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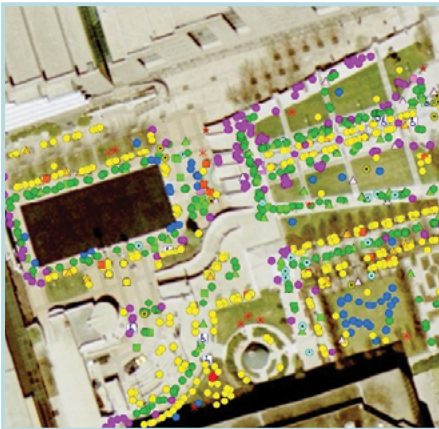
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# CONTENTS

## Features

York University..... 1  
 Ahead of the curve ..... 1  
 Experiential education ..... 3  
 Express HOT lanes ..... 4  
 Ryerson University ..... 5  
 Research, policy and practice ..... 5  
 Queen's University ..... 7  
 Planning the National Capital ..... 7  
 SURP plans in India ..... 8  
 Experiencing Auroville ..... 9  
 Land use planning in Guyana ..... 10  
 Seniors in Greater Sudbury ..... 12  
 Wind Energy Decommissioning ... 12  
 University of Waterloo ..... 14  
 Healthy communities ..... 14  
 Urban agriculture ..... 16  
 The British countryside ..... 16

Public spaces ..... 17  
 Aggregate-related conflicts ..... 18  
 University of Guelph ..... 19  
 Local food and agriculture ..... 19  
 Learning in Florida ..... 20  
 Collaborative planning ..... 21  
 University of Toronto ..... 22  
 From Vegas to presidents ..... 22

## Districts & People

Southwest District ..... 24  
 People ..... 24  
 2013/14 Student Delegate ..... 24

## Departments

Healthy Communities ..... 25  
 Membership Outreach ..... 27  
 Dear Dilemma ..... 28  
 Membership register ..... 29

# BILLBOARD



## September 19, 2013

### Student Day at the 2013 OPPI Conference in London, Ontario

This year, Students Day is September 19th.

With [registration](#) for the conference, OPPI provides students with transportation from school to the conference and back again that same day. The 2013 OPPI Conference features:

- The Planning Knowledge Exchange (PKE)—central hub of activity at the conference
- An OPPI Conference app will help participants navigate the conference
- Education themes are Healthy and Sustainable Community Design, Community Engagement and Making it Work.

Go to OPPI's [conference page](#) to find out more.

## OPPI Student Delegate Announcement

Please join OPPI in welcoming our new 2013–2014 Student Delegate, George Liu. George follows a wonderful line-up of Student Delegates who have provided outstanding leadership.

OPPI would like to thank Adam Wright for his wonderful contributions to OPPI as the 2012–2013 Student Delegate. Adam, along with his peers on the Student Liaison Committee, worked hard to bridge the gap between students, Council and OPPI members.

## Follow OPPI's social media platform

OPPI's [LinkedIn](#) page is a great place to network with other members of the planning profession. Follow OPPI on Twitter [@OntarioPlanners](#). Not on Twitter? You can still check out the tweets posted on OPPI's [homepage](#). Using [facebook](#)? 'Like' us and follow our posts.



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# Ahead of the curve

By Laura Taylor

**W**hat is resilience? Should we be planning for resilient cities, exurbs and rural places? Next time you're at the water cooler with your colleagues (one of whom will likely be an MES grad), or, better yet, when you run into some of your former professors, ask them what they think about the idea of resilience. What does a resilient place look like: is it sustainable (does it give more than it takes)? Does it have a strong sense of place and community? Is it zero-carbon? Flood-proof? Is it inclusive and affordable?

Ask anyone in the Faculty of Environmental Studies if they think resilience is the next big thing and the answer will be yes. The conversation following is about what resilience is and what people should be doing about it. At FES, the goal is to teach students the conceptual foundation, political savvy and skill-set to go out and make real change in the world. We teach them to be critical thinkers and to approach the study of planning issues in ways that integrate social and environmental goals in economic and political decision-making.

For instance, resilience can mean the ability of Lake Simcoe, as a natural resource, to thrive at the centre of a healthy watershed. Lake Simcoe is the subject of current work by faculty and students on the Lake Simcoe Clean Up Fund (Lewis Molot) and the role of exurbanites in environmental stewardship and activism (Laura Taylor). An example of resilience might be the legacy of the grassroots fight to legislate the conservation of the Oak Ridges Moraine. A new book on the Moraine is just coming out by Anders Sandberg, Gerda Wekerle, Liette Gilbert. It explores the history of our relationship with the moraine. Resilience might be better energy use. And the Sustainable Energy Initiative at York is leading in community energy planning and offers training for RetScreen software for assessing the viability of energy conservation and renewable energy projects. We all want a better, more resilient future and although at times it seems like we don't have a lot to go on, with innovation and determination we're doing quite a lot.

So how about resilient *suburbs*? Although so much of the planning discussion seems to be on the downtown area, the suburbs are where the action is in our program. We are entering the "Urban Age" as the majority of people globally will



be living in urban areas; except the reality is that most of those people will live in suburbs or exurbs. What it means to be suburban varies tremendously between urban regions across the globe. To get a handle on global suburbs, faculty Roger Keil and Ute Lehrer and many student researchers have been involved with the [Global Suburbanisms project](#), where scholars from around the world have been comparing suburban form, suburban life and suburban challenges. Scholars are comparing the suburbs of Toronto with Los Angeles and Paris to see what can be learned from the kinds of similarities and differences that emerge. Students went to France in the fall for an urban workshop in the City of Montpellier. Students presented at [Inside the Planner's Studio](#). Look for the Global Suburbanism conference in September and upcoming book.

The resilient city and next generation suburbs were the subjects of two of the three Toronto chief planner's roundtables held this year. These were well-attended by faculty, alumni and students of the program but perhaps most notably the chief planner herself, Jennifer Keesmaat, an MES grad.

The transit debate in the GTA has captured the interest of those interested in planning and politics in Toronto. We have always debated active transportation in the MES faculty and this continued with the Going to School Transit Summit last September. It concluded that there are 650,000 university and college students in the Toronto area and the vast majority rely on transit to get to school. Hence, presidents from several institutions agreed that relieving the stress of commuting for their students was one of their highest priorities. York University students are avid commuters and are looking forward to the opening of the University line extension in 2016, with a stop right in the heart of campus. Student Imelda Nurwisah blogged about her thoughts on transit in the [Huffington Post](#).

Beyond the suburbs, resilience is also a conservation term. The exurbs of Costa Rica will host the new FES facility for the study of conservation issues. The Centre for the Protection and Conservation of the Neotropical Rainforest is well underway with Felipe Montoya, a new faculty chair, taking the lead. The

Above: York University's Health, Nursing and Environmental Studies Building. Photo courtesy Prof. Gerda Wekerle

“neo” in “neotropical” refers to the change in ideology from the protection of a natural “pristine myth” to the protection of ways of life in the area. For planning students interested in agriculture, ecology and rural life, this is a great opportunity to work with a very active community in South America.

Former MES dean Barbara Rahder made the most out of her well-earned administrative leave by co-editing a special issue of *Canadian Journal of Urban Research*. She also travelled extensively, returning to Sri Lanka for the third time to teach planning theory to graduate students at the University of Moratuwa.

Paul Wilkinson, long time tourism and resource management faculty member is retiring soon, following Gene Desfor, Ted Spence, Becky Peterson, and Bonnie Kettel's retirements in the past few years. Dean Noël Sturgeon welcomed our newest faculty member, Christina Hoicka as the first PowerStream chair in Sustainable Energy Economics.

So what is your definition of resilience? Let's talk!

*Laura Taylor, MCIP, RPP, is an associate professor, MES/ Planning program coordinator in the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University. She became a member of Lambda Alpha this past year, has been an active member of the Greater Golden Horseshoe Greenbelt Council, and continues to study exurbia in Ontario.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

**Students Peter Pantalone, Madison Van West, Allison Bradford, Jamie Unwin and Julie Mallette wearing their CAPS toques at the top of Mount Royal in February 2013**

### Recent Publications by Faculty

- Laura Taylor, *Landscape and the Ideology of Nature in Exurbia: Green Sprawl*
- Mark Winfield, *Blue Green Province: The Environment and the Political Economy of Ontario*
- Anders Sandberg, *Climate Change - Who's Carrying the Burden? Chilly Climates of Global Environmental Dilemma*
- Anders Sandberg, Gerda Wekerle, Liette Gilbert, *The Oak Ridges Moraine Battles: Development, Sprawl and Nature Conservation in the Toronto Region*
- Rod MacRae, *Health & Sustainability in the Canadian Food System: Advocacy and Opportunity for Civil Society*
- Ilan Kapoor, *Celebrity Humanitarianism: The Ideology of Global Charity*
- Roger Keil, *In-Between Infrastructure: Urban Connectivity in an Age of Vulnerability*
- Stefan Kipfer, *Gramsci: Space, Nature, Politics*
- Tim Leduc, *Climate, Culture, Change: Inuit and Western Dialogues with a Warming North*
- Ana Maria Martinez, *Las Nubes: Conservation in the Cloud Forests of Costa Rica*
- Cate Sandilands, *Queer Ecologies: Sex, Nature, Politics, Desire*

### Example Planning Grads 2012-13 (out of 33)

- Camilia Changizi, Planning for the Creative 'Suburban' City: A Comparison Between Two Suburban Downtowns, Vaughan and Surrey
- Sean Gudgeon, Case Comparison of Biological Corridor Projects in the Area de Conservacion La Amistad Pacifico (ACLAP) of Costa Rica
- Kristy Kilbourne, Planning for the 'Motor City' in a Post-Industrial Era
- Josh Neubauer, Planning for Improved Food Access in Toronto's Inner Suburban Apartment Tower Neighbourhoods
- Gwen Potter, Public Participation in Planning as Urban Citizenship: Contrasting Two Conceptualizations of Citizenship in Toronto's Ward 20
- Daniel Woolfson, Governing and Funding Regional Transportation Authorities in the Contemporary Canadian City



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# Experiential education on campus

By David MacMillan

Planning students can obtain the hands-on experience they desire by applying the knowledge gained in the classroom to projects on their campus. Given the lack of energy planning courses in Ontario universities and the rapid advancement of energy planning in practice, it is important for students in this field to supplement coursework with applied projects. York University's Keele Campus has proven to be a valuable setting for planning students to investigate applications of sustainable energy.

The Sustainable Energy Initiative, housed within the Faculty of Environmental Studies, is where students, staff and faculty of all disciplines come together to research sustainable energy. For example, several planning students recently developed a solar energy plan for the campus, which involved assessing the feasibility of deploying solar photovoltaic arrays on campus buildings. It required performing site assessments, designing the layout, estimating costs and return on investment, and offering a description of the relevant policy context.

Currently, another student has begun the process of planning the expansion of the campus district energy network in anticipation of the development that will follow the York University-Spadina subway extension. Assessments of existing buildings, mapping of future development, energy modelling, cost profiles and a description of the policy and regulatory context are being undertaken as part of the requirements for completion of the student's major research project.

With this approach, planning students benefit tremendously by applying their knowledge to concrete issues and building a practical skillset, while university staff gains insight into operational issues that they may not normally have the time or resources to address. This is truly a win-win scenario. The only prerequisite is faculty and staff willing to foster student interest by communicating the value of such projects.

Experiential education is an established concept that can offer students in emerging fields such as energy planning the

chance to practice what they learn. One's own campus can provide the setting in which to practice and engage with a project that is mutually beneficial to both the student and the university. Supplementing the academic component of a degree with practical experience only enhances a planning students' education.

*David MacMillan is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year student in the planning stream of the Master of Environmental Studies Program at York University. His research focuses on planning the expansion of district energy networks in Ontario. He is a student member of OPPI and can be reached at [jdmacmillan13@gmail.com](mailto:jdmacmillan13@gmail.com).*



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Students prepare to conduct solar assessments at York University's Keele Campus

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# Vision: Highway 401 express HOT lanes

By George Liu

**T**raffic congestion is a growing issue for users of Highway 401, yet pricing strategies aimed at managing road space have generally met with political criticism. At a maximum of 18-lanes wide, Highway 401 accommodates much of the east-west traffic that crosses the Greater Toronto Area. Despite the complicated collector-express system that is designed to handle the closely spaced interchanges going through urban Toronto, today's users of Highway 401 suffer from many hours of traffic congestion during the morning and afternoon rush hours.

Perhaps the worst tragedy of all is that users of Highway 401 have no choice to bypass congestion even if they are willing to pay to do so. The nearest toll expressway, Highway 407 Electronic Toll Route, provides a congestion-free travel option, and runs parallel to Highway 401, but the two expressways are separated by a distance of 8 km. My suggestion is to convert existing Highway 401 express lanes into High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes. Drivers would then be given a choice between travelling free on collector lanes or paying for a faster trip using the express HOT lanes.

Public transit users are one of the greatest benefactors of HOT lanes. According to Robert Poole and Kenneth Orski in their 1999 study, Building a Case for HOT Lanes: "Experience to date shows that, once in use, a HOT lane benefits both users and non-users, becoming quite popular. As long as carpools and buses continue to have good access, the lanes will continue to serve their HOV function."

Just as Highway 407 has become a popular GO bus corridor, one can expect improvements to the existing Highway 401 GO bus service with the implementation of HOT lanes on Highway 401.

Those who are excluded from the option of using the HOT lanes due to its cost are given an incentive to use public transit and carpooling alternatives, while solo drivers who pay to use HOT lanes subsidize the cost of highway building for everyone. Furthermore, the tolls collected for HOT lanes provide cross-subsidization by automobile drivers towards public transit users, giving added incentives for modal shift towards more sustainable modes of transportation.

The conversion of the Highway 401 express lanes into a toll corridor would enable the most efficient usage of existing road space by discouraging users of single-occupancy vehicles. Planners have learned that we cannot build our way out of gridlock. Ultimately, congestion must be solved by applying market mechanisms that accurately reflect the social consequences of people's transportation choices and by implementing policies that encourage sustainable transportation practices.

*George Liu is the OPPI Student Delegate and he is currently studying transportation planning at York University in the MES program. To learn more, please visit his website at [www.georgeintraffic.com](http://www.georgeintraffic.com).*



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# Linking research, policy and practice

By Chris De Sousa

I began writing this paper while on my way to the 2013 Brownfields Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. The conference is organized every two years by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a forum for thousands of public, private and non-profit sector stakeholders to share experiences related to the environmental revitalization and economic redevelopment of the millions of brownfields that fester in industrialized nations. I first started attending this conference as a graduate student in the late 1990s as a way to engage with practitioners from the U.S., Canada and abroad and to get a sense of what questions they needed answers to, so that my dissertation research would be of use and not just another academic publication on a shelf.

As a planning researcher, I believe that it is our professional obligation to provide answers to the myriad of questions that face planners on a daily basis. The workshop that Ryerson was co-hosting at the Brownfields conference, along with planning scholars from Virginia Tech, St. Louis University and Georgia Tech, was aptly entitled *What's Next? The Future of Brownfields Research Policy and Practice*. The aim of the session was for researchers to hear from practitioners about what kind of research they use and, more importantly, what kind of research they need over the next half decade to facilitate and enhance brownfield redevelopment activity.

Fortunately for me, this commitment to applied and engaged research is central to the philosophy of Ryerson University and the School of Urban and Regional Planning. While students in the school regularly engage in research via their coursework and thesis projects, the primary way in which they tackle the pressing issues of the day is through our studio stream of courses. For our undergrads and grads, studio is an opportunity to put theoretical ideas and concepts into practice. There are two graduate and six undergraduate studios per year. The compulsory undergraduate studios are spread over all four years, but by third and fourth year the undergrads, like the grads, carry out more sophisticated planning studies for real clients and present their findings to a jury.

This past academic year, 28 studio groups provided valuable research on a range of topics to clients across southern Ontario, including heritage planning in Corktown and Riverside for a local councillor and the local resident and business association, elder housing provision for private sector clients, and public space management for the City of Toronto, a local non-profit, and Ryerson's own development department. Numerous groups were involved in projects aimed at studying the revitalization of sites, laneways, streets, corridors, apartment towers and districts throughout the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. Several groups examined the efficacy of policy and planning tools related to infrastructure (Burlington and Toronto) and *section 37*



IMAGE COURTESY RYERSON UNIVERSITY

New Student Centre

(TRIDEL). Transportation topics were especially popular, with groups examining the Crosstown LRT project in Scarborough (Metrolinx), Bike City (Cycle Toronto), and active transportation (Town of Huntsville), with the latter receiving very positive feedback in the media.

The school is fortunate to have funding available to support some studio activities. For example, funding from the Janet Rosenberg Studio Award supports work related to landscape urbanism and funding from the BILD Award supports work related to the building industry and land development. This makes it possible for some of our groups to carry out more extensive field research. A recent example is the Ryerson University Masters of Planning Niagara Region 2012 Studio Team, which undertook a study to determine the best methodology for predicting the form of intensification in the Niagara Region. This methodology was needed to help the upper-tier municipality designate where anticipated growth will occur within its constituent local municipalities as required by the *Places to Grow Act, 2005*, and the subsequent *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006*. The methodology was created by analyzing 29 intensification studies conducted in the Greater Golden Horseshoe and then focusing in on two types of approaches: a very generalized, extensive and policy driven process and another that was based on a much more focused, in-depth and detailed analysis that involved GIS, fieldwork, and professional experience. Upon applying the methods to three study areas in the region, the second form of analysis was recommended because it generated much more realistic, robust, and defensible results.

In addition to overseeing much of the studio work, our faculty continues to tackle a range of important issues through their own research. Professor Steven Webber, for instance, is currently working on a project examining land use planning



approaches that have been implemented to preserve urban industry, focusing on the case study cities of Boston, Chicago, New York and Toronto. Preliminary results indicate that planning objectives, development market conditions, manufacturing trends and site characteristics should be considered in combination when determining the future viability of locations designated for industrial activity. This work is funded by the Land Economics Foundation and the Ryerson University Faculty of Community Services and is expected to provide a better understanding of the factors that influence immediate and long-term employment land solutions.

Professor Raktim Mitra continues his research on children's mobility behaviour, focusing predominantly on active school transportation. The goal of this work is to inform and improve the School Travel Planning program, a cross-Canada initiative that is currently being implemented by municipalities and community-based organizations. In 2012, Mitra and his colleagues from the University of Toronto implemented a knowledge transfer and exchange workshop that brought together government and community stakeholders from across the country for a full-day discussion on the ways to improve active transportation among children and youth. Mitra is also exploring the enablers and barriers to walking in the suburban GTA. The results from this research will inform the development of walkability audit instruments that are particularly suited to a suburban context.

The issue of knowledge transfer and exchange was another topic that was discussed at the Brownfields 2013 conference because there is often great research out there, but it is not very accessible to

practitioners. In addition to workshops, like those organized by Mitra, other suggestions included greater use of the internet for posting executive summaries, presentations, full articles, or just networking, as well as working more closely with professional associations to disseminate relevant findings. Several practitioners recommended, for example, the publication of a regular Research You Can Use article in the *Ontario Planning Journal*, like the one written by Reid Ewing from the University of Maryland for APA's *Planning Magazine*. Ryerson's Faculty of Community Services, where our school is housed, is also establishing a Knowledge Translation Portal to disseminate academic research in a plain-language format.

At the end of the day, what differentiates us as planners is our sincere desire to solve real world problems and improve the quality and livability of our communities. The School of Urban and Regional Planning at Ryerson believes that its role goes beyond training students to be effective practitioners, but also includes making sure that faculty and student research help practitioners face their day-to-day planning challenges.

*Christopher De Sousa, MCIP, RPP, is an associate professor and director of the School of Urban and Regional Planning at Ryerson University. De Sousa's research activities focus on various aspects of brownfield redevelopment, urban environmental management, parks planning and sustainability reporting in Canada and the United States. He is currently involved in a collaborative research project examining best management practices in sustainable brownfields redevelopment funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.*



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# Students help plan National Capital

David Gordon

For the past 17 years, graduate students at the Queen's School of Urban and Regional Planning (SURP) have partnered with federal and municipal agencies to create early visions for brownfield and transit-oriented developments (TOD).

In the fall of 2012, a team of eight students prepared a report *Blair Station (Re)Envisioned: A Transit Oriented Development Study for Ottawa's Blair Station*. The City of Ottawa is converting the existing Transitway Bus Rapid Transit system to Light Rail Transit between the Tunney's Pasture and Blair stations. This is expected to stimulate land use intensification and transit-oriented development around future LRT stations. The students worked under the direction of Ottawa's Planning and Growth Management urban designer Charles Lanktree, MCIP, RPP.

This study outlines a vision for intensification of the Blair Station Area to assure it develops into an integrated, complete community that meets the city's TOD policies. The vision is to transform the Blair Station Area from a suburban greyfield into a diverse, connected, compact and transit-oriented destination that enhances the quality of life for existing and future residents and transit users.

Three sources of information informed the design concepts presented in the study. First, stakeholders from the area were interviewed and provided valuable local knowledge of the site. Second, the project team organized a design charrette that was attended by various experts in the fields of transportation, urban design and planning. Finally, an extensive study of 81 cases was undertaken to identify the most appropriate best practices from all over the world.

The students travelled to Ottawa city hall in December to present their final vision to politicians, municipal staff and community representatives.

Blair Station (Re)Envisioned was the fifth in a series of community design studies completed by SURP students in an innovative partnership with the City of Ottawa. Each year, the city senior staff consults with Queen's faculty about their highest priorities for action-oriented research. The faculty assists in identifying projects that would make good student workshops and the city picks its most pressing need from the

list. SURP provides a team of eager and talented graduate students, while the city supplies a senior planner to act as a coach and client representative for the team. The planner is appointed to the Queen's faculty as a clinical adjunct lecturer, similar to the role of hospital doctors in medical education. The students have been fortunate to work with professional staff that has a genuine love for teaching.

Other recent projects with the City of Ottawa included a TOD studies for the Hurdman Station mobility hub; a greyfield study for the Billings Bridge shopping centre and sustainable development practices for the Cyrville Station area. The student projects were usually timed to be completed shortly before the city launches a community design plan, allowing the coach / neighbourhood planner to get a head start on the issues while working with the students.

Queen's has also partnered with the federal government and the Macdonald-Cartier International Airport Authority to provide useful planning policy [projects](#). SURP students have prepared the first visions for the redevelopment of the Rockcliffe and Uplands air force bases; TOD at Tunney's Pasture, Confederation Heights

and Gatineau's La Cité; brownfields redevelopment at Bayview Yards; federal intensification in Hull and an aerotropolis at the airport.

Although Queen's has collaborated with other public agencies in Eastern Ontario (Kingston, the Rideau Canal, Social Planning Council and the Cataragui Region Conservation Authority), the Ottawa partnership has been particularly good for providing both useful public policy and great student experiences.

*Dr. David Gordon, MCIP, RPP, is professor and director of the Queen's School of Urban and Regional Planning. He has facilitated more than a dozen planning workshops in the National Capital Region. Dave's books include *Planning Canadian Communities* (2013 with Gerald Hodge) and *Planning Twentieth Century Capital Cities* (2006). His current research includes analysis of Canada's suburbs and a forthcoming illustrated history of Canada's capital.*



**SURP students work with Ottawa and Kingston planning staff and faculty during a design charrette for the Blair station**

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

# SURP plans in India

Ajay Agarwal

In December 2012, 10 SURP students joined me for an intensive two-week field trip to [Auroville](#) in southern India as part of SURP's second international project course. The project team included graduate students from across Canada with backgrounds from all three of the school's fields—environmental services, health and social planning, and land use and real estate.

A “city in the making,” Auroville’s master plan is very progressive and eco-friendly. Indeed, it is internationally renowned for the environmentally-friendly lifestyle of its residents. The purpose of the trip was two-fold. First, like any international project course, gain experience of working in a foreign country where both work culture and lifestyle are very different from Canada. Second, learn from sustainable development practices of Aurovilleans.

The client for the course was Auroville Integral Sustainability Institute and the assignment was to recommend guidelines for developing a network of social spaces along The Crown, a major arterial street in the city. Prior to departure, the students did substantial background research on Auroville, and also studied best practices related to planning of social spaces. Students had several Skype meetings with Lalit, the client’s representative, who also

delivered a PowerPoint presentation to the group over the internet.

While in India, students worked tirelessly to produce a fine planning document and presented the same to the local community on the last day of the trip. In the process, they conducted a successful stakeholders’ workshop in addition to individual meetings with several local residents including planners, engineers, social activists, farmers, schoolteachers, youth and senior citizens. Nicholas Danford and Hillary Morgan were [interviewed](#) by the local radio station. Shwaan Hutton reported the group’s daily activities regularly on her [travel blog](#).

The clients were very impressed by the group’s work and have invited SURP to partner with them again in the future. The students too were very pleased with the experience. Of course, flavourful food and +26°C in December helped.

*Dr. Ajay Agarwal, PhD, is assistant professor in the Queen’s School of Urban and Regional Planning, where he teaches physical planning, community design and transportation courses. Current his research investigates the role played by public transit investments in changing urban structures in Los Angeles and Toronto.*

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# Experiencing Auroville

By Shwaan Hutton

The following is a brief overview of some of Auroville's truly unique development approaches.

In the early 1960s the site where this luscious densely vegetated town now stands, was a barren desert able only to support one struggling Banyan tree. A group of global visionaries, brought together by a spiritual view of international human unity and sustainability, chose the current location to start a community and immediately began intense reforestation efforts. Today the municipality is home to 2,200 inhabitants and the highest concentration of architects in the world. It has adopted a master plan set to accommodate its idealized population of 50,000.

Using locally sourced foods, residents are fed at a central eating area and kitchen, more popularly known as the 'Solar Kitchen.' The building affords a large cafeteria-style area for citizens to interact over meals and, most notably, an enormous solar bowl to effectively harness the hot Indian sun's rays and produce steam for the kitchen's cooking needs. The Queen's group can verify that the cuisine's quality was hardly compromised by this renewable energy cooking approach.

The kitchen's wide variety of organic produce is sourced locally from a number of Aurovillian farms scattered throughout the municipality's large perimeter greenbelt. Several citizens involved with farming have taken to pioneering and perfecting an approach known as permaculture whereby a plot of agricultural land is strategically planted to produce crops all year round, therefore optimizing surface area output.

Other notable innovations include those taking place at the International Pavilion. The primary function of this international housing complex is recycled construction research and development. The facilities feature tetra-box composite roofs, compostable toilets, pressed earth block walls, furniture made from fallen old growth forest wood, bamboo shower piping, insulation using a cement and Styrofoam composite, broken mirror backsplashes and the list goes on. The main guest house accommodates over 15 guests and costs a mere \$32,000 USD to build.

Auroville has undertaken many traditional healthy community planning approaches such as promoting pedestrian, cycling and car free environments. However, by pushing the

boundaries, in the name of progress and experimentation, the community has also tackled larger issues such community involvement, self-sufficiency, housing affordability and are leading the way in sustainable city research and development.

The Queen's project team came home from this experience inspired and eager to incorporate Auroville's spirit of experimentation and continual progress and embrace new ideas in our daily lives and future careers. The planning profession has an enormous role to play in terms of creating great places for people and it is a continuing willingness to experiment, much like that being demonstrated in Auroville, that is essential to keeping our profession progressing.

*Shwaan Hutton has a bachelor's degree in International Development, with a minor in Community Design, from Dalhousie and is a current Master of Urban Planning ('13 Candidate) student at Queen's School of Urban and Regional Planning. She is specializing in Land Use, Real Estate Development & Community Design and can be contacted at [11sjh12@queensu.ca](mailto:11sjh12@queensu.ca).*



The project team in India: from left to right Megan Lawson, Meghan Summers, Cassandra Caiger, Carly Marshall, Hillary Morgan, Kelly Martel, Lindsey Gradeen, Nick Danford, Shai Jamal and Shwaan Hutton

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# Developing land use planning in Guyana

By Simona Rasanu

In September 2012, shortly after finishing planning graduate studies at Queen's University, I moved to Georgetown, Guyana to undertake a six month WorldLink internship placement with the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission. The Canadian Institute of Planners has managed the WorldLink International Internship Program for Planners on behalf of the Canadian International Development Agency since 1998. The program's purpose is to provide professional international work experience to recent planning graduates, and I was fortunate to be selected as one of the more than 150 interns the program has placed with host organizations in over 30 developing countries since its inception.<sup>1</sup>

CIP has played an active international outreach and capacity-building role in the Caribbean since 1984 to increase the profile of planning, strengthen relationships with local planning agencies, encourage the establishment of professional associations such as the Caribbean Planners Association, and promote good planning practice in the region.<sup>2</sup> It has been involved in Guyana for more than a decade, most recently through the CIDA-funded Canada-Guyana Partnership for Community Planning Project (2009-2012), a partnership between the CIP and the Government of Guyana's Central Housing and Planning Authority. The project's objective was to increase accountability in public and civic sector decision-making through a capacity-building training program delivered in the context of the preparation of Community Development Plans. Six WorldLink interns assisted with the project.<sup>3</sup>

## Land of many waters

The author of the only English-language travel guide dedicated to Guyana adopts a tone reminiscent of 19th century Romantic artists when discussing his experiences travelling into the country's remote interior: "There was no sign of civilization in any direction and for the umpteenth time during my travels in Guyana I felt as though I had stepped into something larger than the present, something that diminishes all that mankind has created in this world, both good and bad. It was nature, in a raw, unaltered, almost timeless state that made me feel insignificant".<sup>4</sup>

Indeed, I felt this myself while dangling my feet on a cliff less than a metre from the tumbling waters of Kaieteur Falls, one of the world's most powerful waterfalls and Guyana's most famous tourist attraction.

Derived from an indigenous Amerindian word meaning "Land of Many Waters," Guyana is a little known English-speaking former British colony located on the northeast coast of South America. Although Guyana is increasing its trade relations with Brazil and Venezuela, it shares long-standing cultural similarities with its Anglophone Caribbean neighbours. A lack of interior development coupled with a unique geography of coastal waters, mangroves, marshes, savannas,

mountains and tropical rainforests covering about 80 per cent of the country's area, allows for a range of ecosystems supporting a high level of biodiversity.<sup>4</sup> Most of the country is sparsely populated since 90 per cent of its approximately 780,000 people live on a narrow, low-lying Atlantic Ocean coastal strip where the fertile agricultural lands are located. The coastal plain is subject to development pressure, suffers from increasing land degradation, and is vulnerable to increased flooding due to the expected rise in sea level and intense precipitation associated with climate change. The country is already experiencing dramatic changes in weather patterns, as illustrated by the severe 1998-1999 drought and the widespread 2005-2006 flooding along the coast. The existing drainage and irrigation infrastructure that is supposed to protect the coastal region suffers from a lack of investment and is insufficient to prevent the periodic flooding and saltwater inundation of agricultural lands.

Since Guyana is a resource-dependent country where agriculture, mining and forestry exports are the primary economic drivers, effective land use is fundamental to its environmental and economic sustainability. In recent years, the Guyana Government has been making environmental overtures with a focus on low carbon development, mostly notably through the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) initiative and the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS). The former is a partnership between the governments of Guyana and Norway where Norway agreed to provide financial support of up to US\$250-million by 2015 for results achieved by Guyana in limiting emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Recognizing that the country's forest resources are its primary natural and economic assets, the 2009 launch of the LCDS is a more comprehensive vision to combat climate change while promoting economic development through a number of mechanisms, including investing in low carbon economic infrastructure (e.g., hydropower); increasing support of low carbon economic sectors (e.g., ecotourism, aquaculture); and creating new economic opportunities for Amerindian communities and the broader citizenry.<sup>5</sup>

## Development of land use planning project

The effective implementation of environmental initiatives requires a coordinated land use planning framework—the country currently lacks a planning system and suffers from a confusing and inadequate framework where control over land use is highly centralized and politicized. Partly to solve this problem, as well as to use planning to support economic growth, in 2011 the Guyana Government initiated the Development of Land Use Planning Project (DLUPP) with funding support from the European Union. The project is being executed by the Guyana Lands and Surveys

Commission (GLSC), my host agency, in partnership with land use planning and technical (e.g., GIS) consultants. The commission is a semi-autonomous agency that has jurisdiction over the country's state lands, comprising almost 75 per cent of the country's total land area. The objectives of the two year project are to enhance the commission's land use planning, administration and mapping capacity by completing a national land use plan and three regional land use plans, as well as to conduct a review and provide recommendations to harmonize the country's institutional and regulatory framework. As progress on the national land use plan was already underway when I started my internship, I provided technical and community consultation assistance for the regional plans.

The draft national land use plan is now complete and awaiting government feedback before being finalized. The planning consultants adopted the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations land use planning methodology, where planning is defined as the "systematic assessment of physical, social and economic factors in such a way as to encourage and assist land users in selecting options that increase their productivity, are sustainable and meet the needs of society".<sup>6</sup>

The document is strategic rather than prescriptive, and is intended to support decision-making through an understanding of development options and constraints throughout Guyana. It also highlights 'hotspot' areas where development could be concentrated and the linkages, such as infrastructure improvements, that would be required to facilitate this development. The plan relies on extensive geographic data derived from a number of sources, including remote sensing, and is accompanied by over 30 coloured maps. Significantly, it emphasizes that planning is a continuous process that is never final—the plan is a living document that needs to be continually updated as circumstances change and new information becomes available.

The emphasis on the plan as a living document is important since it reminds commission staff and other government officials that it must take ownership over the plan and its implementation. Unfortunately, developing countries all too often become dependent on foreign funding and expertise, and fail to reap the benefits of donor-funded projects if the project team fails to focus on education, communication and capacity-building so that local administrative and political officials can take ownership and continue with successful implementation. The project team is partly to blame for this when it fails to develop appropriate exit and sustainability strategies. In the case of the Development of Land Use Planning Project, I was impressed to see the project leader repeatedly stressing the need for project sustainability during regular meetings with commission staff. I am looking forward to see what happens following the completion of the project in October 2013.

### Current internship program status

I thoroughly enjoyed the professional and cultural experiences the internship has offered me – one of the highlights was travelling into Guyana's interior to conduct regional community consultations. The unpaved roads outside of the coastal region make for a bumpy but adventurous ride! Being a food lover, I also loved sampling the country's eclectic Creole and West Indian cuisine, including the standard curry and roti, and Christmas favourites such as black (rum) cake and

Guyana's national dish, pepperpot, a richly flavoured Amerindian meat stew.

The CIP WorldLink internship program is currently undergoing restructuring and will not be offering internships in the near future due to the withdrawal of CIDA funding support in association with the recent decision by the Canadian federal government to dissolve the agency and incorporate it into the newly formed Department of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Development. Current planning students and soon-to-be graduates interested in participating in the revamped internship program should check the CIP website periodically.

*Simona Rasanu graduated with a Master of Urban and Regional Planning (M.PL.) degree from Queen's University in 2012 and currently works for the City of Toronto. She can be reached at [simona.rasanu@gmail.com](mailto:simona.rasanu@gmail.com).*

### Footnotes

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PHOTO COURTESY SIMONA RASANU

The author relaxing in Guyana's Kaieteur National Park, featuring the breathtaking Kaieteur Falls in the background



# Planning for seniors in Greater Sudbury

By Marisa Talarico

**H**ealth Sciences North, the regional hospital in the City of Greater Sudbury, recently hosted a community forum on Designing a More Seniors-friendly Community. Nearly 200 members of the community came out to hear the expert panel.

Over 50s Housing Magazine editor Esmonde Crowley said the cruise ship industry has emerged as a successful model for meeting the needs of seniors. These floating cities are seen as an ideal place to live by the aging population due in part to the virtual elimination of transportation challenges, availability of on-board medical care, provision of daily housekeeping and meal preparation services and the planned recreational and social activities. The challenge he sees is determining how we emulate this industry by providing services for seniors to age in place within their own communities.

City of Greater Sudbury senior planner Kris Longston highlighted examples of successful seniors-friendly developments within Sudbury. Finlandia Village is a seniors complex composed of five buildings, each providing a different level of support. Here, individuals can age in place where amenities along a continuum of care are available. In addition to this unique development, the city also has a number of established neighbourhoods where the a range of services for

seniors are available within walking distance of a mixed-use residential area.

Longston also identified ways in which the City of Greater Sudbury is planning to address the needs of an ageing community through land use planning. Housing and mobility were identified as the top two priorities for the city to tackle. Longston spoke of allowing more flexible living area designations within the new official plan to encourage the development of more complete communities where a variety of dwelling types and amenities are available in close proximity to one another.

The challenge of providing services and housing for Ontario's ageing population will only become more acute in the coming years. Indeed, the future of Ontario depends on our ability to address this growing demographic segment of our population in an integrated and cost-effective way that benefits both current and future generations.

*Marisa Talarico is a student member of OPPI and a recent graduate of the School of Urban and Regional Planning at Queen's University. She is engaged in active transportation and other healthy community initiatives in the City of Greater Sudbury, where she currently resides. She can be reached at [marisa.talarico@queensu.ca](mailto:marisa.talarico@queensu.ca).*

# Planning for wind energy decommissioning

By Alexander Stecky-Efantis

**W**ith thousands of wind turbines expected to be built this decade in Ontario, careful decommissioning planning must be undertaken to ensure that the costs and benefits are shared equitably and that there are no lasting impacts on the physical landscape. While wind turbines themselves are highly recyclable, regulations must ensure that the site is adequately remediated after decommissioning.

Ontario is the leading province in the growth of wind power generation with over 2,000 megawatts of capacity currently operational and that amount is expected to grow to 7,500 megawatts by 2018. Wind power developments are typically situated on private agricultural land with leases of between 20 and 50 years and typically tied to the term of the Feed-in-Tariff contract. *Section 1.8.3* of the *Provincial Policy Statement* permits wind energy in rural areas where they are designed to minimize

the impact on agriculture. At the end of their approximate 20-year useful lifespan, there will be an equal number of turbines that will either need to be repowered or decommissioned.

In 2009 the province introduced the Renewable Energy Approvals Regulation which requires a wind energy facility developer to complete a Decommissioning Plan Report prior to approval. To evaluate the quality of the reports produced, a framework of criteria from dozens of states and municipalities with a long history of wind energy developments was created. These addresses topics such as site restoration, financial assurance, damage to municipal infrastructure and abandonment.

A common criterion where decommissioning plans in Ontario fall short of best practices is planning for abandonment. While some of the reviewed plans have

mitigation measures for environmental impacts resulting from unfinished construction, the abandonment a turbine during its operational phase is often not considered. Nor is the party identified who is responsible for removing the turbines and restoring the site, and if applicable, the land's agricultural capacity.

A practical outcome of the research from this master's report is a set of recommendations for improving the process of planning for decommissioning wind energy facilities. Suggestions include requiring that the Decommissioning Plan Report be revised at the time of repowering, mandating financial assurance, and considering the impact of decommissioning activities on archeological resources.

The complete findings and details from the report will be displayed at the upcoming OPPI conference in London September 18 and 19.

*Alexander Stecky-Efantis is graduating in spring 2013 with a Master's in Planning from Queen's School of Urban and Regional Planning and currently is a planner with the Ottawa Macdonald-Cartier International Airport Authority. Contact him at [7as14@queensu.ca](mailto:7as14@queensu.ca).*

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# Applied research advances healthy communities

By Clarence Woudsma, John L. Lewis, Mark Seasons

There is a wonderfully diverse range of planning research underway at any given time at the University of Waterloo's School of Planning. Our faculty's interests cover the spectrum of core planning subjects and graduate students often follow us into emerging and provocative terrain. In the following articles, Mark Seasons and John Lewis provide a glimpse into their policy-related research, exemplary of our mission to contribute to practice in Ontario through our applied research efforts.

## Aging in Ontario

By John L. Lewis

The growing proportion of aging residents throughout Ontario presents significant opportunities as well as challenges. By 2036, it is projected that 23.4 per cent of Ontario's population will be 65 years or older (Ministry of Finance, 2011).

An aging population is an opportunity because older adults are often committed, long-term residents of their communities who contribute their time, energy and wealth of experience to local projects and organizations. Communities can support older residents and capitalize on the resources they possess through the provision of services and physical infrastructure to create elder or age-friendly communities.

The challenge rests in the growing observation among older citizens, community planners, social workers and local decision and policy makers that many of the communities in which we live can be difficult environments in which to grow old (Phillipson, 2011).

Functional independence in daily life and activities is essential to successful aging, and a small proportion of the province's older and disabled populations wish to reside in nursing, retirement or long-term care facilities. Increasingly, older residents wish to "age in place" or grow older in the physical and social setting that is their natural home (Gilroy, 2008, Pynoos, 1993).

Age-friendly communities are beneficial for all Ontario residents. Accessible spaces that accommodate those who are old or impaired also benefit other populations that encounter functional obstacles in their daily lives (e.g., pregnant women, parents with children in strollers, younger people with chronic health ailments, children, etc.). Moreover, a society that encourages and sustains the social engagement of its elder citizens profits from their experiences and commitment to their communities.

The question of how to assess a community's age friendliness and to what degree older residents are satisfied with their communities' social and physical infrastructure is of growing

interest to local policy makers. The most publicized initiative is a program begun by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2006, which culminated in the definition of an age-friendly city as one that "encourages active aging by optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age" (Plouffe and Kalache, 2010). From this definition, the WHO has developed a checklist of characteristics that older residents have identified as advantages or challenges of urban living based on eight broad factors or domains (i.e., outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, communication and information, community and health services).

Additional work is required to build on the groundbreaking initiatives of the WHO and other organizations that will not only help local decision-makers, planners and service providers understand the broader context of age-friendly communities but, more importantly, develop objectives and indicators of policy success that are measurable, reflect the diversity and unique requirements of Ontario's communities, and which are based on meaningful engagement with older community residents.

Funded by the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario, the University of Waterloo's School of Planning is undertaking this work through a partnership with the Ontario Seniors Secretariat and McMaster University's Department of Health, Aging and Society. The outcome of this partnership will be a guide that provides practical advice on how to respond to population aging. The purpose of this guide is to develop local capacity to understand age-friendly communities and related concepts, and how to select or create measurement tools that are suited to locally identified requirements and conditions. Specifically, the guide will address the following questions:

What makes a community age-friendly? What are the physical and social characteristics of an age-friendly community and how is the concept different from or related to concepts such as livable communities, lifetime neighbourhoods, aging in place, neighbourhood quality of life, etc?

Why are age-friendly communities important? In addition to the statistical data that underscore the reality of the elder surge, there are important economic, health, ethical and political reasons to create environments that support an active aging population.

How can communities respond to population aging? The final section of the guide will document the range of assessment and policy development tools that are currently



available, and raise questions that need to be addressed in order to select the tool or combination of tools that address local requirements.

The retirement of Ontario's baby-boomer generation has already begun. An age-friendly community not only facilitates healthy and independent living, but also engages older residents as vital members of the community. More work remains to be done. A succinct guide that provides local decision-makers across the province with a clear and consistent message about what comprises an age-friendly community, why it is an important public policy focus and how to craft age-friendly assessments and policies is an important and urgently required next step.

## School closures

By Mark Seasons

Ontario's planning practitioners and scholars often find themselves involved/embroiled in complicated and inter-connected community issues. The permanent closure of a community school certainly belongs in this category. Interestingly, the subject has received comparatively little attention in the planning literature. My research examines the school closure (accommodation review) decision-making process. (This summary is based on research conducted in partnership with Dr. Bill Irwin Faculty of the Information and Media Science Department of Political Science at the Western University.)

It is important to begin this discussion by clarifying the roles played by schools. Of course, schools educate our children; they are also an important part of the community's fabric—schools are often considered a public good. They are major contributors to a community's quality of life. Schools are important meeting places for communities, and they can be major contributors to social cohesion, health, wellbeing and sense of place. They also have high symbolic value as the heart of the community. The presence of a school suggests a community with a future; conversely, the loss of a community school symbolizes a community in decline.

School closure can be very difficult for students, families, communities and municipal government. This is especially the case for inner city communities that are often transitional in nature and are delicately balanced in social and economic terms. When inner city schools close, these communities become less attractive to families that have school-age children; residents can lose their sense of identity and confidence in neighbourhood viability. From a planning policy perspective, school closure is a major concern for municipal governments whose urban planning objectives for inner cities (e.g., intensified forms of urban development, downtown revitalization) can be undermined when schools close permanently.

While school boards deliver academic programs, hire staff, and plan and manage school buildings and land, they are not responsible for community stability, urban sustainability, downtown revitalization or any other municipal government planning goals. This disconnect is very difficult to resolve; school boards are encouraged but not obligated by legislation to integrate their facility planning objectives with those of municipal government.

We need to acknowledge that school boards in Ontario and across Canada have struggled for years with fiscal constraints and declining enrollments. They are under intense pressure from the provincial government to rationalize their services and resources; this can be the catalyst for an accommodation review. However, the accommodation review process that is mandated by the provincial

government often makes a very difficult situation a lot worse. Our research indicates that school closure decision-making processes are highly contested, conflict-ridden and often harshly criticized by school and community stakeholders. These processes seem out of step with community expectations of accountability, inclusiveness, fairness and transparency from public sector agencies (Irwin and Seasons, 2012).

This suggests a need to explore alternative decision-making models that are used in high conflict situations. There are lessons to be learned from urban planning, an endeavor that is often conflict-based, especially in the complex inner city context. For the past 50 years, urban planners have realized that complicated and interconnected societal, environmental and economic issues could not be satisfactorily addressed by the "rational," expert-driven, decision-making approach that school boards typically follow.

Planners in municipal government understand that complex issues—characterized as "wicked and messy" by Rittel and Webber (1973)—call for a nuanced planning style that acknowledges the realities of politics, unequal power relations and the validity of community residents' needs and values.

The more progressive planners and municipal planning departments use newer planning models that are inclusionary in nature, collaborative in style, focus on stakeholder engagement and trust-building, enhance respect for diverse values and views, identify and advance the public interest, and encourage shared responsibility for decision-making (Booher and Innes, 2002; Goldstein and Butler, 2010; Healey, 2006). This is a significant contrast with common practice in most school boards.

To sum up, there is certainly a place for technical, rational analysis when considering the closure of a school. However, there is a pressing need to design and implement enlightened and comprehensive accommodation review processes that will produce understandable, fair and equitable outcomes for communities and school boards. The scholars who are based in Ontario's university planning programs are well placed to address this complex issue. My hope is that this research project will contribute to a much-needed discussion and lead to the design of enlightened accommodation review processes in Ontario.

*Clarence Woudsma, MCIP, RPP, is director of the School of Planning at the University of Waterloo. Mark Seasons, PhD, FCIP, RPP, is a professor in the School of Planning, president of ACUPP and a past president of CIP. Mark's research expertise is in policy and program evaluation and strategic planning. John L. Lewis, PhD, is an associate professor in the School of Planning, director, EDIT Lab, and member, Research Institute for Aging, University of Waterloo. John's research interests include Landscape and Urban Design Accessible Planning and Design, Age Friendly Communities, and Computer-based Environmental Visualization.*

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# Urban agriculture and planning policies

By Dilys Huang

**G**rowing food in cities is not a recent phenomenon; however, adopting urban agriculture practices, including community gardening, urban farming and raising backyard hens, provides an effective opportunity for local governments to address current issues such as food insecurity and climate change. Up until recently in many cases, provisions for urban food production were largely non-existent in policy documents and by-laws. But over the past few years an increasing number of municipalities have been focusing on implementing planning policies that help to facilitate urban agriculture. Recently I completed a study for my undergraduate thesis that explores urban agriculture policies in Ontario and British Columbia.

One of the observations from this research is that Ontario municipalities tend to focus predominantly on activities such as community gardening, while in British Columbia they appear to engage in a wider range of activities. Overall it was clear that community advocacy is instrumental in councils' adoption of urban agriculture policies. It brings greater attention and interest to growing food in urban areas.

The study proposes a number of recommendations such as addressing the gaps between official plans and policy implementation tools, emphasizing public education and public

awareness and generating inventories of vacant and underutilized lands with a potential for urban agriculture. Municipalities can use the inventories to assist local groups with finding new community garden sites.

Planners should also promote opportunities for urban agriculture in the development review process. Creating space for community gardens, rooftop gardens and edible landscaping should be encouraged especially within new multi-unit residential developments. In addition, a greater focus is needed on the commercial aspect of urban agriculture, enabling local food production to occur at a larger scale.

Overall, local governments and planners are increasingly acknowledging the importance of integrating urban agriculture with mainstream planning. Implementing policies that facilitate the practice not only enhances the sustainability of cities, but further promotes community engagement.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

Policy framework needed to facilitate urban agriculture

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## Planning in the British countryside

By Stephen A. Oliver and Erica C. Ogden

**O**xford, the city of dreaming spires and aspiring Ontario planning students. The University of Waterloo organized a three week course with Oxford Brookes University to expose 14 undergraduate students and four graduate students to the unique environmental conditions that affect planning in England. Students had the opportunity to hear from researchers and planners, and complete projects to gain a firsthand comparison of the Canadian and British planning professions.

While it was no surprise to discover that Ontario and

Oxford share many of the same key planning issues, the unique government relationship and currently changing National Planning Policy Framework in England fundamentally alters the interactions between planners and citizens. Topics we explored within included: greenbelts and growth management, integration of heritage communities, new towns and garden cities.

The course objective gave every student the opportunity to examine a topic of his or her choice from both a Canadian and British perspective. Presentations and discussions reflected the broad range of University of



Waterloo experiences and specializations, and served as a valuable sharing of ideas and lessons.

Overall, the course was an unbelievable opportunity. Students came home with knowledge about the differences in climate, policy and heritage resources between the Canadian and British planning systems. We would like to thank the staff at the University of Waterloo and Oxford Brookes University for organizing such a tremendous learning experience.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHORS

**Class photo in front of Oxford City skyline. From Left to Right: Mike Brekell, Becky Loi, Anthony Wong, Patrick Chan, Stephen Oliver, Alanna Poroznik, Jesse French, Hee Suk Lee, Tom Kwok, Jennifer Kim, Adam Holland, Christina Wilkinson, Nico Cariati, Sara Lake, Lindsay Cline, Erica Ogden, Tahrana Lovlin, Nicole Kurtz, Wendy Chen and Geoffrey Lewis.**

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## Design features in public spaces

By Mojgan Rasouli

**M**y research thesis focuses on an analysis of the relationship between physical and activity patterns—from passive to active—within public space. The following is a brief overview.

Urban public spaces have been considered an essential part of cities throughout history. However, recent research<sup>1</sup> reveals

that some are currently experiencing a decline in their physical design and use. Thus, it becomes important to investigate the actual use of public spaces<sup>2</sup>.

With Mel Lastman Square in Toronto as my case study, I employed a combined methodology of direct field observation, activity mapping, capturing activity points using Geographic Positioning Systems (GPS) and Geographical Information System (GIS) analysis. The results demonstrated that sitting was the prominent activity within the square and access to appropriate locations was thus a critical design consideration.

In conclusion, obtaining empirical knowledge about activity patterns and the actual use of public spaces is important in the design of public spaces.

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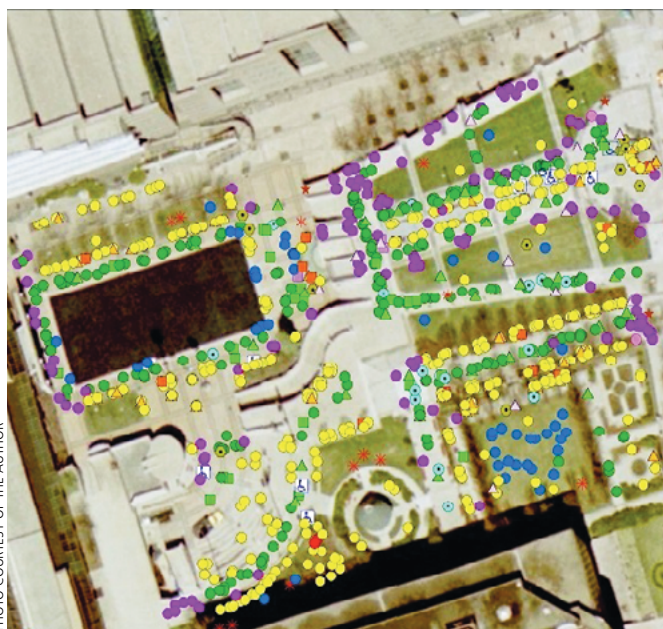


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**Mel Lastman Square activity patterns, composite map**



# Reducing aggregate-related land use conflicts

By Caitlin Port

**T**hrough landscape improvement and collaborative planning, aggregate site rehabilitation can play a key role in reducing land use conflicts. Due to a legacy of poor rehabilitation practices, aggregate site rehabilitation has been identified as one of the most serious problems plaguing pit and quarry developments. Stronger aggregate policy frameworks have resulted in both an increase in the rate and quality of aggregate site rehabilitation occurring in Ontario; however, there is still significant room for improvement.

Aggregate extraction has been identified as one of the most contentious land-uses in southern Ontario. The siting or expansion of aggregate operations is often met with vehement debate from concerned members of the public, local municipalities and other stakeholders. Conflicts over proposed aggregate developments have become a common planning challenge in a number of aggregate-rich municipalities, costing millions of dollars to resolve.

Aggregates are an economically valuable resource and are required for the construction and maintenance of almost all built infrastructure. Provincial and local planning frameworks consider aggregate extraction to be an interim use of the land and rehabilitation is an essential step in restoring the landscape to its former condition or another condition that is compatible with the

surrounding land uses. While not required by current regulatory frameworks, restoring the site to a state that is superior to the original quality of the land can provide host communities with a net gain in environmental and/or social value.

The long lifespan of pits and quarries can make effective and suitable rehabilitation planning an onerous task for both municipal planners and aggregate producers. A collaborative rehabilitation plan offers a solution to this challenge by encouraging members of the public to participate in long-term visioning for the future site condition and helps to ensure open lines of communication. Collaboration among industry, municipalities and members of the public helps to establish positive relationships and can increase the acceptance of the extractive land use.

Aggregate site rehabilitation is a complex and challenging process. Landscape improvements and collaborative rehabilitation planning can help to ease tensions and reduce conflicts.

*Caitlin Port is a masters candidate in Planning (MES) at the University of Waterloo, specializing in Environmental Planning. She anticipates graduating this summer. She is currently a student member of OPPI and can be reached at [cport@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:cport@uwaterloo.ca).*

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# Local food and agriculture

By John Devlin

As the planet's population continues to grow and use finite resources, long-term sustainability comes more and more into question. Food sovereignty, responsible water use, the role of technology in environmentally sustainable development, and healthy communities all depend on long-range vision and good land use decisions.

The Rural Planning and Development program within the University of Guelph's School of Environmental Design and Rural Development (SEDRD) maintains a strong focus on agriculture, food, water, rural issues and sustainable community development. This focus encompasses research on rural municipalities in Ontario, Canada and internationally.

"The whole issue of local food is of key interest to our students and faculty research is quite focused in this area. We have examples of people looking at land use policy across rural Ontario and within local communities, we have research looking at food security issues for the Commonwealth Association of Planners, we have research that has considered the Mennonite population and their role in food systems. Our research spans the food system all the way from organic to large-scale commodity production to people's gardens in their back yards," says Dr. Wayne Caldwell, SEDRD Director.

SEDRD's Dr. Karen Landman co-authored a report that describes food initiatives in communities across the province, including farmers' markets, on-farm stores, and urban farms. Called "Models and Best Practices for Building Sustainable Food Systems in Ontario and Beyond," the study discusses local food systems, including economic, environmental, and social factors involved in food production and consumption, and how they help to strengthen communities.

"As you tug on food, you pull everything with it," says Landman.

In addition to the focus on food security issues, SEDRD research has also revealed the need for enhanced rural land use policies as people are increasingly disconnected from the natural world.

"If we look at population distribution—roughly 20 per cent of Canada's population is rural. However, planners often find many issues that reflect the country's geography, which is closer to being 98 per cent rural," says Caldwell. "Even within those regions that are urban, there are large rural areas that planners end up working with."

Work with the Greenbelt Foundation within Ontario has highlighted the importance of having a solid background in rural issues.

"Through our work

speaking with farmers and planners, we have become more aware of how much the planning system benefits from having people who can connect with rural issues. It is not unusual for farmers, for example, to feel that they are not understood—we have realized the need to provide greater focus for planning for rural communities," adds Caldwell.

SEDRD's connection to the Ontario Agricultural College (OAC) has provided immeasurable benefits to students and research alike.

"Being based within OAC, we are within one of the preeminent, most highly regarded colleges in the world for agriculture and food production," says Caldwell. This provides benefits of being able to share information and knowledge within the college between various disciplines.

Connections with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ontario Farmland Trust also provides a forum for people with similar interests on the Guelph campus and across the province to share ideas, knowledge and solutions. Within SEDRD, Landscape Architecture and Capacity Development and Extension both provide resources and enhance teaching and learning opportunities for students interested in rural planning.

SEDRD does not just focus on issues within Canada. Important international research has been carried out by a number of students and researchers within the school. In fact, the MSc in Rural Planning and Development includes both an accredited Canadian focus and an accredited international focus.

Following an evaluation of a participatory beekeeping training project funded by CIDA and delivered by the University of Guelph, SEDRD faculty and evaluation team leader John Devlin says: "Our evaluation demonstrates that beekeeping adds income, can be managed without taking away from other production activities, and both the young and the elderly can be involved. Food security requires expanding the economic base of small farmers and beekeeping does remarkably well."

Over the past five years SEDRD faculty and students have conducted research in many countries including: Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Latvia, Liberia, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal,

Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Scotland, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, USA, Uganda, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.

"Let's build a better planet, but let's start at home. To me, this is part of The Better Planet Project."



COURTESY U. OF GUELPH

Guelph country

says Dr. Harry Cummings, referring to Guelph's fundraising campaign for food, health, environment, community, and teaching and learning.

As a recent poster from the Better Planet Project observed, "If we want a better planet then we better plan it."

The School of Environmental Design and Rural Development is devoted to planning it well.

*John Devlin is associate professor and graduate coordinator of the Rural Planning and Development Program, School of Environmental Design and Rural Development, University of Guelph. His research is focused on rural policy, environmental policy and impact assessment as a planning tool in Canada and internationally.*

## Learning in Polk County, Florida

By Mollie Kuchma and Jessica Martin

In March, the Advanced Planning Practice class travelled to Polk County in Central Florida. The objectives of this trip were to provide experiential learning through case study analysis, draw on comparisons between American and Canadian jurisdictions and develop skills for applying this analysis to a local Ontario context. During this field trip, the class experienced a new-urbanist community, a reclaimed phosphate mining site and a sixth generation cattle ranch. Throughout the trip, it became evident that the evolution of planned communities and cities in Central Florida has been greatly influenced by the Disney Corporation. The following offers some highlights of our trip.

Celebration, Florida is a new-urbanist community that was created by the Disney Corporation in 1996. The design of this community is based on a pattern book that was created by Disney and represented the direction he wanted the community to follow. Residents live by a restrictive set of rules and permits are required to make any changes to the exterior of homes and properties.

The StreamSong Resort is a great example of transitioned landscapes over time. This property has evolved from a natural habitat, to a phosphate mining site, to a reclaimed golf resort, and has continued to thrive economically through each change. The project developers are very proud of their work in creating a sustainable development following the site's previous resource extraction, and their ability to integrate the unique natural environment into this new development.

The Lightsey Ranch is a sixth generation cattle ranch in Central Florida with more than 10,000 head of cattle. Of the 36,200 acre property, 17,800 acres are rented and 18,400 acres are owned. Lightsey crops include 420 acres of irrigated citrus, 300 acres of bahia grass sod, 450 acres of bahia for seed and 2,800 acres of forage. Our Lightsey Ranch hosts expressed the importance of local and family farming to the agriculture sector in Florida. According to Mr. Lightsey, multi-generational farming operations in Florida are unique, as many family farms are unable to continue farming activities due to the burden of estate tax through the process of farm succession.

Incentives for development appear to be the driving force behind much of the county planning efforts. Incentives are used to attract developers to increase economic growth and population density. Planning in the American context is more flexible when compared to the rigid planning policy frameworks in Ontario. Based on our experience with Polk County planners, there appears to be a disconnect between county level and state level planning, contrary to Ontario's planning hierarchy, where many processes require the collaboration of both levels of government.

*This article was written on behalf of the Advanced Planning Practice class at the University of Guelph by Mollie Kuchma and Jessica Martin. Both Kuchma and Martin are student members of OPPI and MSc(Planning) candidates in Rural Planning & Development. This trip was made possible, in part by funding from the OAC Learning Trust Fund for graduate students.*



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# Collaborative planning in resource development

By Adam Wright

Over the past 25 years exploration and development of northern Canadian mineral and petroleum resources has steadily grown. With predictions of continued growth in resource development, there is mounting concern regarding the negative environmental and social impacts for the Aboriginal communities who are affected by this development.

Flowing from colonial legacies and ineffective engagement strategies of the past, northern and Aboriginal communities express concern that legislated public engagement and planning processes are not sufficient. While the duty to consult and accommodate and public engagement through environmental assessment do require consultation, they do not specify engagement outcomes, and typically do not require follow-up to ensure agreements are honoured. As a result, benefits are often not distributed appropriately and poverty in the midst of resource abundance continues in many Canadian Aboriginal communities. In response to this, as well as environmental concerns, there is growing recognition of the importance in gaining community support

(i.e., social license) for individual development projects. To this end, bilateral private negotiations between private industries and potentially affected Aboriginal communities—Impact and Benefit Agreements (IBAs)—are increasingly used.

Focussing on Canadian Aboriginal communities and the impacts of extractive resource development, my research looks at the ways IBAs are contributing to collaborative land use planning processes that involve industry, government (regional and federal) and Aboriginal communities. While there are challenges associated with the use of IBAs, overall my research indicates they are an effective tool for collaborative planning as they build trust, promote direct communication between Aboriginal and industry stakeholders and facilitate capacity development.

*Adam Wright is the outgoing OPPI Student Delegate and the 2013 recipient of the Gerald Carrothers Graduate Scholarship. For more information regarding Adam's work you can contact him at [adamwright4@gmail.com](mailto:adamwright4@gmail.com).*

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# From Las Vegas to university presidents

By Paul Hess

With recent debates about whether Toronto should allow the development of a major casino, our second year Master of Science in Planning students started the academic year with their own research on the industry with a trip to Las Vegas. The Toronto casino debate had not, actually, really started, and the students had simply chosen Las Vegas as an economical and interesting destination for their annual program fieldtrip (generously supported by our Planning Alumni Committee). Beyond learning about the ups and downs of casino-driven economic development (including failed multi-billion dollar developments), the fieldtrip featured learning about planning and management of the region's water resources, its integrated intelligent transportation system for managing expressway traffic, and suburban planning through gated, master-planned community development. Side trips to Red Rock Canyon and the Hoover Dam both highlighted and gave some relief to the highly controlled, private landscapes of the Casino strip and the region's suburbs. We stayed in the somewhat "venerable" Flamingo Hotel, which will always be memorable, partly for the unforgettable smell of stale cigarette smoke mixed with air freshener on the casino floor. It was a great way to start the year and to appreciate the somewhat less glittering world of Toronto where, upon their return, students set about focusing on their studies.

A featured course taken by all the second year students is the Planning Workshop, with student teams researching and reporting on a planning issue with input from an outside "client" and a "professional advisor." This year's projects were organized by Prof. Katharine Rankin, geography Ph.D. student Charles Levkoe and Leigh McGrath of Urban Strategies. Topics (and clients) included: providing a foundation for a regulatory framework for urban beekeeping (Sustain Ontario: The Alliance for Healthy Food and Farming); exploring issues for developing community food centres in rural communities (Community Food Centres Canada); assessing opportunities for promoting healthy corner stores in Toronto (Toronto Public Health); researching strategies for supporting businesses in the Mt. Dennis neighbourhood (Action for Neighbourhood Change – Mt. Dennis); recommending democratic governance and planning models for Parkdale Community Land Trust (Parkdale Activity-Recreation Centre); and assessing the use of design guidelines (Mark Sterling, &Co). Teams presented their findings to a packed committee room at Toronto City Hall in December.

Equally diverse were the more than 30 student professional projects from the year-long capstone current issues paper. Alumnus Lindsay Stephens facilitated this year's course. Just a sampling of topics includes: the role of arts and cultural festivals for community development; the influence of bus rapid transit on development decisions in York Region; evaluating stream restoration projects; neighbourhood responses to the use of motels as shelters; evaluating policy alternatives for regulating

food trucks; exploring public private partnership through the TIFF Lightbox project; understanding the use of digital media in planning through webmaps in Toronto; and examining models for using vacant storefronts for temporary uses. Students do outstanding work and must present and defend their work to a faculty supervisor, second reader, outside professional reader and the course facilitator.

Other ways professionals interact with students is through our cadre of distinguished practitioners that offer courses, including former Toronto chief planner Paul Bedford who teaches a joint undergraduate and graduate course on the role of the planner, John Farrow of LEA Consulting on planning policy analysis, and Joe Berridge of Urban Strategies on strategies for large scale city building. We were also very fortunate this year to have the Building Industry and Land Development Association fund the teaching of a graduate real estate development course offered by Peter Zimmerman of Freed Developments. BILD CEO Brian Tuckey even found the time to come in to be one of the reviewers of the student's final projects.

Our professional alumni, too, are very involved in the program through the Planning Alumni Committee (PAC). Carly Bowman just completed her role as PAC's 8th chair. We are all very indebted to Carly for her able leadership, as well as to the dedication of all the committee members as PAC has continued to expand its role in enriching the program. PAC currently supports a mentorship program, several professional development workshops throughout the year including the Matthew Hanson Planning Opportunities Workshop, scholarships, conference travel support, among other activities. PAC's signature event is the Annual Friends of Planning Spring Social, the 17<sup>th</sup> this year, which featured Jeanhy Shim of Housing Lab Toronto, talking about the Condo-fication of Toronto. PAC's legacy is in good hands as I look forward to working with Michael Noble and Melissa McEnroe, PAC's new co-Chairs.

The Bousfield Distinguished Visitorship in Planning is another way our program looks beyond the department and university. In the fall, Petra Doan of Florida State University was our Bousfield Visitor. She offered a course on planning for non-normative genders and sexuality drawing on her new book *Queer Planning*. Students learned about ways that zoning and other normative planning tools affect non-normative groups in Toronto and other places. Housing International Coalition president María Lorena Zárate was another Bousfield Visitor who travelled from Mexico City and gave a number of talks and workshops on the coalition's work and approach to promoting the "right to the city." Germà Bel of the University of Barcelona also joined us via Cornell to talk about the economics and politics of high speed rail.

The Bousfield program contributed to the "Big City, Big

Ideas” lecture series that featured Jay Cross and Blake Hutcheson of Oxford Properties on the huge Hudson Yards development in New York; AECOM chief executive of buildings and places Jason Prior talking about lessons from the London Olympics and Rio games as Toronto gears up for the Pan Am Games; and former special advisor to NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Columbia Public Affairs and Political Science professor Ester Fuchs on the politics of city finance; and the Urban Institute’s Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center director Rolf Pendall who spoke about the implications of the millennial generation living more urban, less-auto-dependent lifestyles. Our other partners for the lecture series are Urban Strategies and, at the University of Toronto, the School of Public Policy and Governance, the Munk School of Global Affairs, The Institute for Municipal Finance and Governance, and the Global Cities Indicators Facility.

Closer to home, Sweeny, Sterling, Finlayson & Co partner Mark Sterling was a Bousfield Visitor and taught our Advanced Studio in Urban Design and Planning, having students use the seminal 1974 “On Building Downtown” by George Baird, Steven McLaughlin and Roger du Toit et al. as a basis for looking at accommodating tall buildings in central Toronto. Our final Bousfield event was to co-host with the University of Toronto Cities Centre, Toronto chief planner Jennifer Keesmaat for a talk and reception at Massey College. It was a very enjoyable and informative way to finish a busy Bousfield schedule.

I will not detail all the multiple ways our core planning faculty were engaged in teaching, community work and research this year. However, two announcements are worth highlighting. First, we were very fortunate to be joined by Dr. Julia Markovich as a new

assistant professor. Julia has a planning degree from Queens, a Ph.D. from Oxford, and she is co-author of Sue Handler’s forthcoming book “*I Was the Only Woman: Women and Planning in Canada.*” Among other teaching duties, she developed a graduate course on Transportation Policy Analysis that was a big hit. Julia will be with us for at least another year. The second announcement is that Meric Gertler, currently finishing his term as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, has been designated the next president of the University of Toronto. We are proud to have a professor from our program, and excited and hopeful, about having a planner and urbanist appointed as the head of the largest university in Canada. We wish him the very best in what promises to be a very challenging role.

We are excited about the coming year within the department. Program faculty have been involved in planning The Society for American City and Regional Planning History Conference, which will bring several 100 planning historians and practitioners to Toronto, October 3-6.

Returning this account to its proper focus—the students of the program—we are very pleased to announce that our first year class, along with students from the Ryerson and York programs, organized and won their bid for the Canadian Association of Planning Students conference. The conference will be held in Toronto in February, 2014. I look forward to this event and further cooperation between all three Toronto planning programs.

*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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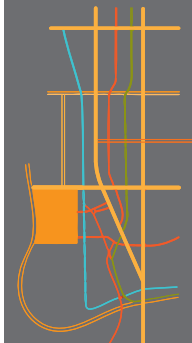
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## SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

### Brownfield redevelopment

By Jeff Leunissen

The Southwest District held one of its most successful dinner meetings ever in April of this year. RCI Consulting president Luciano P. Piccioni, David Flynn of Stantec



Jeff Leunissen

Consulting Ltd. and Sandra Carrelas of Golder Associates Ltd provided concrete examples of brownfield redevelopments to 95 avid listeners at the University Club, University of Waterloo.

Luciano spoke about the challenges of brownfield

redevelopments and the available tools for municipalities. He noted that about 50 municipalities are using Brownfield CIPs to implement strategic financial incentives. Luciano concluded by reminding planners they have a leadership role to play in promoting brownfield redevelopment.



Former roundhouse/ New MBO Centre



Former roundhouse/ New MBO Centre

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

Unlocking the value in challenging sites was the topic of David's presentation. With the legislative amendments having coming into effect July 1, 2011, the new standards are making brownfield remediation more challenging. David said that solutions are as unique as the sites themselves but the use of multi-disciplinary teams employing a variety of tools tends to produce the best results.

Sandra finished off the presentations with a case study of the BMO Centre in London, Ontario. This indoor sports facility is located on a site that had been used for industrial purposes for over 100 years, including at one time as a railway roundhouse.

Initial boreholes failed to detect acid tar which added more than \$500,000 to the remediation costs. Lessons learned include requiring high quality data from the onset, identification of a city point person, and clear reporting relationships when multiple stakeholders are involved, establishing upset limits and increasing contingencies. Notwithstanding these issues, the facility is an unqualified success and the operators are planning an expansion.

Everyone left the meeting with a better understanding of the brownfield challenges, opportunities and successes. Congratulations to the Southwest District Programming Committee for developing the agenda and arranging engaging speakers that were informative and enjoyed by all.

*Jeffery Leunissen, MCIP, RPP, is manager of Development of Services with the City of Stratford, a member of the Planning Knowledge Exchange Committee and Chair of the Southwest District.*

## PEOPLE

**George McKibbin**, MCIP, RPP, AICP, CEP, has been appointed an Adjunct Professor in the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development, Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph, for a three-year period.

## 2013/14 STUDENT DELEGATE

### Introducing George...

**G**eorge Liu is an aspiring transportation planner, avid cyclist and professional musician. As the incoming OPPI Student Delegate, George is committed to enhancing communication between OPPI and its student membership. He proposes to create a dedicated website catering to students and recent graduates. Swamped with social media channels, George believes that students would benefit from a single website that serves as the go-to resource for students who need quick access to current and relevant OPPI information.



George Liu

George is proficient in survey design and data analysis, and has contributed to numerous survey reports during his internship at Smart Commute and his employment at the University of Toronto's Sustainability Office. Following his passion for bicycles and active transportation, he has served as the Treasurer of Bikechain and has conducted demographic research for the Toronto Cycling Think and Do Tank. During the summer, George enjoys performing music on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, in a bearskin cap and a full scarlet tunic, as a bass trombonist with the Band of the Ceremonial Guard.

*George is currently completing his MES (Planning) degree at York University, and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Political Science from the University of Toronto.*

*To learn more about George Liu, visit his website at [www.georgeintraffic.com](http://www.georgeintraffic.com) or email [liug@yorku.ca](mailto:liug@yorku.ca).*

## HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

### WALK Friendly Ontario

# Pilot communities update

By Kate Hall

**W**ALK Friendly Ontario, a project of Canada Walks, is a recognition program that encourages municipalities to create and improve spaces for walking by awarding bronze, silver, gold or platinum designations. The program gives walking a prominent profile in community planning and design, and encourages municipal governments to set targets for ongoing improvements. As communities strive to achieve higher levels, the built environment is transformed to support sustainable and independent mobility. An assessment tool, which measures indicators of walkability, was developed to determine the assigned designation.

In late fall of 2012, the tool was pilot tested with five communities across the province. As part of the assessment communities were asked to tell their stories. What follows is a sampling of those responses.

#### London (population 366,150)

The Healthy Communities Partnership Middlesex-London, a consortium of 17 community partners led by the Middlesex-London Health Unit, successfully advocated that London council endorse the Toronto Charter for Physical Activity as

a framework for local initiatives. The Partnership also produced a position paper called Healthy City - Active London: Evidence-Based Recommendations for Policies to Promote Walking & Biking, which has helped inform London's official plan review—Re-Think London. This lays a firm foundation from which to move forward to make London more Walk Friendly. A companion piece is the Healthy City—Active London [video](#).

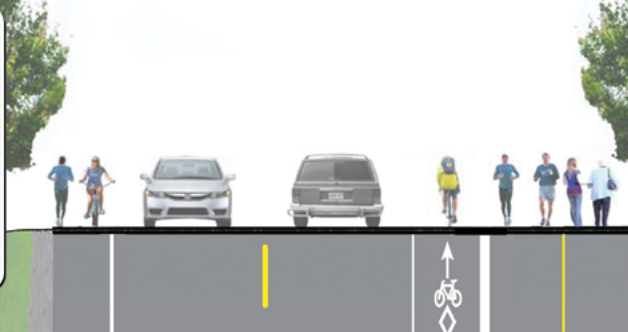
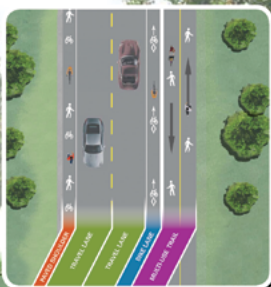
Another local initiative has been [Walk to Shop](#), where the city provides funds to neighbourhood shopping districts to increase the number of people walking to, and shopping at, local stores.

#### Thunder Bay (population 108,359)

[Thunder Bay](#) is most excited about the momentum that has grown significantly since the Ontario Communities walkON project, which provided a community forum with international speaker Gil Penalosa, a train-the-trainer session and a walkability workshop. As a result Thunder Bay established a walkability committee as a working group of council's Active Transportation Committee, with support from city and public health staff.

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Thunder Bay Complete Street



Other accomplishments of note include a review of the official plan from a pedestrian safety perspective; a citizen survey on behaviour, knowledge and attitudes and the retrofitting of two streets using Complete Streets design. The city has begun the process of remaking a city park as a “people place” and discussions have started for an Open Streets event in 2013.

### Town of Fort Erie (population 29,960)

The Town of Fort Erie recently created the Fort Erie Active Transportation (FEAT) Committee. We hope it lives up to its name and accomplishes great “feats” for those who use their feet for transportation.

The [Fort Erie Friendship Trail](#) extends 16 kms. across the town, running parallel to the north shore of Lake Erie. This relaxing and picturesque trail takes visitors and residents through lush farmland, quaint villages, pristine watersheds and quiet residential areas as it leads to historic Old Fort Erie and the Niagara River recreation trail.

### Hamilton (population 519,949)

Hamilton’s commitment to walking is demonstrated through various plans, policies and guidelines such as its

transportation, trails and cycling master plans and transit oriented design guidelines. The city’s commitment was strengthened through the 2008 signing of the International Charter for Walking. Additionally pedestrian issues in the workplace have been addressed through the Smart Commute Hamilton program and events such as Walk to Work Day and Clean Air Commute Week.

In 2009, Hamilton was involved in the Canada Walks Walking Master Class. More recently, the city has coordinated successful active and safe routes to school initiatives and Metrolinx’s Stepping it Up school travel plan project.

All of this led to work in 2011 and 2012 on a [Pedestrian Mobility Plan](#) to establish a comprehensive city-wide framework that will guide improvements in the future.

### Kingston (population 123,363)

A powerful combination of the community, public health, and the City of Kingston has made walking a priority in this city. This collaborative effort has resulted in policy initiatives such as a cycling and pathways study to inform the city’s official plan and transportation plan; development of an accessibility plan; council endorsement



Clockwise from top left: Fort Erie Friendship Trail, Kingston Princess Promenade, Walk to shop group, Hamilton. Photos courtesy of the author



of the Active Living Charter of The City of Kingston; signing of the International Charter for Walking; adoption of an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan with performance indicators; and a Parks and Recreation plan highlighting connectivity between sidewalks, pathways and green space.

Community action was strengthened by the establishment of the [Kingston Coalition for Active Transportation](#) (KCAT) in 2008. The coalition has been the driving force behind projects and events that promote safe and accessible environments for residents walking on city streets. Public Health and the City of Kingston have established volunteer-led indoor walking programs, walking tours and active and safe routes to school programs. Education and awareness has been increased through walking tour resources, online and print trail guides and media campaigns.

*Kate Hall is a community planner with a focus on healthy, active communities through active transportation planning. She is a consultant with Canada Walks and is leading the WALK Friendly Ontario project. Kate is a Candidate (Provisional) member of OPPI and can be reached at [khall@greencommunitiescanada.org](mailto:khall@greencommunitiescanada.org), [facebook.com/WalkFriendlyON](https://www.facebook.com/WalkFriendlyON) or @walkfriendlyON.*

#### MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH

## Mentoring planning students

By Darryl Bird

One of the most interesting aspects of being on the Membership Outreach Committee is the responsibility for reviewing and awarding the OPPI provincial scholarships—Gerald Carrothers Graduate Scholarship and Ronald M. Keeble Undergraduate Scholarship. It is always surprising how the number of

scholarship applications varies from year to year, and unfortunately this year there was no recipient of the undergraduate scholarship. That said, the Committee was greatly impressed with the quality of graduate scholarship applications submitted this year.

One of the key selection criteria is demonstrated community involvement, and I am always amazed at how extensively planning students volunteer while balancing their heavy course loads, work terms and personal lives (if there is any time left for that).

This year's recipient of the Gerald Carrothers Graduate Scholarship is Adam Wright, who is completing his studies at the University of Guelph in its Rural Planning & Development Program. As the 2012/13 OPPI Student Delegate, Adam has served his constituency well and with considerable enthusiasm. Join us in honouring Adam at the OPPI Conference September 18-19 in London.

The core mandate of the Membership Outreach Committee is to ensure that bright and innovative individuals are attracted to the planning profession. There are six accredited university planning programs in Ontario—Guelph, Queen's, Ryerson, Toronto, Waterloo and York—where students receive a vigorous education that ensures that our profession continues to thrive. It is essential that we reach out to these students and those in other planning-related programs throughout the province.

The outreach committee speaks to incoming students every September to give them a sense of what they can expect to learn about planning and undertake in their future careers. It's no surprise given the time and money invested in obtaining an education, that the most frequently asked question is: "How do I get that all-important first job." While there is no magic answer, we encourage them to be diligent in their studies, volunteer their time, and network, network, network.

OPPI and its members have an important role to play in mentoring planners, young and old, as new philosophies, tools and technology evolve.

*Darryl Bird, MCIP, RPP, is the OPPI Director of Membership Outreach and a member of the Student Liaison Committee. As a senior planner and associate at MMM Group's Thornhill office, his practice includes development approvals and heritage policy initiatives. He is also a member of the University of Waterloo Planning Alumni of Toronto.*



Darryl Bird

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## Adam Wright, 2013 OPPI Gerald Carrothers Graduate Scholarship

With his MSc. in Rural Planning and Development from the University of Guelph, Adam hopes to find employment working with Aboriginal and northern communities as they seek to grow sustainably alongside resource development enterprises. His graduate research focused on the way negotiated agreements interact and impact regulatory and legislative consultation processes associated with extractive resource development.



Adam Wright

Actively involved with OPPI over the past two years, in 2012 Adam was elected to the role of provincial Student Delegate. During this time he began the Networking and Collaboration Initiative to improve communications via social media, informal gatherings and new presentation formats. Its objective is to enhance the transfer of knowledge in the profession through more dynamic forms of networking among student planners.

**When the signs are confusing, we get things straightened out.**



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# Strong foundations

## Dear Dilemma,

I disagree with one of my associate's recommendations on a planning matter. And since I expressed my disagreement with my associate, every time we interact I feel there is tension—an elephant-in-the-room. What do I do?

Regards,

*Elephant-in-the-room*

## Dear Elephant-in-the-room,

Planners should not take planning principles or matters of public interest personally. Disagreements are common in the planning profession with respect to making recommendations on planning matters.

When it comes to formulating an independent professional planning opinion there are three foundations to consider: your professional obligations, your professional competencies and planning principles. Always base your opinion on facts and ensure it is consistent with OPPI's *Professional Code of Practice*. The code includes obligations to the public interest, employers/clients and colleagues. With this as your foundation you will feel less stressed and more comfortable to engage your colleague and clear the air.

Consider opening up a dialogue to address this issue and include other colleagues who may be feeling just as uncomfortable as you are.

Professionally Yours,

*Dilemma*

## 2013 OPPI Conference Program

The 2013 conference features new audience-centric learning formats designed to engage planners and offers the opportunity to hear from the best in the profession.

The focus will be on three themes: Healthy and Sustainable Community Design, Community Engagement and Making it Work.

View the conference program on the OPPI [website](#).

## Errata

In the March/April issue of OPI, the article Master Servicing Plans: Enhancing the Planner's Role included an informal survey of municipal websites neglected to mention that the Region of Waterloo has a Transportation Master Plan.

The article Watercourse Mapping Pilot Project should have noted that the methodology used to classify and define watercourse features is based on a guidance document published by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources' Water Resources Information Program.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

The following Full Members resigned in good standing from OPPI for the 2013 membership year:

Tara Alkhalisi  
William Armstrong  
Patricia Boeckner  
Douglas Bridgewater  
Eric Conley  
Rachel Corbett  
Gregory Dick  
Derek Eno  
Keith Exance  
Travers Fitzpatrick

Dennis Flaming  
Barbara Flight  
Caroline Floroff  
Michael Fowlie  
Ann Marie Howard  
Brian Lauder  
David Linkie  
Roxanne Lypka  
Joanne Magee  
Pierre Marin

Barbara Marshall  
R.R. McLellan  
Richard Miller  
Jacqueline Norton  
Alexandra Rawlings  
Valerie Schmidt  
Richard Van  
Veldhuisen  
Carlene Whittingham  
William Winegard

The following Full Members have been removed from the register for non-payment of membership fees for 2013:

Jose Canjura  
Barton Carswell  
John Connolly  
Heather Hood

Judith I. McKenzie  
Katherine Rankin  
Nathan R. Rogers

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

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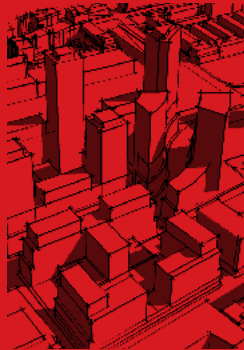
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