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# Queen's launches healthy communities stream

By Dave Gordon

PHOTO COURTESY DAVID GORDON

Last year, we reported to *OPJ* readers about the broad range of research underway from faculty and graduate students at the Queen's School of Urban and Regional Planning (SURP). Much of this research is available to OPPI members and the public through our website [www.queensu.ca/surp](http://www.queensu.ca/surp). This year, we would like to describe some exciting changes to our master of planning (MPL) curriculum: more international engagement and a concentration in health and social planning.

The school's academic strategy is for its MPL degree to be closely aligned with Canadian professional practice, while continuing to have a faculty-supervised thesis or research report. We have updated our popular concentrations in environmental services and land use planning /real estate. However, modern professional practice is evolving, so we are focusing our human services stream on social planning and healthy communities. This move takes advantage of opportunities to collaborate with other strong Queen's programs in the School of Policy Studies, Master of Public Health, School of Kinesiology and Health Studies, School of Medicine and Department of Geography.

This new planning stream is being led by Dr. Leela Viswanathan, MCIP, RPP, and Dr. Patricia Collins. Leela is a social planner with interests in health and immigration issues. Patricia is an urban health geographer who has joined the school following her PhD from Simon Fraser and a post-doctorate appointment at McMaster in population health. She already offers new courses in Health and the Built Environment and Healthy Communities and will be working with the School of Kinesiology and Health Studies and the Master of Public Health program in the upcoming year. Dr. Ajay Agarwal has also developed a new course in transportation for healthy and sustainable communities.

SURP's project course to Shanghai, China was the year's international highlight, as described in Simona Rasanu's article in this issue. Student response was so enthusiastic that this fall's course in Pondicherry, India, led by Ajay, has already been fully subscribed.

There was other good news on the international exchange front as Queen's continues to expand its relationships with other planning schools and government institutions. Our China Projects Office continues to coordinate research and training with our Chinese partners under the leadership of professors Hok-Lin Leung, FCIP, RPP (RET.) and John Meligrana, MCIP, RPP. Two graduate students

are interning in Beijing this summer, and others will travel to Amsterdam, Bogota and Helsinki through our popular International Experience Awards programs.

We have made exchange agreements with the University of Western Australia (UWA) in Perth, AU, and the University of Otago in Dunedin, NZ. Kevin House went on exchange to Perth in January 2011 and Queen's hosted three UWA and Otago planning students in fall 2011. SURP student Sarah Bingham is currently on exchange at the Australian Urban Design Research Institute, and four SURP students are in process for spring 2013 exchanges.

Travel should begin at home, so the entire first-year class went on field trips to Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto in its first six weeks at Queen's. We particularly appreciated the opportunity to attend OPPI's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference in October. Our second-year students had a choice of four project courses led by planners Cheryl Brouillard (City of Ottawa), David Jackson (Social Planning Council), Julie Salter-Keane (City of Kingston) and Daniel Shipp (City of Kingston).

SURP students enjoyed many paid professional internships in 2011 and 2012. Despite the economic recession, almost every first-year student obtained a paid internship, and most of the graduating class had secured planning jobs by the end of the summer. Once again, the students had opportunities in many communities from the Atlantic provinces to B.C. It looks like the summer of 2012 will be equally good, despite increasing budget constraints across all levels of government. We appreciate the loyal support of our partners from the public and private sectors.

We look forward to seeing many OPPI members when the students and faculty travel to Markham for the OPPI's conference in October, but in the meantime please download our newsletter ([www.queensu.ca/surp/newsletters/index.html](http://www.queensu.ca/surp/newsletters/index.html)) or follow SURP on Twitter (#QueensSURP) or LinkedIn.

*Dr. David Gordon, MCIP, RPP, AICP, is professor and director of the School of Urban and Regional Planning at Queen's University. A new edition of his textbook *Planning Canadian Communities* (co-authored with Gerald Hodge) will be available in early 2013.*

**Above: Graduate students at the School of Urban and Regional Planning have many opportunities to visit other cities. This group was touring the ByWard market with Ottawa urban designer Charles Lanktree.**

COVER PHOTOS COURTESY ARTHUR LO, M. KOZLOWSKI, PAUL HESS, CLARENCE WOODSMA, GERDA WERKERLE, WAYNE CALDWELL

Inaugural International Planning Course

# Planning in Shanghai

By *Simona Rasanu*

**D**ecember 2011, Professor John Meligrana, MCIP, RPP, a Chinese guide/interpreter, eight other Queen’s University planning students—Johannes Bendle, Kyle Gonyou, Kevin Jarus, Arthur Lo, Carolyn Skoworodko, Tara Spears, Sharlad Sukumaran and Marisa Talarico and I—embarked on an intensive two-week field trip to Shanghai and its urban-rural periphery. This included the nearby historic city of Suzhou in Jiangsu Province. The Shanghai Metropolitan Area, a region of over 20-million people, is experiencing rapid urban growth and development. It faces enormous planning challenges, including preservation of some of the world’s most productive agricultural land while managing intensive urban development and a deteriorating natural environment.

Masters students at Queen’s University School of Urban and Regional Planning complete a project course during the second year of the program where they act like consultants on real planning projects and use the knowledge and skills learned in courses to prepare professional reports for local agencies. Professor Meligrana, who has an ongoing research interest in Chinese planning and governance issues, decided to develop an international course to expose students to land use, socioeconomic and environmental ideas and challenges in the Shanghai Metropolitan Area. He partnered with a number of Chinese government and academic officials, including Dr. Zhiyao Zhang, coordinator of Queen’s University’s China Liaison Office located at Shanghai’s Fudan University, a leading Chinese university.

The Queen’s delegation met with Shanghai government officials, private developers and urban planners, as well as Chinese university professors and students at three universities—Fudan, Tongji and Soochow. It also conducted site visits to demonstration projects in

environmental planning, organic agriculture and new town development.

Information gathered through field trips was supplemented by extensive background reading to create professional reports and a photo album for two Chinese partner organizations—World Wildlife Fund Shanghai Office and the Chinese Ministry of Land and Resources—as well as the Canadian Institute of Planners.

## Balancing urban development and agricultural preservation

Agricultural land is a limited resource and its preservation as a means of maintaining food security is the main objective of Chinese land use planning.<sup>1</sup> The Land Use Master Plan and the Annual Land Use Plan, which are the main tools used to protect agricultural land, are based on a quota system to control the amount of rural land that can be converted to urban land. The goal is to achieve a “dynamic balance” where there is no overall loss of farmland.<sup>2</sup> However, in spite of the efforts being made by the Ministry of Land and Resources to protect agricultural lands, the system faces two major challenges.

First, the country’s existing land classification system does not protect the most valuable farmland by failing to include measures of quality. Second, local government leaders have difficulties balancing agricultural protection and economic growth, resulting in the excessive conversion of rural agricultural lands to urban development lands that contributes to inefficient land use. This has encouraged the practice of land misclassification and the ‘swapping’ of fertile lands for non-fertile lands in an attempt to get around quota limits for land conversions. Since incorporating measures of land quality will enable Chinese planners to prioritize the preservation of lands deemed to have high agricultural potential, we encouraged ministry officials to review an important Canadian land quality classification tool—Canada Land Inventory. The inventory is a national agricultural land classification hierarchy that rates the productivity potential of agricultural lands on a scale of one to seven based on soil quality.<sup>3</sup> Adopting a similar system would allow Chinese officials to identify and protect areas of high agricultural potential.

While the scale of the problem may be different, Canada is also having difficulty preserving agricultural land in high-demand areas,



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTHUR LO

Queen’s planning project team and passersby in front of Shanghai’s skyline (December 10, 2011). Back Row (L to R): Kevin Jarus, Carolyn Skoworodko, Johannes Bendle. Middle Row (L to R): Dr. John Meligrana, Tara Spears, Sharlad Sukumaran, Marisa Talarico, Kyle Gonyou. Front Row (L to R): Arthur Lo, Simona Rasanu, Yun Zhang



including the Greater Toronto Area in Ontario and the Lower Mainland in British Columbia. Although Canada could also be more proactive in protecting its agricultural lands at the regional level, we highlighted the British Columbia Agricultural Land Reserve managed by the Agricultural Land Commission as an example of a successful provincial agricultural zoning program.<sup>4</sup> We suggested that the adoption of a similar system in China based on the identification of high-value agricultural land may be able to reduce the loss of productive agricultural lands and allow for the development of less valuable lands, thereby satisfying the often competing objectives of agricultural protection and economic growth.

### Environmental Challenges and Opportunities

It is well known that China, and in particular urban areas like Shanghai, are facing significant environmental challenges as a result of rapid industrialization, increasing urbanization and a large population. However, one of the surprising things we learned while conducting background research for the trip is that the country has one of the most advanced environmental protection frameworks of any developing nation.<sup>5</sup> National leaders currently emphasize sustainability and attempt to balance continued economic growth with the desire to improve environmental quality.<sup>6</sup>

An important environmental milestone was the 1989 *Environmental Protection Law*, which outlined a variety of regulations to be implemented by local governments, including discharge permits, environmental impact assessments and reporting systems.<sup>6</sup> This legislation set a precedent by placing the onus of environmental protection on local governments, a fact that remains constant to this day. This highlights one of the main challenges in implementing Chinese environmental policy: much of the responsibility often falls to ill-equipped and insufficiently-funded local governments.

Although the civic and non-governmental sector is still in its infancy in China, its influence is increasing.<sup>7</sup> Non-governmental organizations can play an important educational role and assist with the implementation of new environmental legislation. For example, we visited Mooyuu Farm on Shanghai's Chongming Island, a demonstration site for organic family practices managed by a new NGO, the Good Earth Foundation. We also visited the Dalian Lake and Dongtan Wetland Park source water protection pilot projects managed by the World Wildlife Fund Shanghai office. Our team recommended that buy-in from local governments and the support of local citizens is required to transform such demonstration projects into full-scale initiatives that can have a wider impact. Indeed, collaboration between NGOs and local governments can be a mutually beneficial relationship over the long-term—NGOs can demonstrate the efficacy of environmental initiatives and local governments can adopt and support successful projects.

### Strengthening the relationship between Canadian and Chinese planning

In addition to gaining international exposure to land use and environmental ideas in this cosmopolitan megacity, our team also wanted to strengthen the relationship between the Chinese and Canadian professional planning communities. For example, in 2002 the Canadian Institute of Planners and the Ministry of Land and Resources developed a collaborative agreement and the following year a delegation of CIP planners undertook the first advisory mission to China under the agreement.<sup>8</sup> The Queen's delegation wanted to build on the findings of this advisory mission, focusing

specifically on planning education and professional accreditation in China. The country is very receptive to Western planning ideas and wants to better inform its planners by seeking foreign planning expertise, while CIP wants to increase its international stature as the national voice of the Canadian planning profession.

While visiting a Shanghai planning and design consulting company whose foreign-trained employees comprised 30 per cent of its staff, we were advised that foreign education is viewed very favourably, and that international planning institutions should play a larger role in China. As demonstration projects are widely used to test new planning ideas, one of our team's recommendations to CIP was that it should identify opportunities for Canadian and Chinese planners, represented by the Urban Planning Society of China, to collaborate on demonstration projects that test some of the recommendations generated from CIP advisory missions.

Despite the different planning context, the Queen's delegation found that many of the challenges facing Canada and China are quite similar. However, since planning is highly political, we recommended that officials draw upon foreign expertise and international best practices, where appropriate, but focus on improving inter-governmental cooperation and develop "home-grown" solutions to planning problems.

### A final word...

The Queen's delegation had an amazing time interacting with Shanghai officials and residents, and exploring its sights, sounds and culinary delights. We were honoured to take part in SURP's inaugural international project course and to set the stage for future courses in China and elsewhere. Indeed, another international course in fall 2012 to India is currently being planned.

*Simona Rasanu is a Masters of Planning candidate at Queen's University. She can be reached at [simona.rasanu@queensu.ca](mailto:simona.rasanu@queensu.ca).*

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# Opportunities and challenges

By Jennifer Wood

One of the key means of realizing a healthier community is through municipal land use policies. An official plan can establish a vision for a more livable community, one that provides opportunities for residents to live actively, recreate locally and access healthy foods.

Having recently examined Kingston's official plan for my Master's report, I have learned that there are numerous challenges planners face in enabling healthy built environments, even when the concepts are present within the policy document.

Official plan policies can promote active transportation by providing appropriate and safe bicycle infrastructure, enhancing sidewalks and walkways, and encouraging a traditional grid street pattern. Allowing for a mix of uses and compact development can enable residents to live, work and play locally. Providing parks and open spaces can facilitate both organized and informal recreation, while also enhancing the visual attractiveness of an area. Supporting convenient access to healthy food retailers by foot, bicycle, transit and automobile can also contribute to an improved quality of life.

Kingston's official plan contains many of these concepts; however, city staff and politicians indicate there are several barriers to achieving these positive outcomes. As a medium-sized city, Kingston has only a small pool of developers. While some are open to implementing design features that can enable healthy living in new developments, others are more interested in the bottom line and therefore strongly oppose putting in additional infrastructure (i.e., more sidewalks, neighbourhood pathways, etc.).

Another challenge that Kingston faces, which other medium-sized, older cities may similarly experience, is inherent in the process of retrofitting older neighbourhoods to accommodate

infrastructure supportive of active transportation. Older streets tend to be narrow, making it difficult to incorporate sidewalks on both sides of the street, as well as bicycle lanes and a transit right-of-way.

Having amalgamated in 1998, the City of Kingston is working towards consolidating five older zoning by-laws. While this process has yet to be completed, the city's official plan has already been updated to provide strategic direction for the new City of Kingston. This is problematic because the existing zoning by-laws do not match the direction in this newer official plan. Thus, the legal mechanism used to implement the vision of the official plan does not consistently achieve its development goals, including those that promote healthy built environments.

If Kingston, as well as other municipalities experiencing similar challenges, hopes to enhance the livability of its communities, other strategies are required to complement official plan policies. Developer education and exposure to profitable development practices that also promote improved quality of life for residents may be useful. Public consultation can help to prioritize infrastructure investments that promote active transportation in older neighbourhoods. Most importantly healthy community concepts found in official plan policies must be reflected in zoning by-laws.

*Jennifer Wood, recipient of the Sue Cumming Scholarship, will soon be completing her Masters degree in Planning at Queen's University. A student member of OPPI, she has recently started as a student planner at FoTenn Consultants Inc. in Kingston.*



Jennifer Wood

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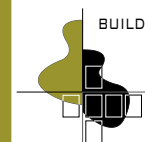
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## Looking back and planning ahead

*Christopher De Sousa and Abby Besharah*

**T**he School of Urban and Regional Planning at Ryerson University continues to be busy building a community of informed and engaged planning professionals. Both the undergraduate and graduate programs strive to develop the professional skills needed for planning practice. Our students focus extensively on critical thinking, communication skills, research methods, and preparedness to work in the diverse social context of city regions.

Being in the downtown core of Canada's largest city and a block away from the country's busiest intersection offers faculty and students the advantage of using this dynamic urban environment as a virtual classroom. The school itself is located in a heritage building rehabilitated to meet LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold standards. The university is also an active city builder, launching its Master Plan in 2006 and undertaking an array of projects aimed at improving student life and making the downtown core an even more vibrant place. Our location in the heart of Toronto means that students have excellent access to a rich set of studio and placement experiences, as well as to practitioners and policy makers involved in making critical planning decisions.

It has been a busy year at the school for faculty. It was my sincere privilege to join the school as director last summer. Returning to the city I grew up in and have always called home only intensifies my desire to maintain and enhance the program so that our students continue to be inspired and capable of affecting change throughout the region. My research focuses on various aspects of brownfield redevelopment, urban environmental management, and sustainability reporting in Canada and the U.S. I am currently in the final stages of a five-year, multi-university, collaborative research project funded by the US Environmental Protection

Agency examining best management practices in sustainable brownfields redevelopment. That said I am chomping at the bit to renew my Canadian brownfields work.

The school has also just hired Dr. Raktim Mitra who is trained in land use and transportation planning, GIS, and quantitative methods. His current research explores the relationship between the built environment, mobility behaviour and urban health, focusing particularly on children and youth. His work has also involved urban growth and travel patterns in the GTHA, so in addition to training our students on this important topic, we look forward to having him bring some sound research to enlighten Toronto's increasingly chaotic transportation debate.

Our core faculty continue to be very active in teaching, research and practice. Indeed, these are exciting times for the planning profession in terms of the rapid expansion of ideas and actions that link economic, social, and environmental realms in an effort to improve the quality of urban life. Our Graduate Program Director, Sandeep Agrawal, MCIP, RPP, was appointed as an adjudicator on the Toronto Licensing Tribunal. His research focuses on the transformative impact of immigration, ethnicity and religion on urban landscapes, and he recently received an India Studies Fellowship from the Shastri Institute to conduct research in India while on sabbatical this coming year. Lawrence Altrows is currently the board chair of Elspeth Heyworth Centre for Women, a non-profit organization devoted to providing social

**Ryerson SURP Expo organized by the Ryerson Association of Planning Students (RAP). Back row (L to R): Julian Howatt, Shannon Kaloczi, Laura Young, Dr. Luna Khirfan (University of Waterloo), Josephine Cusumano, Dr. Mitchell Kosny MCIP, RPP, Chris DeSousa (Director, Ryerson University School of Planning), Maria Doyle. Front row (L to R): Matt Kavanaugh, Justin Shin, Abby Besharah**



and counselling services to women in the Downsview community and the City of Vaughan. David Amborski's, MCIP, RPP, research on Land Value Capture Tools to finance public infrastructure has a number of policy applications that are detailed in a working paper being prepared for the Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance at the Munk Centre.

Ron Keeble, MCIP, RPP, was honoured by the Ontario Professional Planners Institute with a scholarship in his name—the Ron Keeble Undergraduate Scholarship was established “in recognition of his outstanding and extraordinary dedication, volunteer commitment and leadership in advancing and upholding the standards, practices and ethics of the planning profession in Ontario.” Mitchell Kosny, MCIP, RPP, Associate Director of the School, maintains his work with Ryerson's G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education to develop a new program in Community Engagement, Leadership and Development. Nina-Marie Lister, MCIP, RPP, continues to engage with Harvard University's Graduate School of Design on her Critical & Projective Ecologies Project. She has recently been appointed a Senior Scholar at the Center for Humans and Nature in Chicago, which involves contributing to the centre's dialogue on “Big Questions” related to the interactions between humans and nature. Ron Pushchak's, MCIP, RPP (RET.), has been actively working on research projects related to health risk assessments for new nuclear power projects in Ontario and the development of real-time bio-monitoring systems for municipal water supplies.

Pamela Robinson, MCIP, RPP, carries on with her interesting SSCRC research exploring municipal response to climate change and evaluating the potential of web tools to engage on the issue of climate change. She was recently presented with an award for research and another for teaching from Ryerson University. Dr. Joseph Springer, MCIP, RPP, is just wrapping up his sabbatical, during which he conducted research in the areas of race and the provision of services to the poor and homeless. Steven Webber's, MCIP, RPP, current research is examining the impacts of urban intensification on residential and employment land use change. He is also analyzing the factors contributing to sprawl and evaluating the planning responses adopted to mitigate undesired impacts. Dr. Zhixi Cecilia Zhuang, MCIP, RPP, spent the year conducting funded research on emerging suburban ethnic retail clusters and corridors in the Greater Toronto Area to assess their impacts on existing neighbourhoods.

The school continues to be fortunate to have the involvement of an outstanding roster of part-time faculty, including professors emeriti Jim Mars, MCIP, RPP, and Beth Milroy, FCIP, RPP (RET.). Last fall, former Mars city councillor Kyle Rae was appointed as a

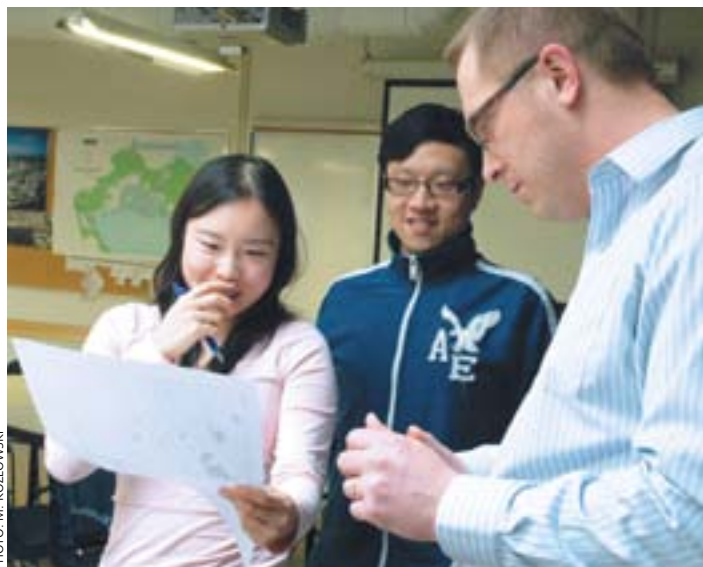


PHOTO: M. KOZLOWSKI

Ryerson SURP Expo 2012

Distinguished Urban Expert in the School and he has been actively involved with many of our studio groups throughout the year. Other excellent and inspiring part-time faculty at the school this past year include: Paul Bedford, FCIP, RPP, (former City of Toronto chief planner), Nancy Alcock (formerly senior policy advisor to ministers of Public Infrastructure Renewal, Municipal Affairs, Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat and the Ontario SuperBuild Corporation), Craig Binning (partner/leader of the municipal finance practice at Hemson Consultants), Don Verbanac, MCIP, RPP, (project manager with SGA-IBI Architects), Carlo Bonanni, MCIP, RPP, (Build Toronto planning director), Rei Tasaka (planningAlliance urban designer), Tom Ostler, MCIP, RPP, (former City of Toronto research and innovation manager), John Fraser (Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation program director), Eileen Costello and Leo Longo (partners, Aird & Berlis municipal and land use planning group); Frank Miele (Municipality of Meaford CAO), Ian Lord and Kim Mullin (partners, Weir Foulds), Jason Burke (Ph.D. Candidate), Ed Segalowitz (UJA Federation of Greater Toronto corporate affairs chief), Robert Doumani and Patrick Harrington (partners, Aird & Berlis), Raziieh Rezazadeh (Iran University of Science and Technology, School of Architecture and Environmental Design assistant professor) and Marni Cappe, FCIP, RPP, (Canadian Institute of Planners president and Canadian Urban Institute senior associate). This coming academic year will also bring many new part-time faculty, including Anne Golden who has been appointed Ryerson University distinguished visiting scholar and special advisor and will be teaching a course in the fall.

Ryerson students were also very busy this year tapping into everything the school has to offer. Undergraduate and graduate planning studios this year engaged in a variety of projects that explored areas such as building community capacity in mixed-use neighbourhoods, creating employment land master plans and social asset mapping, just to name a few. Our studio projects provide real-world experience in producing timely and comprehensive reports, working with and presenting findings to a client, as well as the ever-important learning experience of working with a diverse group of peers. Student field trips, mandatory for third and fourth year students, also provided an opportunity to study planning on-the-ground, to meet planners in other cities and to bond with classmates. Our graduate students



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# Participation

By Abby Besharah

**M**aking the most of their summer vacations, students are not likely thinking about ways they can add value to their education. Some are worrying about securing employment, and others are excitedly shuffling papers at their intern desks. No matter where they are, it should be no secret that the best way to achieve a value-added education is through participation.

Reflecting on the journey to become a planner, I have discovered that connections—linking ideas, solving problems and networking—bind the metaphorical book of a student’s planning experience. This realization has come through the addition of volunteer work with academic and professional organizations alongside the more formal aspects of my education. This level of involvement has been of mutual benefit. I learn and expand my networks while exploring my interests and ways I can engage the profession.



Abby Besharah

Discovery and ingenuity are the vernacular of planning students and I am proud to be counted among them. I have been granted the opportunity to work with motivated groups of planning students at Ryerson University, and with the OPPI Student Liaison Committee. Working with these aspiring planners, I have seen their skills develop and their interests expand.

The controlled environment and diverse set of actors at university provide a supportive arena to build our capacity to collaborate, negotiate, listen and manage a project. We are granted the advantage of practicing professional skills while being able to make mistakes and discover how our personal value systems can be employed within the profession. Thankfully, a culture of collaboration and continuous learning in the planning profession makes it easy for students to identify a cause, an organization, or specialization that they are excited about.

Building working relationships outside of the curriculum requirements has allowed me to appreciate the complexities of planning. I have been able to discover opportunities and resources that keep me interested and thinking critically about the intersection of theory and its application in practice. Interacting with my peers and future colleagues, I see a principled generation of planners being cultivated by an active and supportive profession.

I write this, sharing my observations, in part as love letter to my future career and in part to stress the opportunities available for a student to get involved. I encourage students to take an active role in their education, and see what connections they can make by getting involved.

*Abby Besharah has completed her third year of an undergraduate degree in Urban & Regional Planning at Ryerson University. She is the outgoing 2010-2012 Ryerson University OPPI Student Representative and recipient of the 2012 OPPI Ronald M. Keeble Undergraduate Scholarship. Abby was recently elected to serve as CIP’s Student Delegate.*

just returned from an exciting field trip to Chicago and last fall undergraduate groups visited Cincinnati, New York, Chicago, Montreal and Northern Ontario. We are in the midst of preparing trips for fall 2012, with groups going to Glasgow, Peru, Philadelphia, Quebec, Washington and Boston.

One of the most exciting events at the school this past year was the Ryerson SURP Expo organized by the Ryerson Association of Planning Students (RAPS). The student organizers secured many wonderful speakers for the event. RAPS, which also organized a regular lecture series during the year, focussed the bulk of its energy on the Expo in order to provide inspiring lectures and practical activities like resume and networking workshops. There were also concurrent workshops on issues such as facilitation and transportation planning.

Speaker events included a keynote presentation by Ed Sajecki, Mississauga commissioner of planning and building, who offered a stimulating lecture on municipal policy makers, movers and shakers. A panel discussion on public-private partnerships with Matti Siemiatycki, MCIP, RPP, from the University of Toronto, Derek Goring from Infrastructure Ontario and Sheila Penny from Toronto Lands Corporation captivated the audience with a well-rounded discussion on the benefits and challenges of public-private partnerships. Michael Shapcott from the Wellesley Institute delivered a thought provoking lecture on the social history of Canada and the state of affordable housing in Toronto. Dr. Luna Khirfan from the University of Waterloo presented her research on heritage preservation and pressures of tourism in the Middle East. She showed examples of heritage sites that many may never have the chance to visit; and spoke about challenges that historic cities experience in contemporary society. For the most anticipated event, RAPS was honoured with a City of Toronto panel comprising former chief planner Gary Wright, MCIP, RPP, Waterfront Toronto Design Review Panel member Paul Bedford, FCIP, RPP, and as moderator former city councillor, Ward 27, Kyle Rae. The panel offered a very candid and engaging discussion of waterfront development and city-building, as well as humorous commentary on Toronto politics. The EXPO was such a success that we hope to turn it into an annual event.

All in all, it was an exciting and eventful year at the school. Already we are deep into planning activities for next year in an effort to keep raising the bar. Have a wonderful summer.

*Dr. Christopher De Sousa, MCIP, RPP, is director and associate professor at the Ryerson University School of Urban and Regional Planning. Abby Besharah is entering her fourth year and is finishing her term as the school’s OPPI student representative.*



2011 New York Field trip

PHOTO COURTESY CHRISTOPHER DE SOUSA



PHOTO COURTESY PAUL HESS

## Samplings from another whirlwind year

By Paul Hess

**A**nother year seems to have flown by at the University of Toronto's Department of Geography and Programs in Planning. For me, personally, I learn everyday about the challenges of being the director for our graduate program in planning. While balancing research, teaching and administration is always challenging, the reward is the stimulation of being in a department of engaged faculty and, especially, in seeing the achievements of our students.

This year we graduated the first students from UofT's Ph.D. Program in Planning. Dr. Heather Dorries wrote an outstanding dissertation on relationships between planning and Aboriginal land claims and sovereignty. Her examiners gave it very high praise as a significant and original contribution to planning theory. Dr. Raktim Mitra's dissertation on school transportation mode choice was also excellent. Raktim has recently accepted a position at Ryerson's School of Planning as an Assistant Professor (Go Ryerson!). Based on the caliber of our students and their work, the program has had a very strong start-up indeed.

Our master's students have also been very active. The academic year began with the annual second-year fieldtrip, supported by our Planning Alumni Committee (PAC), to learn about the planning issues in another North American city. This year students spent several days in New York, participating in meetings, tours and having fun and bonding as a group. A neighborhood tour with the South Bronx Watershed Alliance was but one of the many highlights of the trip.

The academic year is also ending with a field course. Led by Professor Rachel Silvey, this one is to Bandung, Indonesia, with eight planning students participating in the trip. Based out of the Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) student visits will include government offices, regional infrastructure development projects,

and local civil society organizations to learn about the rural-urban planning processes in the area. Students will also be partnered with students from ITB to develop and present research on local planning issues.

A bit less far afield, PAC put on a series of wonderful workshops for students. These included the annual Matthew Hanson Planning Opportunities Workshop where graduates share their professional experiences, a repeat of the popular Site Planning workshop led by MHB partner David McKay, MCIP, RPP, and a new Housing workshop with alumni and SHS Consulting senior research and policy analyst Kirsten Stein, MCIP, RPP, and City of Toronto Affordable Housing Office policy development officer Erik Hunter.

Along with its mentorship program and other activities to support students, the highlight of PAC's year is always the Spring Social. Now in its 16<sup>th</sup> year, the social's featured speaker was Conference Board of Canada president and CEO Anne Golden. As usual, several hundred practitioners mixed with our students in an enjoyable evening that raised money for student scholarships as well as the fieldtrip. Although it sometimes makes me acutely aware of how quickly time passes, I especially look forward to the social as a time to catch up on the professional and personal lives of former students.

The Planning Programs were also enriched by several Bousfield Distinguished Visitorships in Planning. This is proving to be a very important vehicle for bringing a wide variety of planning perspectives to the program. This year,

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**16th Annual Friends of Planning Spring Social featured Conference Board of Canada president and CEO Anne Golden, seen here with City of Toronto planner and member of Planning Alumni Committee Jeff Cantos.**



Professor Harvey Jacobs from the University of Wisconsin-Madison gave a public lecture and spent several weeks with us debating relationships among planning, sustainability and the importance of private property rights. In a department that values critical discourse, the intellectual exchange and theoretical debates were often rich and invigorating.

More on the professional side, Bousfield Visitor City of Toronto Office of Cultural Affairs senior cultural affairs officer Lori Martin taught a course entitled "Planning for the Creative City." It looked at connections among culture, economy and place, as well as exploring local case studies in public-private collaboration such as the Artscape Wychwood Barns and the Evergreen Brickworks.

Likewise, Urban Strategies partner Joe Berridge used his Visitorship to teach "City Building – Practice and Experience in Toronto and Other World Cities." The course helped students to examine planning strategies cities use to maintain and enhance global economic competitiveness.

Joe also organized an extremely successful series of public lectures entitled "Big Cities, Big Ideas." These were supported by the Department of Geography and Programs in Planning, the Institute for Municipal Finance and Governance, the School of Public Policy and Governance, the Global City Indicators Facility, along with Urban Strategies. The series included lectures by City of Vancouver retired planning director Larry Beasley, New York's The Trust for Governors Island president Leslie Koch, London School of Economics urban studies and political science professor Ricky Burdett

and Regional Plan Association of New York president Robert Yaro.

At a much more local level, Bousfield Visitor Karen Sun, Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter executive director, gave a talk on "Alternative Social Planning." The course highlighted ways to work with Toronto's ethno-specific communities and argued for the importance of community-based research and the role of community and academic partnerships "in moving forward an alternative social planning agenda." Coming full circle to issues of planning and property, we were also pleased to continue support for Gaetan Heroux's research and writing on "A Poor People's History of East Downtown Toronto."

Students explored local planning through internships and coursework, notably in the Workshop in Planning Practice taught by professors Virginia Maclaren, MCIP, RPP, and Harriet Friedmann, along with Leigh McGrath, MCIP, RPP, of Urban Strategies. Students researched an array of topics including "embedding food policy" in Toronto's official plan, examining accessibility design standards, planning for agricultural land preservation, and transportation and energy issues in Toronto's downtown. Clients included the Toronto Food Policy Council, Toronto Planning, the Centre for City Ecology and the Ontario Farmland Trust. Students presented their findings last January at City Hall, and we have had reports that findings from several of the projects are already being used in city discussions and projects. Additionally, students worked with six local community organizations as part of the

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year-long service course, “Planning for Change” with Professor Amrita Daniere, MCIP, RPP, and Charles Levkoe, a Ph.D. student with years of experience in community involvement.

The students Current Issues Papers, their capstone, year-long professional projects, must also be mentioned. Topics this year included parents perceptions of the built environment on school travel choices (Lori Flowers), mixed-use intensification in suburban centres (Emily Wall), new towns and self-containment in Korea (Dukhee Nam), considerations for jurisdictions beginning to use *Section 37* (Inger Jensen), planning for the evacuation of vulnerable populations in Toronto (Sumeet Ahluwailia), making Ontario’s transit systems accessible (Heather Sinclair), making space for faith in planning education (Shagufta Pasta) and public-private partnerships to support the creation of mobility hubs (Yi Luo).

Beyond teaching and supervising students, the faculty has also been busy in a variety of research endeavors and other activities. For example, Kanishka Goonewardena continues to write on Henri Lefebvre and the “right to the city.”

Susan Ruddick has been on a well-deserved sabbatical where she has furthered her theoretical interests in space, power and the philosophy of Spinoza.

Matti Siemiatycki, MCIP, RPP, has pursued his research on infrastructure public-private partnerships, focusing on project planning, financing and project delivery. He has also been serving on the board of Waterfront Toronto.

Katharine Rankin, MCIP, RPP, continues her work on radical planning in Nepal and on the gentrification of

neighborhood retail strips in Toronto. While seemingly disparate subjects they are tied together by the operation of market mechanisms. She has also had a busy year as Membership Committee chair in our Faculty Association.

Alan Walks spent a half year as a visiting scholar at the University of Western Australia, collecting data comparing accessibility, mobility and inequality in Australian cities to those in Canada. Another of his current research projects is examining the auto-dependency of Canada’s cities and its relationship to the growth in household debt.

Andre Sorensen is studying planning and reconstruction projects following the Tohoku Tsunami in Japan, where he is scheduled to spend much of the summer. He is also analyzing changes in Toronto’s suburban residential development patterns over the past 60 years, in collaboration with me.

In addition to my work with Andre, I am continuing my work on suburban walkability, examining how new immigrants adapt to Toronto’s limited suburban transportation choices, and writing on planning’s role in structuring suburban public space.

The summer always becomes a time to make progress on these projects, and, hopefully, find some time to refresh and energize before the flurry of the new academic year begins.

*Paul Hess is associate chair and director, Graduate Programs in Planning, Department of Geography and Programs in Planning, University of Toronto.*

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## Student research shines

By Clarence Woudsma

**P**lanning is a fantastic field of study. Like our colleagues across the Association of Canadian University Planning programs, we at the School of Planning at the University of Waterloo count ourselves fortunate to have enjoyed another exciting year of research, interaction with our communities, sharing classes with our students, and benefiting from our relationships with alumni and the profession of planning. In this article, I'll review highlights of the year at Waterloo and shine the spotlight on our students and their research.

A milestone event this past year was the move of the School of Planning from its original 1960s-era home into a state of the art, LEED Platinum building. Designed with openness, light, and an eye to facilitating a sense of community, our new home has delivered a transformative experience. Students are enjoying the new studio, classrooms, workrooms and social spaces, while faculty and staff benefit from an exceptional work environment complete with a green roof patio. A challenge at the best of times, this move was undertaken in the weeks leading up to the start of a very busy fall term.

One of our signature events in that busy fall is our annual Induction Ceremony. OPPI's President Sue Cumming was on hand to deliver a warm and inspirational address to our incoming class of planning students. A Waterloo tradition, this event serves to honour the profession of planning as we formally induct students into their education, signifying their choice and commitment through recitation of OPPI's Principles of Planning. Sharing this special event with students, their supporters, and school staff and faculty, it exemplifies the unique character of planning, integrating academics, the profession and the focus on community.

Former students are also pivotal in the fall events at Waterloo,

with our 21<sup>st</sup> University of Waterloo Planning Alumni of Toronto dinner in November. An audience of a thousand strong revelled in a night of catching up with old friends, networking with new ones, and lending support to our program. Keynote speaker, Kennedy Lawson Smith offered a thoughtful address on the challenges of downtown redevelopment that certainly resonated with many in the audience.

The Fall Pragma Council conference followed on the heels of this event and provided students and faculty a window into frank discussions among leaders from government and industry. The timely theme of this event was "Transforming Urban Land Use through Strategic Transit Investments."

Both of these events are driven by our exceptional alumni and through their efforts, our students benefit in diverse ways. Scholarships, field trips, event support and professional engagement are just a few of the ways their efforts pay dividends. Alumni also support the Planner in Residence program, which this past year featured Glenn Miller of the Canadian Urban Institute. No stranger to the membership of OPPI, Glenn brought his wealth of experience and keen planning insights to bear on a course he shared with our upper-year students.

Faculty members of the school are a remarkable group; pursuing their passion for understanding the complexities of planning and sharing that passion with the over 500 full-time students in our programs. While many courses provide opportunities for students to flex their abilities, project-based courses with an applied emphasis and connection to practice are noteworthy.

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Waterloo heritage planning student working with the community

Robert Shipley leads such a course—a senior class studying Heritage Planning that was involved in three hands-on projects during the 2012 winter term. The projects took place in the cities of Cambridge and Kitchener and in the rural village of Brussels in Huron County. In each case the students spent part of their time out in those communities conducting door-to-door surveys and consulting with citizens, members of councils and planning staff. In Cambridge two groups of 10 students each evaluated whether the neighbourhood of East Galt met the criteria for being considered a Heritage Character Area according to the city’s Heritage Master Plan. In Kitchener another group of 10 students completed a report evaluating the success of one of the city’s Heritage Conservation Districts. Two groups worked in the village of Brussels, one evaluating the Cultural Heritage Landscape as outlined in the *Provincial Policy Statement* and the other designing a heritage trail. All the students prepared Statements of Significance for specific properties using Ontario Regulation 9/06 issues under the *Heritage Act* as their guide.

Each team made presentations to municipal representatives and completed reports that have been submitted to those communities. There is no substitute for this kind of hands-on experience where senior students take what they have learned and apply that knowledge in real-life, real-time work in the municipal realm. The results of this work are not presented as professional consulting but the communities involved find the exercises very helpful in their deliberations and valuable in raising the profile of the issues being considered.

Another great example of students and faculty working with the community took place under the leadership of Karen Hammond. In the 2011 winter term, five students from Waterloo’s School of Planning undertook a special urban design research course to develop a vision for an improved public realm in downtown Oakville. Although downtown Oakville is very successful as a commercial node, particularly the main street on Lakeshore Rd., it is very auto-oriented. The goal for the project was to find ways to improve the downtown streets and open spaces to enhance the experience of pedestrians, cyclists and transit riders, while building on the existing charm and character of the area. After numerous site visits, consultations with planning staff and a thorough analysis of existing conditions, the team determined a range of most effective traffic, development, and landscape interventions. The students prepared detailed plans for these interventions, including some very convincing before-and-after visualizations. The highlight of the experience was presenting their work to an audience of approximately 20 Town of Oakville staff (including engineers) where they effectively

fielded a variety of technical questions. The students were very grateful to the town for supporting this exciting learning experience, especially Gabe Charles and Kirk Biggar in the planning department.

Working closely with faculty, our Masters and Doctoral graduate students at Waterloo take on the challenge of original research as they develop, refine and successfully carry out their thesis work. This is a major undertaking that can span years of immersive effort directed at pressing planning questions. Questions and topics range from Megan Conway’s Ph.D. dissertation which bridges urban planning and program evaluation theory and practice to Abel Lopez Dodero’s doctoral exploration of effective transit delivery in developing world cities. Dave Onishenko’s MA research on greyfields looks to best planning practices, while Emma DeFields is exploring yards, density and consumer choice. Emma is developing a model that connects property and resident characteristics to the ways in which residents design and manage their private land. The information gained from this study will be helpful in effectively designing and managing limited available greenspace in order to successfully attract households to both high- and low-density neighbourhoods.

Milton Friesen, a Doctoral candidate supervised by Dawn Parker, is working to advance social science techniques that combine network science, GPS and social capital analysis. Friesen contends that planning and policy can be more effective if we can improve our ability to visualize the patterns of connections among people in urban settings. Just as various imaging techniques provide medical doctors with significant insight into the function of the human body, new social imaging techniques can contribute to the common good through social science, business and public service applications. If, for example, there are significant numbers of socially-isolated individuals or smaller groups unconnected to the wider society, health outcomes and other costly side effects result. If we can see patterns that contribute to social isolation, we have a better chance of finding ways to address it.

Julie Hannah, working with Markus Moos, is currently finalizing her Masters thesis that combines historical, visual and policy analysis to provide a bottom-up interpretation of downtown Hamilton’s changing urban landscape. Julie took several hundred photographs, which she then categorized into themes: new and knowledge-economy uses, institutional facilities, arts and entertainment, brownfields and residential revitalization. The photographic approach to documenting urban change provides complementary and rich contextual interpretation of the ways social, economic and policy changes materialize in specific urban forms and land uses. The work provides evidence of arts- / culture-led rejuvenation of downtown Hamilton and improvement of the public realm. However, Julie’s work also points to the challenges of promoting revitalization in a context of visual urban blight and the possibilities of policy-induced loss of employment lands.

These examples are representative of the exciting and challenging student work that is taking place at the University of Waterloo’s School of Planning. Each year we embark on new journeys of discovery that provide a tangible energy to life in the school. We’re thankful for this opportunity to share our stories with you and have an open door policy if you’d ever like to come to Waterloo and listen in person!

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







PHOTO COURTESY GERDA WEKERLE

# Meeting up with FES planning students

By Laura Taylor

**W**hen students meet, interesting things happen, and this past year students in the Masters of Environmental Studies planning program at York have gotten together to think about urban environmental transformations around the globe and at home.

“I’ll meet you at the Bauhaus!” FES planning students uttered these very words during their trip to eastern Germany last summer as part of the critical urban planning workshop. Inspired (and funded in part) by The City Institute at York University, students studied suburban growth and decline, and marvelled at the similarities and differences between Germany and Canada. The City Institute received a major SSHRC research grant to take stock of suburbanism around the world, as part of a team of 50 researchers and 18 partner organizations. This fall, the workshop will be held in Montpellier, France.

“I’ll meet you at the library!” is perhaps heard less and less as students take advantage of the internet to get together to organize events, create research blogs, connect on Facebook, and follow professors and researchers from around the world on Twitter. For example, as part of a comparative study of sustainable suburbs with Sydney, students in the urban-regional planning course collaborated on a website to share info with students at Macquarie University. The draft York University Master Plan also used digital media to get the word out and seek comment from the York community aided by planning student, Steve Pypker.

“I’ll meet you at the Zig Zag Gallery!” is frequently heard as students mix and mingle in the central student lounge, admiring artwork created by their peers. Every year, FES puts on the Eco Art & Media Festival, with this past year’s theme of “Dancing with diversity: reflecting, rethinking, reframing” drawing students out to be a part of film, performance and visual art events held all over campus.

“I’ll meet you at the food truck!” If you’re wondering why Toronto doesn’t have more food trucks, so do we. Check out student Josh Neubauer’s work on “food deserts” highlighted in the Toronto Star on

October 31, 2011 and his Tedx talk on youtube. Food (food security, foodscapes, and foodsheds) is an increasingly popular area of study for our students, who are studying the potential for planning to make access to healthy food more equitable through regional planning policy, agricultural urbanism projects, and community NGOs. York’s own Maloca Community Garden provides an opportunity for students to get their hands dirty and learn about the ways that growing food opens up opportunities for community engagement and partnerships.

FES planning students each develop an individualized and customized area of study, and as such, reflect popular and emerging areas of interest: food is one, and energy planning is the next big one. FES’s Sustainable Energy Initiative provides planning students with an amazing array of opportunities to consider the future of energy policy and planning, from the micro-level (e.g., learning about photovoltaics) to sustainable community design to reduce GHG emissions and energy use, to the international level, observing global climate talks. Last summer, student Ron Ofer studied at the Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy in Denmark and this summer David MacMillan is off to Hochschule fur Technik Stuttgart (University of Applied Sciences). See <http://sei.info.yorku.ca/>.

Sustainability permeates everything students study. Current students are working on governance and legal issues in planning, extractive industries, such as fracking, green roofs, Great Lakes water quality, natural heritage system planning, social impact assessment, suburban retrofitting, public engagement, sustainable neighbourhood action plans and much more.

Congratulations to Anna Côté, a first year student, who has been

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**FES students at CIP/OPPI conference in Ottawa 2011.**  
**Back row (L to R): Alexander Nicol, James Macmillan, Christina Furtado, Evan McDonough. Front (L to R): Zeina Ismail, Saadia Jamil, Maria Nunes, Reka Sivarajah, Gerda Wekerle, Stephanie Morris, Sabrina Spencer, Camilia Changizi**

awarded the 2012 OPPI Gerald Carrothers Graduate Scholarship. The selection committee was impressed by Anna's commitment to the profession through her work within the student community, her studies and the greater community. The scholarship will be presented to Anna at the fall 2012 OPPI symposium on Active Transportation in Markham.

Thanks to everyone who has helped a student with a project, lent an ear to a student at an OPPI event, been a guest speaker, organized a skills workshop, or hired an intern. Without the support of our alumni and those of you in practice out there, we couldn't provide such a great program. Your involvement ensures that the next generation of planners will have influence in shaping Canada's city regions.

Check out our website at <http://fesplanning.apps01.yorku.ca/> and then drop me a line.

*Laura Taylor, MCIP, RPP, is Assistant Professor and Planning Programs Co-ordinator, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University. She can be reached as [taylorL9@yorku.ca](mailto:taylorL9@yorku.ca). After several years as co-ordinator of the FES Planning Programs, Gerda Wekerle, MCIP, RPP, will be taking a well-earned sabbatical.*



PHOTO COURTESY GERDA WEKERLE

**Nathan Schaffer working on his interactive mural during the Eco Art & Media Festival**

## Connecting world-wide

# Productive year for faculty research

By Gerda R. Wekerle

**T**he past academic year has been exceptionally productive for research accomplishments by full-time faculty teaching in the planning program. This research has contributed both to our knowledge of planning processes in southern Ontario and to comparative studies of planning and urbanization.

City Institute director Roger Keil obtained a major seven-year grant from the SSHRC on Global Suburbanisms: Governance, Land and Infrastructure in the 21st Century, which involves 46 researchers world-wide. This also involves FES faculty members Liette Gilbert doing research on Mexico City, Stefan Kipfer on Paris and Ute Lehrer on Toronto. Roger also completed a major research project, Comparing Metropolitan Governance in Toronto, Montreal, Paris, Frankfurt. In 2011 Roger, Douglas Young and Patricia Wood edited the book *In-Between Infrastructure*. Roger also published an article on the Ontario Greenbelt and sustainability in *The Professional Geographer* 64(2). In April Roger and the City Institute co-organized a one-day symposium with the federal NDP Party, Re-imagining our Cities: Toward a Comprehensive Strategy for the Urban Economies of Southern Ontario, which brought together politicians from three levels of government, NGOs and academics from Toronto universities.

Ute Lehrer is the recipient of a research grant (2011-2014) on suburban identities in the global city and has published articles on the condo boom in Toronto. Peter Mulvihill, MCIP, RPP, has completed his research on sustainability in Dufferin County and has shifted focus to climate change and China's development policy.

L. Anders Sandberg and Tor Sandberg co-edited a book on *Climate Change: Who's Carrying the Burden* published by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. Forthcoming from University of Toronto Press is *Battles for the Oak Ridges Moraine: Nature, Sprawl and Development*, co-authored by Anders, Gerda R. Wekerle, MCIP, RPP, and Liette Gilbert, MCIP, RPP. The book synthesizes their research over the past decade.

Laura Taylor, MCIP, RPP, will take on the role of FES planning coordinator in July 2012 and she has been appointed to Ontario's Greenbelt Council. Laura has received funding for research in the Lake Simcoe watershed and is continuing research on exurbia and landscape in planning in Southern Ontario.

Barbara Rahder, MCIP, RPP, has completed her term as dean of the Faculty of Environmental Studies. Barbara and her team have completed their SSHRC-funded research project on Social Sustainability, Diversity, and Public Space in Three Canadian Cities and are working on a book. We are pleased to announce the appointment of the new dean, Noël Sturgeon, researcher in feminist theory, social movements and environmental cultural studies who will be starting in August.

FES faculty member Peter Victor was appointed chair of the Greenbelt Council and was recently awarded the Diamond Jubilee Medal. Peter's book, *Managing Without Growth: Slower by Design*,

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*Not Disaster* (2008) continues to receive attention worldwide.

Gerda Wekerle has co-authored a paper with PhD student Teresa Abbruzzese, "Gendered spaces of activism in exurbia" (*Frontiers* 32, 2), which is on citizen activism and planning on the Oak Ridges Moraine. Her work on land use conflicts was presented at a recent conference in Berlin and New York and has been expanded into a SSHRC-funded research project (2012-2015) "Contested Countryside: Land Use Conflicts in Southern Ontario" with Anders Sandberg and Stephen Bocking and Stephen Hill of Trent University. Gerda's co-authored paper with FES planning graduate Alexandra McDonough (2011) "Integrating Cultural Planning and Urban Planning" appears in the Policy and Planning issue of *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* (20,1).

Visit the FES website for more details or contact us. We value our connections with our graduates and other members of the planning community.

*Gerda R. Wekerle, MCIP, RPP, is a Professor in the Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University and outgoing Planning Program coordinator.*



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Costa Rican U

# Learning in the field

By Anna Côté

International field courses present an invaluable opportunity for planning students. While field courses of any type allow you to connect directly with what you study in the classroom, travelling to a new country adds an additional dimension: it asks you to consider a wider set of perspectives, strategies, surroundings, and often a new language. It was in search of these educational challenges that I had the fortune of travelling to Costa Rica this past May to participate in York University's ecology and sustainable development field course.

Having an undergraduate background in philosophy and no formal ecological training, I knew a greater understanding of ecology was required to become a knowledgeable and sensitive environmental planner. While textbooks play an important part in becoming ecologically literate, the opportunity to learn from a field course was a more compelling option. Throwing myself into the middle of Costa Rica's intensely bio-diverse environment, I saw the



PHOTO: ANNA CÔTÉ

**Our classroom in Costa Rica**

ecological phenomena we were reading about come to life.

Trekking through tropical rainforests may not immediately appear to be a likely activity for an aspiring planning student; however, connections to the planning field were clear. The plant and animal species we encountered were not there by chance alone, but often due to the critical efforts of planning biological corridors among lands increasingly purchased for cattle-raising and monoculture plantations. The importance of uniting a community in these endeavours became evident as we spoke to local landholders—from ecotourism companies to farmers—who contributed by transforming their properties into biodiversity-friendly spaces, effectively creating corridors within corridors. Learning about the local environmental and conservation planning laws further inspired us to consider how laws in Canada could be enhanced.

Gaining proficiency in the Spanish language was also more than simply a bonus to most participants; rather, it enhances our opportunities for future international collaboration with planning professionals or multilingual work in our multicultural Canadian cities. Likewise, experiencing the Costa Rican culture, and more precisely a different way of life, broadened our understanding of what is required to comprehend another person's life experiences. As a planner's role involves working with people of various backgrounds, this is an invaluable lesson to internalize.

York's Costa Rica field course engaged participants in both planning challenges and possible solutions while offering a life experience far beyond the scope of textbook teachings. In search of the skills and knowledge that comprise an exemplary planner, planners-in-training will be rewarded for seeking knowledge in international field experiences that complement and expand formal academic traditions. The result will be a community of planners with well-rounded knowledge of our chosen specialities, greater sensitivity towards the individuals with whom we work, and the ability to think with the open-mindedness and creativity required to solve future planning challenges.

*Anna Côté, a student member of OPPI, is a first-year planning student in York University's Masters in Environmental Studies, specializing in environmental planning. She is the 2012 recipient of the Gerald Carrothers Graduate Scholarship and can be reached at [anna.m.cote@gmail.com](mailto:anna.m.cote@gmail.com).*



**Anna Côté**

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# Swifts and the city

By Christine Furtado

The province of Ontario is setting strategic goals that recognize the importance of urban biodiversity (Halder, 2012; Miller, 2010) and therefore placing new objectives in the hands of municipalities that look to advance policy, practice and local action on biodiversity. The protection of species at risk and urban biodiversity is an ongoing topic of discussion among planners as cities become the predominant form of settlement world-wide. It requires a close examination of the *Endangered Species Act (2007)* (Miller, 2010; Halder, 2012; Gartshore, 2012).

Each spring, municipalities across Ontario welcome a diverse range of migratory bird species, some of which inhabit urban areas. The protection of migratory birds is a relatively new concept to the practices of urban planning and urban design that is gaining attention major urban centres such as Calgary, Chicago, Toronto and New York (Birds and Buildings, 2012). Volunteer groups comprising a diverse range of interests are exploring new strategies for conservation throughout North America.

The planners need to be equipped with scientific resources to address this challenge and this requires dialogue and collaboration effort between the scientific community and the planning profession.

## The Chimney Swift and the city

Last winter, the City of Guelph was in a 'Swift' situation after Chimney Swift habitat (i.e., a masonry brick chimney) was found within a site that had been selected for demolition (Hallett, 2011). What began as an eight-year public review process for the development of a new library, will likely continue to become a 12-year project (MNR, 2011). In order for the city to demolish the proposed buildings and enable the construction of a new library, a benefit permit was issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources, under *clause 17(2)c* of the *Endangered Species Act (2007)* (MNR, 2011). Health and safety concerns, costs and time constraints, prevented the city from saving the Chimney Swift habitat. The permit required several actions by the City of Guelph, including the alternate use and monitoring of an existing chimney, located in a nearby heritage building (MNR, 2011).

The Chimney Swift, once referred to as "Ontario's Official Bird" (Tiner, 2011), is bringing scientists, citizens and planners together to identify, prioritize, and conserve habitat during the planning process. Chimney Swifts are identified as 'threatened' provincially and as 'endangered' federally (Hunter, 2011). Like several other Ariel Insectivores (e.g., Barn



Christine Furtado



PHOTO: CHUN NAM LAU

York students toured with Michael Mesure of FLAP (Fatal Light Awareness Program)

Swallows and Whoop-poor-wills), Swift populations have been impacted since the 1960s and declined by 98 per cent between 1968 and 2008 (Hunter, 2011). There are several complex reasons for why Swifts are in decline including loss of habitat due to the capping of chimney's, climate change, and pesticide use, but more research is needed (Ontario SwiftWatch, 2011).

## Municipalities and Chimney Swift conservation

As of spring 2012, a recovery strategy under *subsection 11(8)* of the *Endangered Species Act (2007)* with respect to Chimney Swifts has not been issued (MNR, 2011). Bird Studies Canada, a national organization that aims to identify habitat, protect Chimney Swifts, and provide planning departments with a description of suitable habitat, is working closely with communities, school boards and municipal planning departments. The organization is providing data and information on what constitutes 'critical habitat' for the Chimney Swift. This information will inform development processes and offer alternative methods for conservation during the planning process.

The continued work of Bird Studies Canada, its volunteer citizen-scientists, York University academics and not-for-profit organizations like the Fatal Light Awareness Program, play a fundamental role in how municipalities can bridge sectoral and professional boundaries to support urban biodiversity and species at risk.

Collaborative initiatives between the scientific community and municipal planning departments are essential in advancing local biodiversity conservation. The Chimney Swift is just one example of ways in which municipal planning departments should work with organizations and communities in order to have data, resources and expertise at hand when dealing with species at risk.

*Christine Furtado is a Masters candidate at York University's School of Environmental Studies in the Urban Planning Program. Her research concentration is Environmental Planning and Design. Christine was the OPPI Student Delegate 2011 - 2012.*

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# Campus integrated energy plan

By David MacMillan and Ron Ofer

As part of the Das Haus Tour, a travelling pavillion showcasing building technologies and solar energy for homes, planning students David MacMillan and Ron Ofer presented their vision of an integrated energy plan for York University's Keele campus as part of University Day. This event, hosted by the German American Chamber of Commerce, allowed university and college students to share their current research projects with other students and industry professionals in the sustainable energy and building technology fields.

Participants in the Sustainable Energy Initiative at York University, Ron and David are inspired by Denmark's success in decentralized energy production, allowing for thousands of clean energy producing facilities to be located close to where people live. Urban planning initiatives based on extensive community involvement have been a key to the success of the country's proliferation of clean energy facilities.

The Danish energy model strives to utilize as much of the power that is produced from renewable energy sources, including wind and solar, as possible and to store it when there is an oversupply. Currently, excess electricity produced from renewables in Denmark is stored as hot water in combined heat and power (CHP) plants to heat buildings and/or cool them using absorption chillers. When not enough power from the sun and wind is available, the CHP plants combust biomass, another form of renewable energy. Denmark is also working to develop infrastructure for electric vehicles that will utilize excess wind power as more wind turbines are to be constructed in the coming years.

York University's Keele Campus, which is essentially a small town, has the potential to become a net energy producer using clean energy sources on campus. The university invested heavily into conservation and efficiency initiatives over the past several years to allow for lower utility bills, while reducing its carbon footprint. It also has a CHP plant located on Chimneystack Road that utilizes waste heat from the electricity production in order to heat the campus buildings. These initiatives serve as a backbone to renewable energy deployment, making the Keele Campus an ideal location to create an integrated energy system that can serve as an example for the GTA and the rest of Ontario.

As part of the Sustainable Energy Initiative, David and Ron have been advocating for an integrated energy plan on campus by training students on renewable energy technologies, conservation and efficiency practices over the past academic year. Their current work includes conducting solar photovoltaic feasibility tests as part of the integrated plan. By developing a detailed report and design, they hope to collaborate with university management to install photovoltaic systems for electricity generation on the roofs of buildings across the campus. If successful, future plans include solar-powered electric vehicle charging stations and the integration of small-scale wind turbines, on which the

initiative recently trained a group of students. The deployment of these highly visible technologies not only help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by replacing electricity generation from polluting sources, but they also get students and the public thinking about sustainability by getting them involved in the planning process.

*David MacMillan is in his first year of the Masters in Environmental Studies (Planning Program), Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University and is a student member of OPPI. His current research focuses on urban energy systems. Ron Ofer is in second year of the Masters in Environmental Studies (Planning Program) in the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University. His major research concerns methods to integrate thermal energy grids and combined heat and power into modern urban planning practice.*



PHOTO COURTESY THE AUTHORS

Farm installation for a biogas combined heat and power

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## Collaborations in research and planning

By Harry Cummings

**A**t any given time at Guelph we have 45-60 students in our Masters program in Rural Planning and Development, and faculty and students are involved in research and planning projects in Canada and around the world.

Over the past year students in the program have had the opportunity to work with faculty and students in two of the school's other programs—Landscape Architecture and Capacity Development and Extension. This was perhaps most evident in our joint response to the Goderich tornado.

Wayne Caldwell, MCIP, RPP, who lives close to Goderich worked with students in both Landscape Architecture and Rural Planning to help identify a number of design options and strategies for public engagement. These responses have contributed to the overall planning and visioning that Goderich has been forced to consider.

Wayne's research also engaged students in several other areas over the last year. On-going research projects focused on peak oil and climate change, rural community economic development, severance activity across rural Ontario, agricultural land use planning and rural stewardship. In addition training workshops were offered in the use of Circle—a method for open and inclusive dialogue and active listening—and in best practices for community economic development. New projects starting in 2012 include rural social enterprise, co-ops and healthy rural communities. Details on these and other research projects can be found at [www.waynecaldwell.ca](http://www.waynecaldwell.ca).

Wayne also assumed responsibility as director of the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development in 2012 while continuing as president of the Association of Canadian University Planning Programs.

John FitzGibbon, MCIP, RPP, continues his working with farm

organization on issues related to source water protection nutrient management and revisions to the Ontario Canada Environmental Farm Plan Program. His research includes topics that range from methods of building capacity for effective stakeholder participation to assessment of the effectiveness and efficiency of inter-municipal collaboration in water services delivery in small rural towns. He is also carrying out research on the implications of the role of land and facilities rental in the environmental management of agriculture in Ontario.

David Douglas, Professor Emeritus, has been retained by the Canadian Bureau of International Education as a Rural Development Adviser for the provincial government of Zakarpattia, in Ukraine. This involves assisting the province (Oblast) with the design of a rural development strategy and associated policies. He has just completed two chapters for the forthcoming book *The Next Steps*, addressing sustainable development for rural communities and the nature of the rural community planning process in a time of crisis and survival in Canada. He also co-hosted the second major national Workshop on Rural Research held in Ottawa this past May, remains on the Board of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation as past-president, and is active with the North Atlantic Forum in the design of its 2012 international conference to be held in Holar, Iceland.

David represents the University of Guelph in the major four-university (Memorial, Concordia, Simon Fraser and Guelph) project on new regionalism. He and graduate student Sarah

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**Guelph students, fall 2011. Guelph graduate students frequently participate in service learning opportunities with rural communities. Recent projects have focused on helping the Town of Goderich post-tornado, contributing to trails development master planning and pursuing local economic development planning.**



Minnes have conducted extensive fieldwork in Eastern Ontario as the Guelph case study. They have completed a literature review, developed a draft paper on the concept of integrated development, and another on the history and profile of regional development planning in Ontario since the 1960s. They are now into the coding and analysis stage of this large scale research project. Papers, conference presentations and a book are expected over the next two years.

John Fitzsimons's research and practice areas include improving tropical and sub-tropical agricultural and pastoral systems, natural resource management and conservation, and rural livelihoods. His recent projects have involved gender impact of an agricultural project and small farmer vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in N. Nigeria; participatory development of dryland agropastoral systems in NW. Egypt; rural household livelihood strategies across four agroecological zones in Syria, and the contribution of CBO's to agricultural livelihood improvement in Central America. In a Canadian context, John's current work includes multi-criteria decision analyses applied to greenbelts in Canada (Toronto), the U.S. and Australia, issues facing managers of sports turfgrass and the role of e-agriculture.

Donald Reid is involved in an international research project titled The Protected Areas and Poverty Reduction Canada Africa Research and Learning Alliance. Two of the most pressing issues facing humankind in this century are chronic poverty and environmental sustainability and these issues are fundamentally linked in rural areas. One of the principal causes and consequences of poverty is degraded natural environments. Globally, we are faced with a paradox: poverty can constrain attempts to conserve biodiversity and maintain functioning ecosystems, yet well-designed conservation activities and functioning natural ecosystems provide services that can alleviate poverty. To confront this challenge, this research project has assembled an international alliance that will generate new insights, create learning opportunities, examine and elaborate governance models, and develop and mobilize pools of knowledge and resources through a critical and practical focus on protected areas in Canada, Ghana and Tanzania.

Inside this larger initiative Donald has undertaken a Ghana and Canada research initiative that is examining poverty in communities that are adjacent to protected areas. The purpose of this project is to develop and test a method/process for community poverty analysis and the identification of appropriate community assets inventory process for addressing that issue. Additionally, this project has developed a planning framework for attacking poverty in and by communities. A manual outlining this process has been completed called The Community Poverty Scan and Asset Based Approach to Poverty Reduction.

John Devlin is collaborating on the SSHRC-funded CURA project based in Nova Scotia entitled Community-Based Integrated Water Monitoring and Management in Nova Scotia. He will provide comparative studies of Ontario communities involved in water monitoring and management. John is also the principal investigator for the Evaluating Regional Economic Development Initiatives project funded by the OMAFRA-University of Guelph Research Contract. This project is examining international regional development initiatives and comparative Ontario cases. The research team includes four University of Waterloo researchers and six Masters students.

In April John led a team to Vietnam to collect data in

support of the evaluation of a beekeeping training project implemented by the Vietnam Beekeeping Research and Development Centre and the University of Guelph, School of Environmental Sciences. The team comprised two faculty and two students who spent one month in Vietnam collecting data from 190 beekeepers and conducting 120 interviews with beekeepers and staff.

In May 2012 John presented a paper to the International Association for Impact Assessment on community-based environmental monitoring and its potential role in environmental assessment follow-up. His current agricultural research includes the study of local food initiatives in Ontario, a study comparing the performance of the supply-managed sectors of chicken and eggs and the non-managed sectors of beef and pork, and a study on the decline of agricultural land in Ontario. John has recently joined the Organic Council of Ontario board. He will also be serving as a faculty member for the Summer Institute of the International Comparative Rural Policy Studies consortium which will be meeting in Quebec from June 22 to July 6, 2012.

Dr. Nonita T Yap had another busy year. In August 2011 she was in Orissa, India with funding from the Shastri Indo Canadian Institute to develop a research proposal for submission to SSHRC. At the same time she received the SEMPER FIDELIS award, under the SCIENTIA category from her Alma Mater, University of San Carlos in Cebu Philippines, for lifelong community service.

Early this year Nonita was in Vietnam as senior consultant on an evaluation of a University of Guelph project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency. She was responsible for processing the gender, sustainability and diffusion of innovation results. She also prepared three papers: on disaster planning and management, corporate social responsibility and diffusion of innovation. In May 2012 she presented a paper "Legislated participation in EA: If yes, how and when?" at the 2012 Annual Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment held in Porto, Portugal.

Meanwhile, Harry Cummings continues his role as graduate coordinator and course instructor. He also plays a lead role in establishing a knowledge management project for international development, maternal and child health with World Vision, Save the Children, Humber College, CIDA and other international stakeholders.

Harry's current research includes agriculture in the greenbelt in the Toronto-centred region, the role of logic models in evaluation and planning, and the evaluation of health programming including community health in India, malaria in Burundi and healthy community programming in Peel, North Bay and Perth.

On the local scene, a project involving the planning requirements for the establishment of a therapeutic riding stable and micro farm in Oshawa, local food and aboriginal youth and the Aylmer Community Mennonite center are keeping him active.

*Harry Cummings, MCIP, RPP, is a professional planner and graduate coordinator in the Rural Planning and Development, School of Environmental Design and Rural Development at the University of Guelph.*

# Urban design firmly entrenched

By Karen Hammond and Sandeep Agrawal

**W**e set out to explore the state of urban design in planning curricula across planning schools in Ontario. Through a short informal email survey sent to selected faculty members at each school and a quick review of schools' websites, we gauged the level of student and faculty interest in urban design and the role of urban design in the curricula.

## Student interest

All six planning schools showed a steady rise in students' interest in urban design over the last five years, or a stable interest at a high level.

More students at Ryerson are asking for urban design courses, and those courses that are offered at both the graduate and undergraduate level fill up very quickly. York has noted a marked increase in students wanting to pursue urban design in their careers. A number of other schools have increased the offering of design courses; for example, Queen's now offers its Community Design course every year, instead of in alternate years.

The rural planning students at U of Guelph are expressing greater interest in site design and the school now provides a studio course in the subject. At U of T, more planning students are researching urban design issues in master's projects and the applicant pool for U of T's post-professional urban design program is increasing.

Enrollment in elective undergraduate urban design studios at Waterloo has grown steadily over the past five years and now is at capacity. At the graduate level, urban design has consistently been an area of high research interest, with about one-third of students writing their theses on urban design related topics.

## Planning Curriculum

Urban design seems to have found a comfortable place in both undergraduate and graduate curricula in the form of design courses, studios, workshops and independent projects.

Undergraduate programs at both Ryerson and Waterloo offer a number of practical design courses, ranging from Ecological Design (Ryerson) to Urban Design Studio (Waterloo). Waterloo also offers an urban design specialization to students who complete a suite of five design courses with a minimum achieved grade, and this option is sought out by approximately half of the undergrad student body.

All accredited graduate planning programs offer design studio and/or workshop courses, commonly as electives. Queen's and Ryerson, however, require one of these courses as part of the core graduate curriculum.

U of T offers an Urban Design Specialization within its MScPl program that is achieved by completing five urban design courses. Its students may also select urban design electives offered in the associated Master of urban design studies program and in the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design.

York's courses seem to have a particular focus on environmental design.

## Urban design faculty and research

All planning schools have at least one faculty member who teaches design; some schools have as many as three or more (Ryerson and Waterloo). With respect to practice, urban design faculty members do not commonly practice urban design as consultants. A couple are involved in offering OPPI Continuous Professional Learning courses in urban design to practitioners, but largely, they tend to inform their teaching through research activities.

At York, Queen's and U of T, the faculty core is supplemented by practitioners who serve as adjunct design instructors. The Guelph planning school receives design support from faculty within the School of Landscape Architecture, which is in the same administrative unit.

Faculty research activities are wide ranging at each school and include a fascinating array of cutting edge topics. These include such examples as landscape urbanism; retrofitting suburbs; walkability and pedestrian design; multi-cultural urban design; age-friendly design; cultural resource management; and transit as a determinant of urban spatial structure.

All in all, it seems urban design literacy is firmly entrenched in the planning curriculum. Faculty research is investigating a range of pressing issues that address current and future demographic, socio-economic and environmental needs. Ultimately this should facilitate practice and deepen our understanding of ways to design better urban places. Because of planning academia's appropriate responses to market demands coupled with recent legislative changes in Ontario, the future of urban design in planning education looks bright, with lots of possibilities ahead.

Many thanks to our colleagues who kindly and quickly responded to our emails.

*Karen Hammond, MCIP, RPP, teaches urban design at the University of Waterloo and is chair of OPPI's Urban Design Working Group. Sandeep Agrawal, MCIP, RPP, is a professor and graduate director at Ryerson University and can be reached at [sagrawal@ryerson.ca](mailto:sagrawal@ryerson.ca).*

## Global outlooks, local observations, life-long service

### OAK RIDGES DISTRICT

## Getting a global perspective

By Bob Short

The Oak Ridges District Executive continues to organize and hold successful events where members can come to learn, share ideas and network. The district's first 2012 'Dine & Learn' was held in the Town of Ajax.

We were fortunate to have, UofT's Global City Indicators Facility director Professor Patricia L. McCarney to help provide a lens on the future of cities from a larger global perspective.

The facility is focused on providing a set of globally-standardized indicators offering comparators on city performance and knowledge. This will assist in planning cities as places to live and as places of commerce. Since the global urban population will increase by approximately 2-billion persons to about 5-billion by 2030, it is important to enhance professional knowledge and find best practices from shared world experiences.

In 2009 the facility had 17 city members. Today there are 183 member cities from 68 nations. Toronto and the surrounding area municipalities are participant members. City members include both small and large urban-centred areas. Thirty-four of the member cities have populations under 100,000 and 43 have populations between 1- and 4-million people. Nine city members have populations of more than



Robert Short

4-million people and there are many in between.

The Global City Indicators Facility tracks 100 indicators. Collectively this information will assist in identifying key drivers to help planners, builders, architects and economists better understand cities and answer questions as to how they can best accommodate urban growth, density and form, and explore issues around quality of life and sustainability.

The tasks to be accomplished are large. Patricia said the support and input of professional planners and their ability to help interpret the data and findings would be of great assistance in moving this work forward.

Forthcoming reports from the Global City Indicators Facility will include policy snapshots:

- Climate Vulnerable Cities: The Need for Standard Indicators
- Aging in the City: A Measured Response
- Towards and Accessibility Index: Transport and Connectivity in Cities
- The Educated City: Tracking Success
- City Governance and Finance: Global Comparisons
- Evidence-Based Planning and Land Use Design
- Performance Indicators and Risk: How Safe is a City
- Diverse Cities: Building Comparative Global Indicators
- Your Health, Your City: Assessing Performance and Preparedness
- Sustainable Infrastructure: A Need for Comprehensive Indicators
- Cities and Water Management: Measure and Comparison.

More information can be found online at the Global City Indicators Facility website.

Planned events within the Oak Ridges District include June's 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Summer Solstice, OPPI's September Symposium on Active Transportation in Markham and the final 'Dine & Learn' session to be held in November in the City of Vaughan on the subject of mediation.

*Robert Short, MCIP, RPP, is chair of the Oak Ridges District. He is also planning commissioner for the Town of Whitby.*

### LAKELAND DISTRICT

## Orillia launches Jane Jacobs Walk

By David J. Stinson

Transition Town Orillia, a local citizen's group, hosted a Jane Jacobs walk during its monthly May meeting. Over 600 walks were held worldwide in 2012 in celebration of the life and work of Toronto urbanist, activist, and author Jane Jacobs. Famous for encouraging planners to be more observant of the communities they are creating, walks in her honour have been organized every year since her death in 2006.

The pre-walk presentation—Are Cities Good, Are Cities Sustainable?—talked about basic place-making principles within a context of sustainability, smart growth and healthy communities. Participants



Transition Town Orillia's Jane Jacobs Walk



walked the neighbourhood adjacent to Orillia's downtown, exploring how well the principles were being applied. Viewing the public realm, they paid particular attention to recent additions to Orillia's streetscape and considered what worked and how particular features might be improved.

Special thanks to Scott Weiler for his inspiration for the walk and help in laying out the route, to Alison Braun and John Pitts from the organizing committee for hosting the walk, and to Lori Hunter from the Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit for supplying the "How walkable is your community?" pamphlets.

*David J. Stinson MCIP, RPP, A.Ag., is the OPPI recognition representative for the Lakeland District and a partner at Incite Planning. He can be reached at [dave@inciteplanning.com](mailto:dave@inciteplanning.com).*

## PEOPLE

Following 39 years in city planning and economic development, **Terry Boutilier**, MCIP, RPP, Ec.D, has decided to hang up the Blackberry. As senior business development officer and brownfield coordinator for the City of Kitchener, Terry was the recipient of several OPPI awards, two national awards and in 2010 was named the Canadian Brownfields Networks' Brownfielder of the Year. He has given 64 lectures at UW or WLU and mentored countless planning and engineering students. In his spare time he volunteered with the Canadian Urban Institute to work in the Philippines,



Terry Boutilier

Bosnia-Herzegovinian and the Ukraine.

Terry plans to fish and kayak his favourite parts of the Grand River, enjoy his new place a little north of Bancroft and follow the advancements of the Canadian planning profession from a more comfortable position. Terry can be reached at [boutiliers@rogers.com](mailto:boutiliers@rogers.com).

## OBITUARY

### Peter Cheatley, B.E.S., MCIP, RPP, 1951-2012

Peter Cheatley passed away on May 10, 2012 after a full and active life. His 38-year career involved work in both the public and private sectors. Peter served with the former cities of Scarborough and North York as well as the Town of Oakville and operated his own consulting firm from 1995 to 2002. He was a senior associate with Macaulay Shiomi Howson Ltd. from 2008 until his death.



Peter Cheatley

Peter epitomized what a planner should be. Throughout his career, Peter consistently displayed vision, as well as a commitment to planning excellence and integrity. He was prepared to stand up for what he believed was correct, but at the same time was very good at working to find shared solutions and a positive result. His great sense of humour was key to his success. He was always able to put

matters in perspective, recognizing that while there are "emergencies in planning, there are no planning emergencies."

Peter's contribution to the planning profession was recognized by OPPI with two excellence in planning awards for projects in which he was involved: in 2010 for the North Oakville Secondary Plan & Implementation Strategy and in 2011 for the Hurontario/Main Street Higher Order Transit Study.

Peter also received the OPPI Member Service Award in April 2012 in honour of his accumulated service over time to the institute. His volunteer contributions included membership on the Central District Program Committee, Professional Education Sub-Committee and Discipline Committee, and examiner for Examination A. Supported by over 20 nominators, the award also recognized Peter's mentoring of many planners over the years; his authorship of articles for the *Ontario Planning Journal*; service as a panel member for the Planner at the OMB course; and contributions as a presenter at several OPPI Conferences.

Peter's life was more than planning though. He was devoted to his family—his wife Linda and daughters, Alexandra and Kate. He was also an avid sailor and member of the National Yacht Club. His yearly sailing trips, usually to the British Virgin Islands, were highlights of his life, including his last trip in February 2012. He was also a long-time member of the North York Concert Band, playing the trumpet, and last but not least, he was a member of the Maple Reefers Parrothead Club.

Peter was a consummate professional. His expertise, ingenuity, and sense of humour will be missed.

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Quality professionals, quality practice

## OPPI hones its priorities

By Mary Lou Tanner

**O**PPI Council recently spent considerable time and had an engaged debate about our future focus as an Institute. Given what we do for a living, we should be at the forefront of strategic planning. Knowing how much work it takes to prepare and implement a strategic plan, I entered our meetings with high hopes and a sense of pending exhaustion! The high hopes were absolutely borne out; the exhaustion, thankfully, not so much!

Council members and staff were actively engaged, forward thinking and opened minded about where we believe OPPI needs to go over the coming five years. We arrived at consensus around two overriding priorities: advancing the planning profession and being the recognized voice of the planning profession in Ontario. To that end Continuous Professional Learning and Self-regulation are commitments that we, as a profession, must make. Quality professionals and quality practice requires an individual commitment to maintaining and enhancing professional skills, knowledge and practice and a collective commitment to the public good.

OPPI is almost 26 years old and over that time the profession has evolved significantly. That journey has strengthened our profession and each of us as professionals, from the beginning of the Institute to the establishment of the RPP designation, to the recent adoption



Mary Lou Tanner

of national standards. As professional planners we act in the public interest. Our credibility is based on the independence of our work and opinion. Self-regulation means as a profession we are willing to hold ourselves to an even higher standard of public accountability.

We each, through our planning practice and our work with the Institute, make the profession and our Institute stronger. So, I end this article with my personal reflection on a dear colleague, Peter Cheatley, MCIP, RPP.

Peter was an outstanding planner who passionately believed in the work we do and in our profession. Peter always gave back to the profession through his outstanding work, his mentoring of colleagues, and his strong commitment and volunteerism in advancing our profession. Peter passionately believed in the fundamental necessity of independent professional opinion and the independence of the profession. Peter was an OPPI member from very early on in the Institute's formation and leaves a legacy of a stronger, independent profession. We at OPPI had the opportunity to share our thoughts and tributes with Peter before his passing. I am grateful to his colleagues, Liz Howson and Martin Rendl, for arranging this and to his family for sharing Peter with us—to you, our sympathies for your loss. To Peter—thank you for making our profession stronger.

*Mary Lou Tanner, MCIP, RPP, is President of OPPI. She is also associate director, regional policy planning with Niagara Region's Integrated Community Planning Department.*

### OPPI Student Delegate

## Connecting with members

By Adam Wright



Adam Wright

**I**t is with great excitement that I welcome the opportunity to serve as the OPPI student delegate for the upcoming year. First and foremost I must recognize the amazing job my predecessor Christine Furtado did over the last year. Her commitment to OPPI, and in particular the student liaison committee, was consistently evident and she has left me with a great example of how to be a successful student delegate.

I am currently finishing my first year in the Rural Planning and Development program at the University of Guelph. My research is focussed on public participation in environmental assessment processes. In particular, I am interested in the role of communities in the planning processes that shape natural resource development. In addition, I have a keen interest in facilitation of public consultation in land use and environmental assessment planning.

Over the last year I have had the opportunity to serve as a first year Student Liaison Committee representative for the University of Guelph, as well as work alongside Abby Besharah, Marcus Bowman and Christine Furtado in the composition of the OPPI student blog project. These experiences proved to be great opportunities to connect with fellow OPPI student members as well to gain a greater understanding of the opportunities and challenges that OPPI faces in the implementation of its mandate.

I am eager for the upcoming year and the opportunity to work alongside OPPI council, as well as meet the Student Liaison Committee representatives from each school. As student delegate I envision my role to be that of a connector—linking OPPI student members with the rest of the membership. Feel free to contact me at [awright12@uoguelph.ca](mailto:awright12@uoguelph.ca).

*Adam Wright is a Masters candidate in the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development at the University of Guelph and OPPI's Student Delegate.*

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** Members are encouraged to send letters about content in the *Ontario Planning Journal* to the editor ([editor@ontarioplanners.on.ca](mailto:editor@ontarioplanners.on.ca)). Please direct comments or questions about Institute activities to the OPPI president at the OPPI office or by email to [executivedirector@ontarioplanners.on.ca](mailto:executivedirector@ontarioplanners.on.ca).

## Professional Practice

Historic moment

# Professional Standards Board inaugurated

By Bruce Curtis

**A**n historic moment for the planning profession in Canada took place April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The Professional Standards Board for the Planning Profession in Canada, a national, independent body, was established to oversee the certification of professional planners and the accreditation of planning schools.

At its inaugural meeting in Toronto the Board of Directors of the Professional Standards Board, representing founding member organizations—CIP and six participating affiliates—passed resolutions to establish the corporation and elected its first officers. In addition to widespread geographical representation from across the country, the inaugural board represents over 150 years of diverse professional planning experience:

The board intends to quickly finalize incorporation, establish committees and set up the many administrative requirements necessary to begin receiving candidates for certification. It is expected that the board will complete its incorporation under the *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations*

*Act* by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, and be ready to issue a schedule for full implementation of its services.

The Professional Standards Board will be a self-funded organization drawing its financial resources from the fees received from planners entering the profession and from planning schools seeking accreditation. Volunteers will be required to act as mentors and examiners and to participate on several committees involved in direct service delivery.

The Board of Directors looks forward to the work ahead, serving incoming members and the planning profession in Canada. It thanks members of the institute for their continuing support.

*Bruce Curtis, MCIP, RPP, is the Secretary-Treasurer and member of the newly established Board of Directors of the Professional Standards Board for the Planning Profession in Canada. He is the community planning and development manager in the western region for the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.*



**Board of Directors of the Professional Standards Board (left to right):**  
**Brian Kropf, Findlay Sinclair, John Jarvie, Hazel Christy, Christopher Leach, Diana Hawryluk, Bruce Curtis**

John Jarvie, MCIP, RPP	Rothesay, NB	API/IUA	Chair
Hazel Christy, MCIP	Kelowna, BC	CIP/ICU	Vice-Chair
Bruce Curtis, MCIP, RPP	London, ON	OPPI/IPPO	Secretary-Treasurer
Diana Hawryluk, MCIP, PPS	Regina, SK	APCPS	Director
Brian Kropf, RPP, MCIP	Edmonton, AB	APPI	Director
Christopher Leach, MCIP	Morden, MB	MPPI	Director
Finley Sinclair, MCIP	Prince George, BC	PIBC	Director

PHOTO: BRUCE CURTIS



## Membership

Invest in the future

# Hire a recent graduate

By Kristen Barisdale

**D**o you remember the stress of looking for your first professional job after graduation? While some of us were lucky enough to secure full time employment after graduation based on previous work terms or placements, others may have had a harder time finding their first job within the planning profession. By the end of the school term, many graduates are trying to determine what kind of planning work they would like to do, or where they would like to practice. An internship or entry-level planning job is a great opportunity to explore the many facets of the planning profession and helps graduates determine just where they would like their career to take them.

As members of OPPI, we have a responsibility to pass along our experience and expertise to the next generation of

professional planners. Whether mentoring a recent graduate, providing an opportunity for cooperative education or internship employment, or supervising junior staff, our members have many opportunities to make an investment in the profession that has served them so well.

Mentoring a recent graduate may seem like a daunting task, given the time constraints and workloads that many of us have. You may wonder where you will find the time to teach a junior planner the fundamentals of the practice, or you may question your ability to positively shape a graduate's perception of the profession. But you may also be pleasantly surprised with a new planner's eagerness to learn, or her/his refreshing insights about a profession you feel you know inside and out. And I am certain that you will be amazed at how rewarding the mentoring experience can be for yourself.

As another academic year comes to an end, please consider the possibility of hiring a recent graduate, or taking the time to mentor a junior staff member within your organization. In broadening our membership base, we need to continue to instil passion and inspiration in student planners and young professionals.

The message to you is simple. Inspire a graduate—you won't regret it!

*Kristen Barisdale, MCIP, RPP, is the Southwest District representative on the OPPI Recognition Committee and a senior planner with GSP Group Inc. Formerly, she was the Southwest District representative on the Membership Outreach Committee.*

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# Reaching out to the brightest and the best

By Pam Whyte

Each year the Membership Outreach Committee is responsible for reviewing and awarding the OPPI provincial scholarships—the Gerald Carrothers Graduate Scholarship and the Ronald M. Keeble Undergraduate Scholarship. Every other year the committee also reviews applications for a one-time scholarship in honour of the outgoing president—this year Sue Cumming. The committee is always impressed with the extent to which these bright up-and-coming planners are committed to the profession.

We will be honouring this year's winners, who are profiled below, at the OPPI Symposium in the fall. The 2012 recipients are Jennifer Wood (Queen's University) of the 2012 Susan Cumming Scholarship, Anna Côté (York University) of the Gerald Carrothers Graduate Scholarship and Abby Besharah (Ryerson University) of the Ronald M. Keeble Undergraduate Scholarship. Each has written an article that is included in this issue of the journal.

The Membership Outreach Committee continues to assist in attracting the brightest and best to our profession. We have six schools in the province that have accredited planning programs (Ryerson, Toronto, York, Guelph, Waterloo and Queen's Universities). With many other planning-related programs in the province and with some OPPI districts that do not have an accredited planning school to connect with, this year the committee will be working on a new outreach presentation that targets young scholars that may not be as familiar with the planning profession as a possible career path. This new outreach activity will be designed so that it would also appeal to high school level students. The committee currently plans to reach out to more future planners starting winter of 2013.



Pam Whyte

## Jennifer Wood, Susan Cumming 2012 Scholarship

When Jennifer Wood is asked, "so...what is urban planning anyway?" her response is "...to design cities, neighbourhoods and streets in a way that promotes healthy active living for all members of the community." And that just about sums up why she is completing a Masters of Urban and Regional Planning at Queen's University. Jennifer hopes to contribute to a culture that encourages community and political support for more healthy community design.

Ever since her undergraduate studies when she looked at barriers to immigrants accessing mental health services in Hamilton, Jennifer has been dedicated to healthy community living. She recognizes the essential interplay among the built environment, official plan policy and the availability/accessibility of community services. As a graduate student she is assessing Kingston's official plan in relation

to its effectiveness in facilitating healthy community life.

Jennifer seeks to promote the creation of healthy communities through her academic, volunteer and personal commitments.

## Anna Côté, Gerald Carrothers Graduate Scholarship

An undergraduate degree in philosophy, with a focus on ethics and connections to nature, and work with two sustainable development organizations in Scotland, led Anna Côté to pursue a degree in planning. Currently enrolled in the York University Master of Environmental Studies Planning Program, Anna envisions a future in urban environmental planning.

Recognizing that the built environment is part of the larger ecosystem, Anna strives for a greater understanding of the natural world in the way society manages its land use and development. To that end the focus of her major research paper is on exploring specific environment planning methods that have resulted in creating and maintaining environmental resilience during the development of environmentally significant areas.

Outside the classroom Anna is actively involved with OPPI initiatives and PLANit, the York University student planning organization. Her community interests complement her academic bias with an emphasis on sustainable food issues. Anna has volunteered with the Toronto Youth Food Policy Council, Slow Food Toronto and The Stop.

## Abby Besharah, Ronald M. Keeble Undergraduate Scholarship

Academic and volunteer experiences led Abby to seek an undergraduate degree in Urban and Regional Planning at Ryerson University. She hopes to work as a local area planner and community advocate. Her national volunteer service with Katimavik and her minor in Public Administration contribute to her continuing career focus on organization and outreach.

Actively engaged with OPPI initiatives and with the Ryerson Association of Planning Students, Abby has recently been nominated to stand for election as a 2012-2013 CIP National Student Representative. Tapping into her task-oriented skills, Abby organized Planning for the Future student information sessions, presented at the 2010-2011 OPPI conference and media café and participates on the WePlan2012 social media subcommittee of OPPI's Student Liaison Committee.

*Pam Whyte, MCIP, RPP, is OPPI Director of Membership Outreach and a member of the student liaison committee. A senior planner for Delcan Corporation in its Ottawa office, she is also an expert in GIS and is a LEED accredited professional.*

## The following members have resigned or been removed from the register

The following Full Members resigned in good standing from OPPI for the 2012 membership year:

Sophie Acheson	Carolyn Kim
Tara Alkhalisi	Linda Lapointe
Jodi Ball	Pierre Marin
Lynn Bowering	Donald McCullough
Carlin Bowman	Adam Molson
Emily Caldwell	Jacqueline Norton
Corwin L. Cambray	William Pearce
Jeffrey Cantos	Alexandra Rawlings
Margaritha Charles	Sonia Sanita
Brian Chire	John Wood
Elizabeth Garfin	

The following Full Members have been removed from the register for non-payment of membership fees for 2012:

Farah Aslani Tabrizi	Jaspal Marwah	James W. Taylor
James Chisholm	Maria Musat	Kim Warburton
Limin Fang	Loren Polonsky	Martyn Wayne
Scott Galbraith	Kathryn Pounder	Pamela Wheaton
Christopher Hadwin	Richard Tapp	David Wright
Dianne Hipwell		
Antti Kotilainen		
Bronwyn Krog		
Pooja Kumar		
Paul Laruccia		
Lynda Macdonald		

The notice is accurate at the time of going to press. For questions regarding membership please contact Membership Coordinator Denis Duquet at: 416-483-1873 Ext. 222, or 1-800-668-1448 Ext. 222 or at [membership@ontarioplanners.on.ca](mailto:membership@ontarioplanners.on.ca)

### Professional Development Courses

OPPI offers a dynamic package of educational opportunities to build members' skills and expertise:

- Planner as a Facilitator—November 12/13, London
- Project Management for Planners—October 15/16, Toronto
- Urban Design for Planners—November 1/2, Toronto
- Understanding Legislation for Planners—October 26, Toronto

### Clarification

In the May/June issue of *OPJ*, both the image of the Lawrence-Allen Revitalization Plan on page 16 and the GO Station Design Concept for the Port Whitby Plan on page 14 were developed by planningAlliance. The image of sustainability indicators on page 13 was developed by Arup. *OPJ* regrets the oversight.

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