediatrics*.

The last article, by Dr. Richard Jackson, helped formulate the policy. He spoke at OPPI’s Conference, *The Shape of Things to Come: Improving Health through Community Planning* in fall 2007. It focused our attention on the built environment and emerging health risks.

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There is a mountain of scientific research linking various health risks to the built environment. Public health officials have been wrestling with this evidence for some time. Those whose responsibility it is to make sense and policy of this science have concluded that unless we act decisively, the lives of our children and grandchildren won't be as long or as rich as the lives we will have led.

In Ontario, the Provincial Policy Statement 2005 and the Provincial Growth and Greenbelt Plans set the policy framework



Cornell Neighbourhood

to apply this science in planning decisions. Elsewhere, we have drawn from the experience of public health officials and planners from the Provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Quebec and New Brunswick to better develop our responses.

On World Town Planning Day, 2007, OPPI released its *Healthy Communities Policy and Call to Action*. That Policy set out the Institute’s understanding of the impacts of the built environment, particularly our automobile-dominated suburbs, on public health risks. We developed transportation, urban design, infrastructure and food access and security recommendations, identified our favoured improvements, and called upon the profession to respond.

OPPI Council also developed a work plan to implement this Call to Action and Policy, including a healthy communities handbook, to help planners and our communities.

In February of this year, the Institute released *Planning for the Needs of Children and Youth—A Call to Action*. Commenting on this subject, Enrique Penalosa, former mayor of Bogotá, Colombia, has said, “If we can build a successful city for children, we will have a successful city for all people.” In June, the Institute released

(Cont. on page 5)



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Planning By Design: a healthy communities handbook

Heart disease, asthma, diabetes, obesity, stroke, cancer, stress and depression are just some of the serious health issues that are reducing community vitality and resiliency through productivity loss and increasing demands on public and private sector resources.

Built environments – buildings, transport networks, green spaces, public realms, natural systems and all the other spaces that make up a community – can perform a critical role in shaping people's physical and psychological well being. Rural and urban planning and design strategies, including land-use patterns, transportation networks, public spaces and natural systems, are all factors that can promote increased physical activity, psychological well being and healthier outcomes for all community members.

According to the Canadian Institute for Health Information, health-care spending is growing faster than Canada's economy and spending on prescription and non-prescription drugs is growing faster than spending on hospitals and physicians.

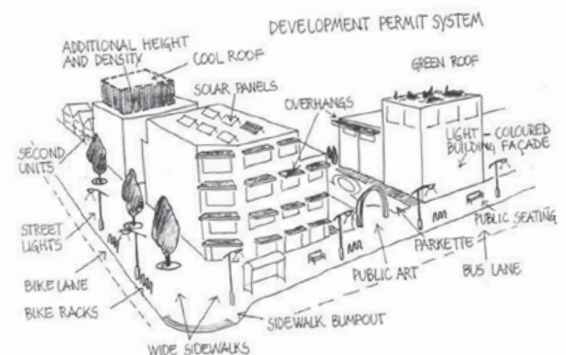


The **Planning By Design** handbook is the result of a partnership between the **Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing** and the **Ontario Professional Planners Institute**. The purpose of this initiative is to share and generate ideas on how places can be planned and designed more sustainably for healthy, active living and to retain and attract residents, investors and visitors.

If Canadians were to become more active, it is estimated that there would be:

- 26% fewer deaths from type II diabetes;
- 20% fewer deaths from colon cancer; and
- 22% fewer deaths from cardiovascular disease.

Source: Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute,
www.cflri.ca



A copy of this handbook can be accessed at ontario.ca/mah and ontarioplanners.on.ca

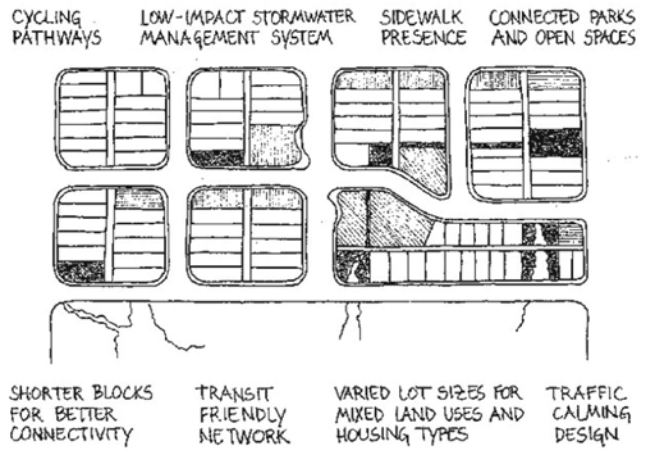
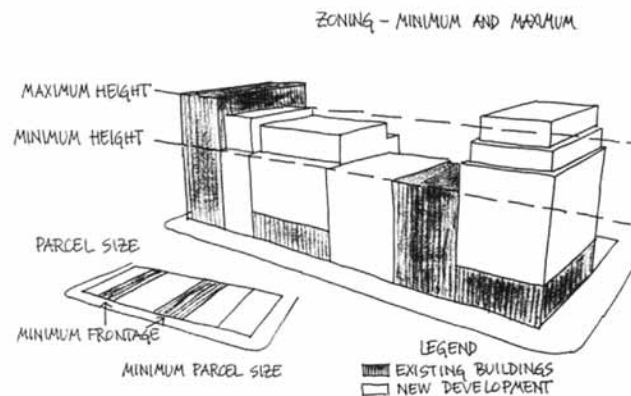
This InfoSheet provides information about the Planning Act and planning and designing for healthy and sustainable communities. It should not be relied upon as a substitute for specialized legal or professional advice in connection with any particular matter. It is recommended that independent legal or professional advice be obtained in matters relating to provisions found in the Planning Act.

(Cont. from page 3)

Planning for Age Friendly Communities—A Call to Action. Wayne Caldwell, former OPPI President, remarked on this paper, “Planners cannot afford to be caught by surprise.” We need to have in place the infrastructure, accommodations and community supports and services necessary for an aging population.

Sharing what we have learned with others, in August 2008, the Policy Committee met with Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing staff and developed an agreement between the Ministry and OPPI to develop a handbook. Once settled, terms of reference, a table of contents and draft were developed and reviewed by the Policy Development Committee and Recognition Committee.

The final draft was presented to Council in June and received approval by a Provincial Cabinet committee this summer. Released on November 5, 2009, in recognition of World Town Planning Day, *A Healthy Communities Handbook: Planning by Design* is a key policy initiative of both the Ministry and OPPI.



Along with the Handbook release, there is an InfoSheet (see opposite page) that is being distributed widely to planners, stakeholders and the public.

With this release, a new initiative begins! Over the coming months, look for District and stakeholder sessions that will describe this initiative and the Handbook's application. There will also be a webinar addressing this topic. Each month of the coming year, case studies and best practices will be highlighted and we encourage you to submit examples for consideration.

Copies of the Handbook, InfoSheet and other healthy communities information can be found at <http://www.ontarioplanners.on.ca/content/Publications/innovativepolicypapers.aspx>

George McKibbin, MCIP, RPP, is Chair of OPPI's Policy Development Committee and a Principal of McKibbin Wakefield Inc.

OPPI ANNOUNCEMENTS

OCTOBER 28 & 29, 2010

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

The Delta Guelph Hotel & Conference Centre

Come and join planners from across the province to explore and discuss planning for food. The symposium will examine the many issues associated with the production, processing and distribution of food and how all of this relates to the planning profession and other key stakeholders interested in fostering healthy and sustainable communities.

This two-day event will feature keynotes and panel speakers who will speak from both an urban and rural planning perspective. These speakers will come from a wide variety of backgrounds and will range from farmers to public health experts to planners and others we are knowledgeable about planning for food. There is also a second day of intensive training workshops that will focus on the symposium topic. These sessions will allow attendees to further explore issues and actively participate in discussions.

Watch the OPPI web site for more information in future months.

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

WORKPLACE CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM

OPPI's Workplace Continuing Education Program offers professional development courses that can be customized for use in your office. This allows organizations to provide on-site continuing education opportunities and enables a workplace to take advantage of the savings that can be realized by managing the delivery themselves. Please go to the OPPI website and check out the Continuous Professional Learning section for courses and Workplace Continuing Education opportunities. Here are courses that can be delivered in the workplace:

The Planner at the Ontario Municipal Board
Planner as a Facilitator
Plain Language for Planners
Presentation Skills for Planners
Planners and the Media
Project Management for Planners
Urban Design for Planners

All members are encouraged to include Professional Development Courses as part of their ongoing commitment to continuing education. For more information, go to <http://www.ontarioplanners.on.ca/content/CPL/index.aspx>.

Building a Better World: An Agenda for Change

Alan Gummo



The conference introduced newly elected members to the College of Fellows and provided an opportunity for volunteer and academic excellence to be recognized

IT IS NOW EVIDENT that our 2009 Building a Better World CIP/OPPI conference was a huge success.

The take-aways started piling up during Sheila Watt-Cloutier's opening address on Wednesday evening, and continued through Gord Miller's closing address on Saturday morning. Delegates went from session to session, cross-cultivating discussions with insights gained from the four thematic conference streams: society, environment, culture, and economy.

Over 200 students attended on their day. The Interactive Media Café demonstrated, as one of our sponsors said, that "the kids get it." It will be exciting to see how their innovative approaches to getting the message out will assist the profession in delivering the solutions we will provide to the challenges of the future.

The keynotes, plenaries, workshops and panel sessions delivered a remarkable set of recurring messages. We were exhorted to:

- demand that "humanity" guide our development decisions;
- reconnect with the past, and combine clus-

ters of traditional knowledge and wisdom with innovations;

- engage in the "right" conversations about our challenges, reframe debate so as to make all the necessary connections, and use new language to propose clear solutions;
- refuse to let excuses drive our values and compromise equity;
- get at root causes rather than applying ever more sophisticated yet ineffective band-aids;
- challenge conventional wisdom and assumptions, particularly with respect to the imperatives of "growth";
- dare to step outside our conventional paradigms, no matter how modest the movement, to effect change for the better;
- seize opportunities to engage in debates about public policy, and build consensus, from the kitchen table to the legislature.

The overarching message I took away is this: our work is about people, whether they farm the land in rural areas, build new futures in the North, or live in our ever-intensifying urban places. Our membership is ready to engage in conversations about the big-ticket

issues that are challenging our future. Our younger members are well attuned to these issues. It is equally clear that the public is more than ready to embrace change. Global conversations are well under way in civil society.

The truth can be uncomfortable

The uncomfortable truth is that most of the good ideas are coming from outside our profession.

Meanwhile, the primary obstacle to building a better world is a political and economic elite committed to limited engagement and reliance on increasingly vapid excuses for non-action. As a now well-established part of that institutional framework, our profession is coming close to being part of the problem rather than part of the solution. We are now in a position some would call deeply ambiguous, and others would call deeply pernicious. This unfortunate position has been attained notwithstanding the good and progressive work of many individual practitioners, and notwithstanding our collective rhetoric to the contrary. It is making us irrelevant in the quest for a better future.

In my view, the 2009 conference brought us to a watershed. Our nearness to the edge suggests the following as an agenda for change within our profession.

As a profession we need to move off our tendency to paralysis by analysis. Paralysis leads quickly to irrelevance. We need to stop our lawyer-like parsing of vocabulary, and embrace big, clear concepts without ambiguity or obfuscation. We will not get to a better world by fussing forever over semantics, or mixing our messages, or clouding our positions with cautions that neuter them. The world of public policy is not the sole domain of cross-examining lawyers, or a world of trite legal niceties, such as the one to which our profession has become accustomed. We need to move to something more productive.

The profession needs to reconnect, without fear, with its progressive roots. We need to return our collective memory to early efforts to build healthy, beautiful, and functional places for people, and apply that same inspiration and energy to our contemporary chal-

lenges. This means taking clear and strong positions on equity issues first. This will require a significant refocusing of attention on different agendas and partnerships than those created through specialization. Land use planning is a necessary by-product of greater efforts directed to bigger issues. It is not a sufficient end in itself. Questions of land use properly follow from decisions about people first, not the other way around.

We need to move away from our unspoken and unquestioning adoration for market fundamentalism. Continuous connivance with and enabling of market dictates is doing us in. We need to step away from collaborating with a development industry that with rare exceptions is an obstacle to progress, and re-establish our connections with more progressive partners. We will not live up to our better intentions by continuing to allow “contraindicated behaviour” (known as “malpractice” in other professions) to occur within our profession. Our credibility is at stake because of this aspect of past practice.

We need to show leadership in promoting progress. It’s fine and noble to help develop tools, guidelines and innovative ways of engaging, and we must continue doing those things. But as a profession we need to get beyond the stock-in-trade and much more deeply into the realm of contemporary public policy debate than we are at the present. We need to take a principled and progressive position that speaks to building a better world, rather than adapting to a deteriorating one. The status quo will always look after itself, and does not need our help. Fixating on regulatory tools and streamlined processes will endear us to the managerially minded, but will not get us a better world.



New OPPI President Sue Cumming and CIP President Marni Cappe

Our leaders need to take big steps in articulating the mission of the profession. This means they must speak to substantive issues. They must debate public policy, and help shape legislation. They have to move beyond technocratic agendas of institutional navel-gazing such as “supporting the strategic plan” and “enhancing member services.” These actions were necessary and productive in their time, and should now be built in and ongoing, a natural part of leadership. To appropriate a comment made at the conference, now we “need to radicalize.” We need a new generation of leaders who, in the words of a well-known contemporary agent for change, are “fired up and ready to go...in sup-

port of high ideals, big objectives, and above all, change for the better.”

This agenda is no small challenge

As a starting point along this path, I challenge our leadership to issue a mea culpa for our role in facilitating “sprawl.” Sprawl is now recognized as the root of many evils, and we helped make it what it is today. It has undermined public health, degraded the environment, and led to a run on our collective bank account. We’ve been willing collaborators in making a mess of epic proportions. Fessing up would be a good and in my view necessary first step in establishing our credibility, and indeed our legitimacy, in public debates to come.

We have to remove the legacy of ambiguity that will frustrate the careers of our young colleagues, and we owe it to them to do so, starting now. The platform must be put in place quickly, boldly, and with unshakable resolution to carry it forward.

Alan Gummo, MCIP, RPP, was an active member of the 2009 conference committee. He is associate director of planning for the Regional Municipality of Niagara.



Keynote speaker Chris Turner shrugged off a temporary power outage to deliver a powerful speech focused on the need for planners to deliver on the promise of reducing greenhouse gas emissions

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Conference Report

Shannon Hamilton and Jocelyn Strutt

THE 2009 CIP/OPPI CONFERENCE, Building a Better World, was a huge success. Over 900 delegates from across Canada and a few from the United States discussed the issues facing many communities today. From climate change to managing urban growth, from revitalization to historic preservation and from building a creative economy to tackling poverty, planners came together to discuss ideas and learn from each other. Held in Niagara Falls over the first weekend in October, the conference had a well-assembled combination of keynote speakers and complementary concurrent sessions emphasizing the creation of Livable Communities. A change in planning is needed to refocus our efforts on creating communities with culture and heritage, buy-in to the local economy, and sustainable design.

Sheila Watt-Cloutier brought everyone to their feet when she spoke from the heart about her homeland, the Arctic. She took the global issue of climate change to a personal level when she spoke about how the debate on climate change needs to be refocused, away from simply the economic or environmental side, and emphasized the humanity in this change. Watt-Cloutier argues that there is a direct link between climate change and human rights. For many in the Arctic, climate change is affecting the rights of citizens to their historic way of life and we must use a human rights approach to empower change. She concluded by stressing the need to avoid the thoughtless development of the past, and to take up principled leadership for change in the future, for change today.

The plenary panel discussions focused on both urban and rural issues. The session on the Cultural Economy encouraged planners to integrate art and culture into their work. Jeff Evenson started the discussion by establishing three interactions that make culture—Values, Vibe and Virtuosity—and gave a great comparison of the Utilitarian Perspective and the Creative Perspective on Planning. Jeremy Freiburger, Director of Imperial Cotton Centre for the Arts in Hamilton, Ontario, discussed the importance of integrating culture and arts into our communities. His Creative Catalyst project in Hamilton reinforced Jeff Evenson's message of integrating culture with other perspectives by establishing strategic partnerships, engag-

ing the community and taking an innovative approach to cultural planning.

Another plenary session, Communities on the Competitive Edge, highlighted the issue of poverty, both nationally and globally. The key message was that poverty cannot be solved alone. Mark Chamberlain explained that we are all part of the problem, but we can also all be part of the solution. Through collaboration and continuous learning, we can begin the conversation on how to solve poverty, and our combined values can begin to drive economics, rather

than economics driving our values.

The conference provided many opportunities to explore the issues affecting planners today. It emphasized that there is not one solution that will work for any one community, but through communication, idea sharing and personal investment, change can be made, and our communities can become strong, vibrant, healthy places where we can live work and play as one.

*Shannon Hamilton, MCIP, RPP and
Jocelyn Strutt, MCIP, RPP.*



Students and the new media—a well attended innovation at the conference

Policies from abroad: Lessons from Indonesia

Dan Cohen



Old and new live side by side in Bandung

ABSURD EVENTS can bring about moments of understanding. Such a moment happened to me in July 2008 as I sat amongst hundreds of mud-stained Indonesian youth watching the mayor of their city, Bandung, shake hands with a punk musician from Britain who had just vulgarly denounced religion as the cause of the world's problems. This action was in stark contrast to the mayor's carefully constructed image as a religious man. That moment, in its absurdity, highlighted to me how seemingly mundane processes can have bizarre consequences.

This revelation came to me because the mayor of Bandung's presence on stage was, in part, the result of the city having adopted a Creative City policy. Because such policies require a constituency of young, creative people who can be the target of government intervention, the mayor was seeking to win the favour of a perceived group of "creatives"—members of the city's underground music scene of punk and metal artists. This group of previously marginalized youth were seen as Bandung's creative community only because the city lacked a clear "creative class" of young professionals. That an effort to import a foreign policy model had led the mayor to shake hands with someone whose politics ran utterly counter to his own was

both an absurdity and the logical outcome of a system where foreign policies are adopted without reflection on whether they are suitable for the local context.

Why here? Why now?

The reasons for the lack of attention paid to local context was the core question that I sought to answer during three months of research in the city of Bandung, Indonesia, in the summer of 2008. I wanted to know how a Creative City policy came to be seen as relevant to such an unlikely site as an Indonesian manufacturing city of three million people, most of them living in poverty.

My interest was piqued because I knew that Creative City policies are rooted in Western responses to the outsourcing of manufacturing plants in the 1990s and the corresponding shift to knowledge-based industries that followed. For a city that had gained some of these manufacturing jobs to itself adopt a Creative City policy represented a level of irony that I could not leave unexplored. However, my interest in the questions that the transfer of the policy raised went beyond simply understanding the specifics of the Bandung case. My goal was to understand how policy moves across borders and what the effects of this movement are.

A policy in search of a problem

The Creative City policy did not come to Bandung because the city discovered a problem and sought to find a policy to address it; rather, the policy was exported to Bandung because the British Council, an organization devoted to promoting British culture, decided that the city would be an excellent pilot site for promoting creative industries in Asia.

While the fact that a foreign organization so directly affected the policymaking process may seem odd to Western planners, the process, in its essence, is no different from the way many policies are adopted by governments around the world. As policies like the Creative City become popular after a high-profile success or through promotion by high-powered consultants, they are seen as desirable in their own right, divorced of the actual process they promote. This popularity leads to pressure from citizens, the media and international bodies that promote best practice on city governments to adopt these new, popular policies. In Bandung the foreign pressure to adopt a creative city policy came from a discernable actor; in the West such pressures are often disguised.

These pressures themselves are not enough to convince a city to adopt a policy, however. Rather, policies have to be promoted in a manner that convinces policymakers that they are relevant to the city to which they are being promoted. In Bandung, as in Toronto or any other Canadian city, the Creative City was promoted through the language of economic competitiveness. Bandung was portrayed as being in a race for investment with unnamed competitors, a race it could not afford to lose.

Similarly, the Creative City policy was discussed as a new, avant-garde economic development policy from the West that could help Bandung become a regional leader in a growing area. Rather than discussing the merits of the policy, politicians, media and local creative entrepreneurs took up the discourse of competitiveness by stating that a Creative City policy could solve Bandung's economic problems without ever adequately addressing the question of how it would do so, or whether such a policy was right for the city.

These ideas through their overwhelming popularity and the way they are promoted set

up an environment where policymakers are often pressured to adopt or consider policies that do not address a problem that the city is facing, or that do so in a manner completely in contrast to how local institutions are set up. In Bandung this meant that a policy designed to help Western economies switch to a knowledge-based economy was brought to a city that lacked infrastructure to compete in that economy. Bandung's situation was not an anomaly but the consequence of a system where policies are transferred due to their popularity rather than their suitability.

Policy-making in a vacuum

Policies, like other things, are altered as they move through networks of people and cultures. In Bandung I discovered that the networks that promoted the idea of the Creative City to city decision makers were similar to those that exist in Canada to promote the policy—even the high-profile consultants hired to speak about the subject were the same. Policymakers in Bandung were taken on study trips designed to illustrate best practices and impressive “experts” with professional PowerPoint presentations were flown to the city to make the case for the Creative City policy.

Such forms of transfer promote a certain kind of knowledge, where examples from one place are presented in a manner that suggests that the lessons learned in the place being presented could be applied to any context. In Bandung, policymakers were sent to Britain to see things such as arts incubators on the assumption that these same institutions could work in Indonesia, despite the fact that the institutions in Asia are completely different.

Similarly, the consultants who came to Indonesia presented examples from Europe as being relevant to Bandung. One consultant even suggested that Bandung could learn from Milan because the two cities had a similar legacy of interesting architecture! However, the consultant's superficial comment was not what is really at fault here. The institutions that facilitated the transfer of the Creative City policy in the Bandung case were structured so that the local context of the place was given little attention as lessons from the other side of the world were made to seem relevant to everywhere. The consultant was simply paid to take part in that structure.

Furthermore, the presentations describing the creative city policy were generalized. The experts who spoke attempted to be relevant to as many people as possible. Experts often speak in several different cities in a single

week and have to have speeches that can be easily repeated for different audiences. The time they have to present is often limited and unsuitable for the level of detail needed to fully explain the context within which a policy has been developed. The very nature of the channels through which policy travels obscure the history of a transferred policy by limiting the time available to discuss it and the time needed to properly understand the local context.

In the Bandung case, the result was that the roots of the Creative City policy in the shift to knowledge-based economy were not fully understood. The Creative City was seen by policymakers as a good in its own right and the question of whether Bandung had the infrastructure necessary to develop and sell the innovative goods that the creative class was supposed to produce was never explored. Thus the mayor's treating street punks as “creatives” was the result of a search for a constituency to fit a general idea of the Creative City policy.

What can be learned from the Bandung case is that planners and other policymakers have to be reflective when considering policies from abroad. Ideas that are promoted as essential for cities to compete for capital may not be the correct fit for every city. The way policies are promoted and transferred is not a neutral process as ideas are changed when they are made to fit different contexts. If policies from abroad are to be useful, policymakers must spend the time to ensure that they are fully understood and to explore how they fit with local institutions.

Dan Cohen is a recent graduate of the University of Toronto's Masters program in planning. He is currently working for the Innovation Systems Research Network and can be reached at dan.cohen@utoronto.ca

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Northern

Greater Sudbury Brownfield Strategy Symposium: Learning about brownfield redevelopment in Sudbury

Wendy Kaufman

As part of its new city-wide Brownfield Community Improvement Plan initiative, the City of Greater Sudbury, in partnership with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Province of Ontario, Greater Sudbury Development Corporation and Northwest Ontario Development Network, recently held a Brownfield Symposium, where leading experts in the field spoke to Greater Sudbury's development community about successful approaches to brownfield redevelopment.

The City of Greater Sudbury hosted Reclaiming our Urban Places, Greater Sudbury Brownfield Strategy Symposium on March 26, 2009. About 75 attendees heard from leading experts in various fields of brownfield redevelopment about successful approaches to revitalizing underused, abandoned and vacant commercial and industrial properties.

Paul Baskcomb and Jason Ferrigan opened the symposium with an overview of the City of Greater Sudbury's changing urban landscape, and recent City initiatives that set the stage for brownfield redevelopment. Many brownfield sites within the City have potential for redevelopment, and a strategy is needed to bring these sites back into productive use. Overall, the City is working towards preparation of a brownfield strategy.

Hon Lu, the Provincial Brownfields Coordinator, reviewed the provincial framework regarding brownfields and identified that despite barriers to brownfield redevelopment, there are some provincial and municipal tools that can work. He provided statistics on Brownfield CIPs across the province and where municipal incentives have been allocated.

Arlene Etchen and Angela Roy, CMHC, described CMHC case studies and programs available to support brownfield redevelopment. Brett Ibbotson, WESA, covered the role of a Qualified Person and the process of remediating a site. Janet L. Bobechko, Blaney McMurtry, LLP, gave an overview of brownfield legislation and issues related to liability.

As an investor, Pamela Kraft, Kilmer Brownfield Management Limited, provided examples of brownfield sites that are investment-worthy as well as what types of incentives are meaningful to developers.

Don McConnell, Planning Director at the City of Sault Ste. Marie, gave a case study of

his City's Water Revitalization program, including a description of the process and remediation required prior to redevelopment of a site for a charity casino.

Overall, the session identified topics of concern to northern and rural planning practitioners, and provided a venue for participants to share their experiences. Jason Ferrigan, Senior Planner with the City of Greater Sudbury, commented, "The Symposium is designed to raise the level of awareness around the importance of brownfields in the community and is a key part of the City's emerging Brownfield Strategy. We were able to bring some of the best minds in the field to Greater Sudbury to speak with those involved in the development of our community about the opportunities and challenges that often come when you are attempting to breathe new life into these sites."

Further information on this Symposium, including presentations and the live webcast, can be found at the City of Greater Sudbury's Brownfield website: http://www.greatersudbury.ca/cms/index.cfm?app=div_planning&lang=en&currID=8905

Wendy Kaufman, MCIP, RPP, M.E.S., is the Journal's Northern District Editor, and a Planner at J.L. Richards and Associates Limited in Sudbury.

People

Joe Berridge appointment in UK

Joe Berridge, a partner with Urban Strategies Inc. in Toronto, has been appointed to the Enabler Panel of the UK Government's Commission on Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE). This prestigious design advisory panel comprises architects, engineers, planners, environmental specialists, academics and developers. Joe is a Fellow of CIP, and has contributed numerous articles to the Ontario Planning Journal.

Terry Sararas has retired from the Town of Huntsville, having worked there for 22 years, most recently as Director of Development Services. During his tenure, Huntsville became the largest, fastest growing municipality in the District of Muskoka. Terry has since been appointed as an Associate position with Marie Poirier Planning & Associates Inc, in



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Dwight, Ontario, and is looking forward to working in the private sector. Before joining Huntsville, Terry worked in Alberta and B.C.

Obituary

**Sue Hendler (1960-2009):
An appreciation**

John Meligrana and Dave Gordon

Sue Hendler was born in Quebec and educated at Carleton, Calgary and Waterloo. She began teaching at Queen's in 1987 in the School of Urban and Regional Planning and was later cross-appointed to Women's Studies, where she was the Head from 1999 to 2004.



Sue Hendler

Sue was a gifted teacher, renowned for her remarkably messy office and uncanny ability to draw connections among seemingly unrelated material, thoughts and experiences. She was well-known for her short but pointed queries – ones that always required careful thinking and long answers. Sue was more comfortable teaching in small classrooms than large lecture halls; would rather listen than talk; and would rather have group discussions than lecture. Her engaging approach was lauded with nominations for Queen's highest teaching

awards and guest lectures around the world.

In research, Sue refused to be swayed by intellectual fads—she set her own path to enlightenment. She wrote about environments, ethics, healthy communities and sustainable development. Perhaps her most important scholarly contribution integrated theory and practice through the unifying theme of ethics in professional planning. Sue explained her ideas in a series of articles in the first volume (1986-87) of the *Ontario Planning Journal*, and a later textbook. She was closely involved in drafting the ethical codes for the OPPI, CIP and the American Planning Association and prepared course materials and videos used to train thousands of planners.

Sue also built intellectual bridges between women's studies and planning. She worked tirelessly to write women into Canadian planning history, locating and interviewing some of the first women to work as community planners in Canada. These interviews became part of her last book project, to be published posthumously, with the assistance of former graduate students.

Sue lived an active life outside the academy. She helped organize a women's shelter, led the local Social Planning Council and was active in the District Health Council. She published poetry and newspaper columns on community affairs. On many Saturdays, she could be found at Kingston's historic farmers' market, helping a friend sell produce. At her memorial service, her many colleagues spoke movingly about her love of music, animals and vegetarianism.

Sue died on September 14, 2009, after a brave and quite public struggle with cancer. In characteristic style, she documented her final year with an intensely personal, bi-weekly column in the *Kingston Whig-Standard*. A generous circle of friends and colleagues helped her live her last months at home, and then raised a substantial sum in Sue's memory at Run for the Cure, on the day after her memorial service.

It is difficult to assign any one label to Sue—she was a teacher, scholar, administrator, feminist, environmentalist and community advocate all rolled into one. Her life is a reminder of the benefits of living a balanced life—one that includes family, friends, community, nature, books, poetry, art and stories. All these things she treasured.

Sue will be missed and not soon forgotten.

John Meligrana, MCIP, RPP, was a student of Sue Hendler and later a faculty colleague in the School of Urban and Regional Planning. Dave Gordon, MCIP, RPP, AICP, is Director of SURP. A selection of Sue's writing can be found at www.queensu.ca/surp/faculty/sue-hendler.html

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Message to Members



Wayne Caldwell, MCIP RPP
President 2007-2009

Predicting and even speculating on the future is inherently challenging. There is much that we don't know. We can look at events of the last 25 years and appreciate this challenge. The demise of the Soviet Union and the fallout from 9/11 would not have been on the radar in 1982 when I began my career as a planner. Predicting in what can be a chaotic world is at times near impossible. And yet, as planners we face this challenge on a daily basis. It is our professional responsibility to try to identify and interpret trends that impact and influence the communities within which we live and work.

In some ways these same challenges face OPPI Council on an on-going basis. What are the current and future issues that will impact the profession? What are the strategic directions that we as a profession need to move in? How do we ensure that we have sufficient resources to address the Institute's needs and of course – connected to these administrative realities are the tough questions connected to resources and budgets. These are questions that are given much consideration at a staff and Council level. Fortunately, over the years OPPI has had the good fortune of responsible and visionary Councils. Your current Council is no exception.

Through Council, staff and a multitude of volunteers that support the Institute much has been accomplished over the last number of years. Support for the Healthy Communities initiative and related Calls to Action has been overwhelming. The Institute has received a provincial and at times national audience for our messages of thoughtful and visionary planning. This one initiative has led to much media coverage and led to presentations to the Ontario Municipal Board, a number of Ministers and perhaps more importantly it has made inroads into the psyche of the province's population. The need for planning and the recognition of what planning can do for society is increasingly acknowledged.

Some of our new and on-going initiatives also hold much promise for the future. As we continue to review our membership requirements we recognize the importance of reaching for professional standards that will help to ensure excellence and facilitate new planners as they enter the profession. I think there are also reasons to be excited about our willingness to look to the institute as a resource and centre of excellence for planning. I am also pleased to see our willingness as a profession to push the boundaries of what it means to be a planner and in this process to be more willing to accept new ideas and an increasingly diverse membership. I believe that in the future there will be more reasons than ever to embrace membership in OPPI.

This is my last formal message in my capacity as President of the Institute. I am thankful for the trust that has been placed in me and for the stellar support of Council, staff and a large group of volunteers. It has been a privilege for which I shall remain forever grateful.

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Beyond 2010

Focus and Outcomes for the Planning

2009 Key Strategies Underway

OPPI Council, committees and districts embarked on twenty key strategies in 2009. Highlights of several key accomplishments follow.

As the voice of the Planning Profession OPPI:

Leads and supports members to plan healthy communities

- ✓ **Planning by Design: a healthy communities handbook** developed in partnership with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.
- ✓ **A Call to Action on Active Transportation for Children and Youth** developed in partnership with the Centre for Sustainable Transportation.
- ✓ **A Call to Action on Planning for Age-Friendly Communities** resulting from the knowledge and learning we acquired from OPPI's 2008 Symposium *The Grey Tsunami: Aging Communities and Planning*.

Partnering with other organizations such as The Heart and Stroke Foundation's *Spark Together for Healthy Kids* campaign.

✓ Congratulation to our 2009 winner, Ottawa Escarpment Area District Plan as the winner of the joint OPPI and Heart & Stroke Foundation *Award for Excellence in Planning for Healthy Communities*.

✓ Conveying key messages about the Healthy Communities Initiative to key stakeholders such as the Minister of Health Promotion, Ontario Municipal Board, and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, creating a sphere of awareness of the impact that planning and the profession impart on fostering healthy communities.

Acts as a resource and centre of excellence for planning

- ✓ Several education and networking events brought to you by your local OPPI District featuring and discussing best planning practices for healthy communities.
- ✓ Two new continuous professional learning offerings; *Project Management for Planners on-line course* and *Urban Design for Planners Course*.
- ✓ A series of webinars delivered on topical planning matters such as *Active Transportation for Children and Youth*.
- ✓ *University Research Links* found on the OPPI web site helping to keep members informed of the latest planning research by students and faculty at Ontario's Recognized Planning Schools.
- ✓ Hosting the CIP/OPPI 2009 Conference *Building a Better World* to a full capacity delegation in beautiful Niagara Falls Ontario.

Develops and maintains professional standards in the interest of the public of Ontario

- ✓ Continued participation in the national review of membership standards, criteria and process; with scheduled completion in 2011 pending membership approval.
- ✓ Representatives of OPPI and the Law Society of Upper Canada met at Osgoode Hall regarding the continuation of OPPI's exemption from the paralegal licensing requirement of the Law Society Act; with a decision pending Fall 2009.
- ✓ Brought OPPI's By-law in compliance with new federal and provincial legislation affecting labour mobility.
- ✓ Investigating the feasibility of regulating the planning profession through provincial legislation through a newly appointed Professional Practice Advisory Group.
- ✓ Professional Practice Standards are revised providing guidance on the Professional Code of Practice to members holding dual professional memberships.
- ✓ Nearly 200 oral interview exams (Exam A) were scheduled this year, for long-standing Provisional members needing to fulfill the By-law requirement to attain Full membership.
- ✓ Discipline matters have been conducted and reported to members through the 2009 Ontario Planning Journal Jan/Feb issue and Annual Report.
- ✓ *Discipline Rules of Practice & Procedure* are now available to members and the public from the web site in keeping with improvements to the discipline process.
- ✓ A Member Register is now available on the web site providing members and the public with a list of current OPPI members.

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Wayne Caldwell



Mary Ann Rangam

While OPPI Council members have come and gone over the last 10 years, there has been one constant, unwavering voice of integrity, wisdom, vision and leadership serving the Institute. In 1999 Mary Ann Rangam began her tenure as the Executive Director for OPPI. Since then OPPI's success in achieving the goals of vision, leadership and great communities as expressed in our strategic plan is in large part a tribute to Mary Ann's abilities.

Those who have had a chance to work with Mary Ann know her for her outstanding organizational skills, strategic thinking and quiet "behind-the-scenes" manner. Her guidance with governance, financial administration and priority setting has helped to maximize the contributions of the hundreds of volunteers who serve the Institute. In the words of one volunteer, "I have always been impressed by Mary Ann's people skills—her ability to listen and understand, respect for all, patience, and humour.

However, it is her unbending integrity which I admire. She will not simply accept the expedient and easy route. This has served the Institute well."

As an Institute we have accomplished much over the last 10 years. The voice of planners is heard in many contexts from individual neighbourhoods to Queen's Park. We have identified issues and offered solutions. There is much opportunity and promise ahead and for this, we collectively owe our thanks to her.

Mary Ann, we know that your leadership will continue to serve us well. As one former President has noted, "As a professional Executive Director, she has provided OPPI with professional, objective and positive advice which has taken the Institute to new heights that is the envy of many organizations in Ontario."



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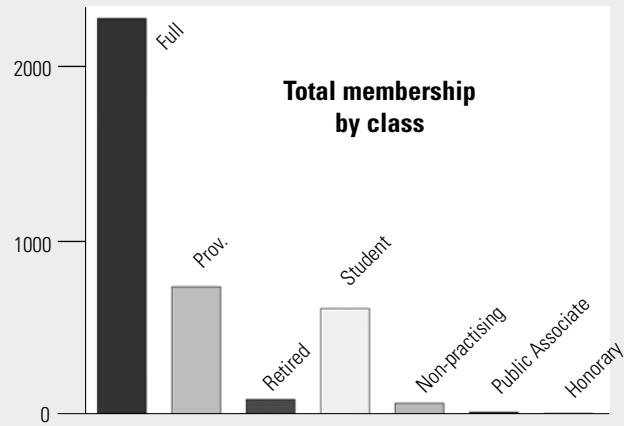
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Facts and Figures on OPPI

OPPI MEMBERSHIP BY DISTRICT, AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2009

TABLE 1

District	Full	Prov.	Retired	Student	Non-Practising	Public Assoc.	Hon.	TOTAL
Northern District	56	13	1	3	3	1	0	77
Southwest District	370	79	8	116	8	0	0	581
Eastern District	282	79	16	84	8	1	1	471
Lakeland	191	56	6	15	5	0	0	273
Toronto	599	231	33	230	19	4	1	1,117
Oak Ridges	491	196	11	118	15	2	0	833
Western L. Ont.	285	80	9	41	4	2	0	421
Out of Province	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	7
TOTAL	2,280	734	85	607	62	10	2	3,780
Total (2008)	2,097	786	97	707	69	17	1	3,775
Total (2007)	1,986	819	82	557	76	27	1	3,548

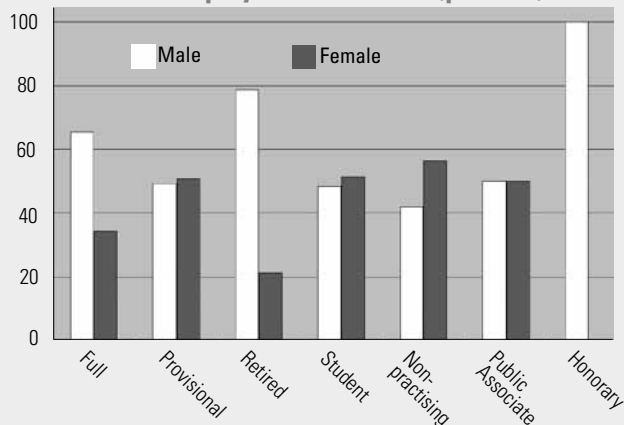


MEMBERSHIP BY CLASS AND SEX

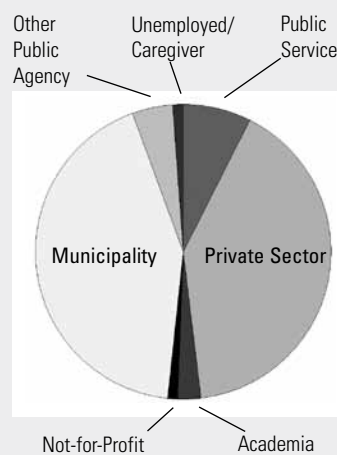
TABLE 2

	Male		Female		TOTAL
	No.	%	No.	%	
Full	1,496	65.6	784	34.4	2,280
Provisional	361	49.2	373	50.8	734
Retired	67	78.8	18	21.2	85
Student	294	48.4	313	51.6	607
Non-Practising	27	42.0	35	56.5	62
Public Assoc.	5	50.0	5	50.0	10
Honorary	2	100.0	0	0	2
TOTAL	2,252	59.6	1,528	40.4	3,780
Total (2008)	2,263	59.9	1,512	40.1	3,775
Total (2007)	2,194	61.8	1,354	38.2	3,548

Membership by Class and Sex (percent)

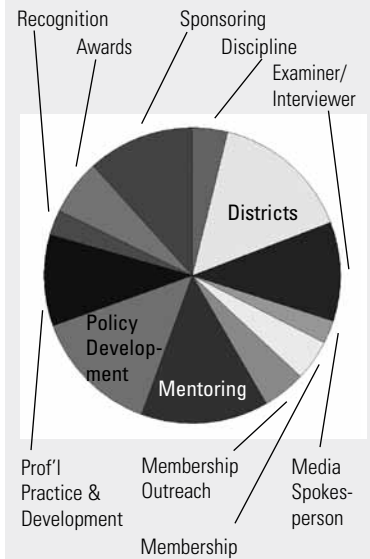


EMPLOYMENT CATEGORY



	Members
Ont./Can. Public Service	223
Private Sector	1,229
Academia	73
Not-for-Profit	34
Municipality	1,294
Other Public Agency	133
Unemployed/Caregiver	31
TOTAL	3,017

VOLUNTEER INTERESTS



	Members
Discipline	84
Districts	341
Examiner/Interviewer	243
Media Spokesperson	52
Membership	100
Membership Outreach	102
Mentoring	312
Policy Development	307
Professional Practice and Development	220
Recognition	63
Excellence in Planning Awards	135
Sponsoring a Provisional Member	259
TOTAL	2,218

Editorial

Collaboration—Adjusting to the New Normal

Glenn Miller

THE GLOOMY MOOD at Queen's Park will have been buoyed somewhat by the successful Pan Am Games bid that promises a new round of infrastructure investments in Toronto and adjacent municipalities. Like any massive financial undertaking these days, the \$1.4 billion price tag for the Games involves a partnership between the federal government, the province and affected local jurisdictions. With luck, the spirit of friendship embodied in the Pan Am motto will keep the parties focused on collaboration and getting the job done.

This is also an opportunity for all concerned to get used to the new reality. Nobody works on major initiatives alone any more. Whether the task is overcoming the infrastructure deficit or figuring out how to afford to build "complete communities"—with all that implies in terms of investing in the necessary physical and social infrastructure to create and operate well-rounded places—the new normal is collaboration on all fronts.

In the same week that the Premier suggested that there might be a need for wage cutbacks—Dalton Days—the province released its draft plan for the North. The plan is an ambitious 25-year vision that promises to maximize the economic benefit of increased mineral exploration and production, and strengthen the mineral industry cluster, while strengthening partnerships among colleges, universities and industry to support research and education. The plan also foresees a new relationship with Aboriginal people to increase participation in Northern Ontario's future growth and achieve better health status for aboriginal communities. There is also a strong emphasis on inter-regional transportation, enhanced broadband service, and a broader transmission network to increase capacity for renewable energy and other green

Letters

Editorial on project implementation hit the mark

THE EDITORIAL in the September/October 2009 issue provided great food for thought. I would like to start with what I sense would be a very interesting, lengthy debate on the central thesis of the commentary that planners are always trying to improve the planning process, without paying enough attention to how projects are implemented. I think this is right. The question now may be this: How can planners achieve a balance between the two?

Let me start by saying that

the debate on this great planning issue will be limited by two constraints. First, the issue is now a subject of litigation, so we have to be careful what we say. Second, during a typical construction or land development process, there will almost always be some disruption to surrounding activities, such as the one related to rapid transit development in Toronto, as mentioned in the editorial. So we should expect "minimal disruption" to business and other activities.

Beyond these two constraints, however, I suggest that any meaningful solution will have to address four key issues:

1. *Public good vs. private rights.*
How do we draw a line between the two? How should we conduct the valuation of

development. Land use is seen in a broader context of regional economic zones to help communities plan collaboratively for their economic, labour market, infrastructure, cultural and population needs.

Notwithstanding the spirit of optimism that pervades these announcements, the province faces severe challenges in 2010, beginning with the challenge of finding the financial resources to follow through on the unprecedented size of infrastructure commitments across the province. Another headache is the high level of unemployment and lost momentum in many small towns, particularly those that have traditionally depended on the auto sector. The fiscal health of Ontario's municipalities is delicate, to say the least.

What does this mean for the planning profession? As Alan Gummo suggests in his commentary on the recent conference, the time for planning by aphorism is past. Adjusting to the new normal requires that planners make every action count.

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

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the “greater good” in a manner that is fair to all the parties?

2. *Coordination of public policies and projects.* In Canada, as in other countries, the lack of “perfect knowledge” in the allocation of scarce resources in the urban arena spills over onto, and adversely affects, the smooth execution of projects by public authorities. Consequently, disruption to local services and businesses may be inevitable.
3. *Project management services.* Even if all planners, whether public or private, were experts in performing project management services, this will not guarantee a disruption-free construction process. This is because planners have been lukewarm in enforcing their development control powers upon their allies (such as engineers and architects), when it comes to public projects being sponsored by other ministries or government agencies. Each ministry or government agency tends to implement their own projects largely based on their own policies.
4. *Research findings.* One way forward would be the initiation, funding and execution of a major research project on this problem. Although a lot of research has been done on disparate aspects of project management, construction management, transportation, sustainability, and so forth, I doubt it very much if there are any significant research findings that specifically address the “planning problem of easing the pain of project implementation.” In my view, our universities or other research institutions should commission a large-scale research project on this problem. It would be a good idea if such a project could focus

attention on some real-life projects located close to commercial businesses as case studies, supported with predictive modeling that could be used for future project implementation by public and private contractors and developers alike.

—*Jacob Babarinde, PhD, MCIP, RPP, MRICS, Realtor, is Principal of JB Sustainability Consulting (Registered Professional Planners & Chartered Valuation Surveyors) in Mississauga.*

What about old downtown?

I RECENTLY ATTENDED the CIP/OPPI Conference in Niagara Falls. During my spare time I was able to venture to the old downtown. While there, a colleague and I bought some delicious baked goods from a local bakery and had a chance to visit Niagara Falls City Hall. While walking around old downtown, I was struck by the missed opportunity to incorporate old downtown in the conference, even if it was just advertising the local restaurants. While I’m sure that the evening out to Niagara-on-the-Lake was splendid, I am disappointed that there was not one workshop discussion, night out, or even advertisement for old downtown. The area could definitely have used some dollars from the hundreds of planners who descended on Niagara Falls.

—*Adam Lauder is a Policy Planner with the City of Waterloo.*

Journal bridges the gap for busy professionals

MY COMPLIMENTS on the two most recent editions of *The Journal*; the range of articles that report on thinking and experiences of practising planners in Ontario provides a unique resource to OPPI members.

Most practitioners are deluged with information on global trends delivered through such venerable journals such as the *Economist* and the *RTPI Magazine*. Such information presents us with challenges, but provides little help with solutions to fit the circumstances here in Ontario. Practising planners are constantly challenged by their employers or their clients, not just to identify problems but to offer practical solutions. *The Journal* is a major assistance in this regard as it provides a forum that allows practising planners in this province to learn from each other and thereby become better problem-solving professionals.

I applaud your forward-looking eclectic approach. Keep up the good work.

—*John Farrow, MCIP, RPP, is Chairman, LEA Group Holdings Inc., based in Markham, and a contributing editor.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If you have any comments, send your letters to:
editor@ontarioplanning.com

Opinion

OMB Shuts Out First Nations Input

Dave Stinson

OF LATE I have been reflecting on the increasingly turbulent world we live in. The credit crisis, peak oil, climate change, global poverty, impending food shortages, environmental refugees, etc., are all indicators of a new world to which we seem to be heading. If humanity is in the midst of a transition, what role should planners take in this evolution? There are some critics who feel that our profession does not always live up to its vocational aspirations and, on occasion, even contributes to these problems.

In fact, I attended an OPPI-sponsored training event earlier this year where a pre-

sender chided planners for their timid, even reactionary, stances towards community-building proposals . . . some that might even address these challenges. While it is true that the daily practice of planning does not always lean on inspiration, its absence can lead to obtuse results. This could be observed in a recent OMB hearing in which a condo project was approved over the objections of the municipal council and the local neighbourhood association.

The Board reportedly said that since archaeological concerns could be avoided, and that since traffic could be controlled, and that since the area was “intensifying”

anyway, the project could proceed. Despite the new “user-friendly” process, party status was denied an adjacent First Nation through a miscommunication. Their interest in the site, its artefacts, and the tacit agreement not to proceed without mutual consent was ignored.

The testimony bordered on the bizarre. Eight storey apartment buildings were described as “vertical cottages.” The project was deemed transit-ready by virtue of a single bus stop 1.8 kilometres away. A traffic signal on the down side of a bridge was proposed as access to a five lane road.

Within the project’s reliance on fiscal



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accounting, salesmanship, and engineering, the only planning that could be seen was a “by the numbers” justification of this proposal’s high-density sprawl, as an example of intensification.

But when the vision of a neighbourhood is ignored and the leadership of municipalities is dismissed, where do we turn to ensure the creation of great communities? The government is supposed to be legislating this, but after 20 years of planning reform great communities have yet to emerge. The OMB is supposed to be the arbitrator, but its mandate precludes any requirement for a great community. The municipalities are

.....
Great communities can no longer be happy accidents
.....

supposed to provide oversight, but their desire for growth often overlooks the essential characteristics of great communities. The developers are supposed to be building great communities, but their devotion to the “invisible hand” discounts any investment in a great community to zero within a generation.

Who is left—only the planners and the people? The “prime directive” of planning is to talk to those one is planning for. We bring the expertise; they bring the wisdom. The ensuing dialogue, though often difficult, is the basis for great communities. This is quickly becoming a necessity, not simply as a way to survive the aforementioned transition, but as a way to effect this transition. Great Communities can no longer be happy accidents, they must be deliberate choices.

Dave Stinson, MCIP, RPP, A.Ag., is a partner with Incite Planning in Orillia.



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Planning Futures

Your First Planning Job

Paul J. Bedford



How will they land their first job? Will their planning degree prepare them for the real world? What don't they know?

WHILE TEACHING URBAN and regional planning courses at the University of Toronto and Ryerson for the past five years, I have met many ambitious young planning students. After graduating, the most important thing on their mind is to land that all-important first planning job. This article will draw on advice from six of my former students to answer some questions.

How did they land their first job? How did it stack up? Did their planning degree prepare them for the real world? What didn't they know? What tips would they give to students now getting ready to graduate?

The six former students had all secured a permanent job in either the public or private sector. In some cases, they have already moved to a second job. They were Kirk Biggar, Town of Oakville; Lee Owens at Minto; Katie Hatoum and Geoffrey McGrath at R.E. Millward and Associates; Leigh Snyder (now McGrath) at Urban Strategies; and Jordan Harrison (now Erasmus) at the Ontario Realty Corporation. They all seem pleased with their experiences to date.

Landing that First Job and How it Stacked Up

Persistence, networking, talking to practising planners at social events, and attending the lecture circuit were all common strategies in job hunting. Making sure that your name becomes familiar to a prospective employer through ongoing contact leaves a strong impression that you are serious about becoming part of the organization.

Several students were diligent in following up with guest speakers at the university and not being shy about asking questions. Do your homework to find out about prospective employers, ask them about their vision for their organization, and follow up an initial contact over coffee. Learning from both good and bad interviews and admitting when you simply don't know the answer to a question conveys honesty. Your resume must be both truthful and capable of standing out among the hundreds of potential applicants for jobs. How do you do that? Seek feedback from professionals and former planning students on what makes a resume successful.

I remember landing my own first planning job in 1970. I was in graduate school in Illinois, intending to return to Canada after

graduation, so I subscribed to the *Globe and Mail* and *Toronto Telegram*. I found an ad for a junior planner in Surrey, B.C., that seemed appealing. I felt it would be a good experience to live and work in another part of the country, so I applied. I knew they would not fly me out for an interview, so scraped together the money for a return ticket myself. The gamble paid off, as they were impressed with my determination and I landed my first full-time job for the handsome salary of about \$10,000!

Adjusting to the Working World

For the most part, everyone seemed quite satisfied with their first employment experience. The keys to satisfaction include finding a mentor in the organization and being open to constant learning. Despite the wide difference in the nature of public- and private-sector employers, everyone was impressed with a diversity of work coming their way. Benefits were found working in a smaller environment, as this situation offers the opportunity to learn about many different aspects of planning work.

The importance of "fit" was also mentioned. I have always told my students not to be too picky about their first jobs, as there is a good chance of moving on after a few years of practical experience. Sometimes you know after a few months that the fit isn't right and can pursue other opportunities. It is worth the time and effort to get it right, and the experience is never wasted. The importance of knowing your true value as you negotiate a salary is an often forgotten piece of the first job experience. Do your homework so you do not short-change yourself.

While almost everyone found their graduate education in planning gave them the basic skills to perform the work, there was unanimous agreement that planning school did not provide the technical knowledge associated with interpreting a zoning by-law or an official plan or negotiating the development approval process. Learning on the job was universal. Time management skills learned in university were much appreciated, given the often hectic nature of working in the real world, but there was a desire for greater exposure to other disciplines that intersect with planning, such as engineering, architecture, the development industry, and politics.

Perhaps the most important observation was that you get hired as a planner because of your ability to think, write and solve problems. Employers generally don't expect you to know the details when starting your first job. They will train you and expect you to learn the ropes during that all-important first year.

Tips for Current Students

All six offered tips for students getting ready to graduate. What stands out is an all-consuming passion for learning and acquiring as much knowledge as you can about urban planning while you are still in school. Being willing to accept any opportunity to gain practical experience were all mentioned. This would include volunteering or taking in a controversial Ontario Municipal Board hearing or a city council meeting to see how planners cope with the demands of their jobs.

My advice is to think about what you bring to the job and to demonstrate your openness to learning and change. Change is the very essence of being a good planner, so make sure you practise what you preach.

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

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Environmental Assessment

Municipal Involvement in Approving Renewable Energy Projects: Is There Anything Left?

Tim Cane, Kelly Yerxa and Lorelie Spencer

BEFORE THE ENACTMENT of the *Green Energy and Green Economy Act* (GEGEA) on September 24, 2009, there were two primary approval processes for renewable energy facilities in Ontario.

Approvals issued by municipalities under the *Planning Act* provided the opportunity for local policies to be considered in concert with provincial approvals when determining the appropriateness of renewable energy facilities and potential land use conflicts.

Municipalities without specific policies regarding renewable energy facilities had to react to planning applications presented to them. In contrast, municipalities that established policies in advance of receiving applications were able to establish a basis for sound decision-making and set local expectations. Today, renewable energy facilities are subject only to the GEGEA.

The *Planning Act* was a very effective tool for the responsible siting of renewable energy facilities; however, the local planning approval process was often criticized as being too political, depending on a particular stakeholder's point of view.

The second process involved the application of the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

Enter the hybrid model for renewable energy approvals

The GEGEA was enacted to streamline the approvals for defined renewable energy facilities by consolidating the processes associated with the *Environmental Assessment Act* and *Planning Act* into a single Renewable Energy Approval (REA) issued under the *Environmental Protection Act* at the provincial level.

Ontario Regulation 359/09 set the ground rules and established three Classes of Renewable Energy Facilities, based on potential land use impacts:

- Classes considered to have a low probability of land use impacts will not require an REA.
- Classes of renewable energy projects considered to have some potential for land use

impacts will require a REA, but with reduced consultation and information requirements.

- Classes of renewable energy projects considered to have more potential for land use impacts will require a REA with full supporting information requirements.

To illustrate, a Class 1 Wind Energy Facility has a generation capacity of less than 3 kilowatts and will require no approvals at the local or provincial level. Such projects could have turbines on poles or towers of any height near property lines in urban areas (remember satellite dishes?).

Class 2 Wind Energy Facilities will have some expected land use impacts, being up to 30 metres tall with a 6-metre blade diameter, yet there is no requirement for consultation or noise assessment.

Municipal and stakeholder involvement in the REA process

While renewable energy projects will not be subject to planning approvals at the local level, municipal planners can expect to be on the front lines with members of the public and their councils. Since the traditional tools of the *Planning Act* are no longer available, both municipal and private planners must involve themselves in the new REA process (where it applies to a project), so an understanding of GEGEA is important.

It appears that the REA process will use the current Environmental Bill of Rights established to notify stakeholders about proposals and solicit input for consideration by MOE staff.

Just because the legislative authority is no longer there for municipalities, this does not mean there is not a role for active municipal participation in a process to ensure the completeness and accuracy of REA applications, while demonstrating to MOE land use matters of local importance. Municipalities and their planners also have credible experience and expertise when dealing with land use matters that MOE should consider as part of any application process.

Municipalities need to examine their new roles within the GEGEA process and define how they can participate in the process. Municipalities should consider marrying any renewable energy policies and zoning provisions with documents currently in their own libraries, particularly when dealing with projects under the GEGEA process.

For example, municipalities, regardless of their size, have typically adopted engineering standards that deal with the development of infrastructure within the municipality. Municipalities should consider integrating any relevant official plan policies and zoning by-law provisions with their Engineering Standards to create a set of specific guidelines for renewable energy projects. Ideally, municipalities should amend their engineering standards to address all types and classes of renewable energy projects under the GEGEA. The document should include specific road standards required to support the construction and placement of such facilities based on size and scale, standards related to transmission lines, project access, and specifications for project components to be located within municipal rights-of-way. The document should also include municipal requirements to be addressed as part of any emergency and construction management plans for the project.

Municipalities may also wish to create specific protocols to deal with renewable energy project applications (similar to what some have done with telecommunication facilities). For example, although a project may require pre-consultation, municipalities might consider devising a protocol with specific criteria for renewable energy proponents, such as advance notice of pre-consultation intentions and requiring the provision of documents and materials for viewing at municipal offices.

Municipalities are likely to continue as the first source of contact for residents concerned with projects proposed in their neighbourhood, so defining the expectations of the municipality provides all stakeholders with the guidance necessary to deal with the GEGEA applications.

Small and micro-scale projects present different issues. If an REA is not required, these renewable energy systems can be placed on properties with no consideration for setbacks or height restrictions. Obviously this will lead to compatibility issues, particularly in urban residential areas. But what else is new in the post-*Planning Act* world?

Provincial tools left in the municipal legislative toolbox

The Building Code Act, 1992 and the Building Code

If the renewable energy project or the struc-



PHOTO: STEVE HOWE

Encouraging renewable energy will take ingenuity

ture housing the project is a building, as defined in the *Building Code Act*, then it will require a building permit.

Additionally, renewable energy projects defined in the Regulation and requiring an REA will fall under applicable law. That means that the chief building official is not required to issue a building permit for a renewable energy project without proof of a complete and approved REA. Therefore municipalities might consider adding new steps in the complete building permit application list, such as requiring a description and the nature of the renewable energy project or determining whether an REA is required, and if so, requiring a copy of the application, all or some of the reports submitted with the REA application, and the MOE approval.

The Municipal Act, 2001

The Act has given municipalities broader and more expansive powers (for example, see sections 2, 10 and 11). These include the ability to regulate for the economic, social and environmental well-being of the municipality and the health, safety and well-being of persons; protection of persons

and property; and the authority to pass by-laws regulating structures, including fences and signs.

Municipalities could use these broad powers to regulate renewable energy projects, particularly those not required to obtain an REA, such as Class 1 wind power projects and Class 1 and 2 solar power projects.

A municipality can regulate, if the applicant can comply with the by-law and the provincial regulatory process and the by-law does not frustrate the intent of the GEGEA.

A municipality may be able to enact a by-law to license or regulate classes that are not subject to the REA process. The by-law would have to be enacted for a municipal purpose, such as the regulation of a local nuisance, which could include noise, odour, vibration, glare, reflection, and shadow flicker. This approach could be taken under the broad powers referred to above or sections 128 and 129 of the *Municipal Act*, provided that the regulatory requirements do not prohibit these projects, or conflict with or frustrate the purpose of the GEGEA.

Such a licensing system could set location and siting limits for the non-REA projects. It could require the filing of: shadow/glare

and noise studies; construction plans, certified by an engineer; operational plans; decommissioning plans and securities; and monitoring plans. Finally, a municipality may impose fees related to licensing or permitting non-REA classes of projects. Municipalities can also likely impose fees for consultation on an REA project (section 391).

Ontario Heritage Act – What's old is new again
One component of the cultural planning process is the protection of heritage resources that underpin local identity and cultural heritage. These resources may either be Built Heritage Resources or Cultural Heritage Landscapes.

The *Ontario Heritage Act* was not affected by the GEGEA. Section 19 of the Regulation requires the written authorization of a person or body for properties subject to heritage agreements, covenants, and easements in addition to properties designated under the act. For the most part, this means that if a municipality passed a by-law to protect heritage resources under the act, then the written authorization of that municipality will be required prior to issuing an REA.

In addition, written authorization is required for Interim Control established by Subsection 40.1(2) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The purpose of Interim Control under the act is to protect the integrity of an area while a heritage conservation study is under way and there is a clear and immediate threat to the integrity of that area. Interim Control can prohibit or set limitations for new construction or alterations for a maximum period of one year.

The end is not near

In closing, the demise of the *Planning Act* with respect to renewable energy facilities does not mean that there is no longer an opportunity for professional planners to contribute to better land use outcomes. Instead, planners, municipalities and stakeholders must look to tools available under not only the GEGEA but other legislative frameworks. Participation in the REA, together with exploring other legislative processes, will mean that planners and municipalities can be a positive influence on the establishment of green energy in Ontario.

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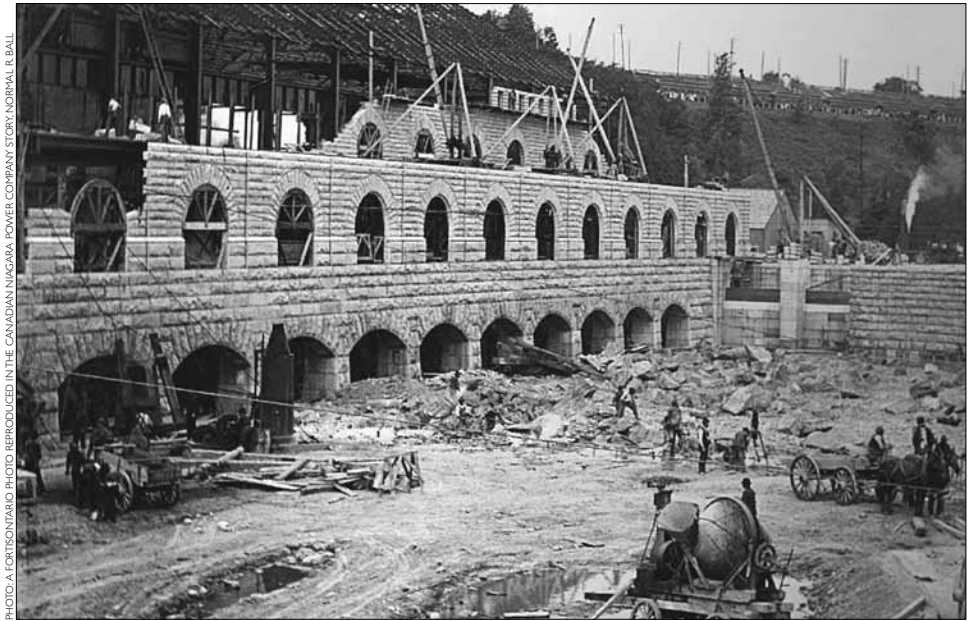


PHOTO: A FORTSONTARIO PHOTO REPRODUCED IN THE CANADIAN NIAGARA POWER COMPANY STORY, NORVAL, R. BALL.

Heritage sites like this one in Niagara produced renewable energy for decades

26 / IN PRINT

Positive Development: From Vicious Circles to Virtuous Cycles Through Built Environmental Design

Tom Slomke finds this a “must read,” and awards Birkeland a Green Thumbs Up

Reviewed by Tom Slomke

THE TITLE WAS INTRIGUING and it lived up to my expectations. Dedicated to her ancestors, family and progeny, the lawyer-architect-planner-educator-author has given us much food for thought as well as witty comebacks. She has changed my thinking.

Professor Birkeland begins with the premise that not all development is bad. Some environmentalists begin with the premise that nature is good and all development degrades the natural. Planners try to “ameliorate” the negative impacts. Birkeland says that with good design, development (buildings and site improvements) can offer positive ecological contributions such as energy generation, oxygen production, and contributions to the water cycle. That development can be positive remains the hardest part of her argument to accept. But what if she is right?

If development can be positive, why, as planners, should we settle for LEED buildings, which are simply “less bad” than conventional buildings? She advocates that planners undertake an assessment of what a proposed

site currently contributes to ecology as the starting point for assessing impact, not a “standard building.” If a currently vacant site contributes to water management, oxygen generation, solar reception, the new use and buildings should contribute the same or more after completion. Otherwise, we could never approach sustainability, we would only become “less bad” for every marginal unit of development constructed.

Although her examples of positive development are weak, her approach to assessment is strong. For example, when we as planners advocate for intensified redevelopment of our urban and suburban environments, we should consider the embedded energy included in the existing buildings that could be lost through demolition, and the energy requirements to manufacture the new building materials needed for the “improvement.” This

Author: Janis Birkeland; Publisher: Earthscan, London and Sterling, VA; Year: 2008; ISBN 978-1-84407-578-2; www.earthscan.co.uk

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approach gives waste management new dimensions.

As an architect, she advocates for custom design for each project instead of a cookie-cutter template approach. Fair enough.

As a lawyer (with a "libertarian socialist" bent, aiming to distribute power and freedom more equitably throughout society), she professes that "no one has the right to pollute" and that "environmental degradation" by some limits freedom for all.

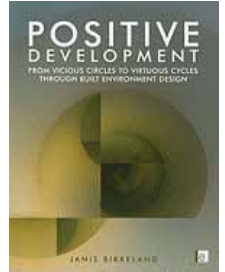
The book is written in a question-and-answer format, which can become monotonous at times; however, it gives her the opportunity to drive home her points. Further, the technique proves useful when the reader wishes to use the thoughts and ideas.

Her wit and sarcasm towards conventional thinking on city building is worth the price of the book. Any Green Party contender would find a wealth of quotable statements on the follies of the past and the wisdom of the green way.

The ideas are enhanced with valuable glossaries, notes, bibliography, insights and tips on the achievement of Positive Development.

Sustainable Development is not enough and an Environmental Revolution is needed. While reading this book, there were nights when I couldn't sleep, as my mind was racing with environmental guilt and planning concepts to seek my redemption.

Tom Slomke, MCIP, RPP, is a planner with 35 years of experience, now working for the Region of Peel as Director of Development Planning Services.



Correction

A book review in the September/October issue (2007) neglected to credit Nikki Chamula as the reviewer. We apologize for this oversight.

Anthony Usher Planning Consultant

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