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EDITION

Q&A WITH
MERIC GERTLER
PRESIDENT OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Page 1

‘ THINK BROADLY AS YOU PLAN YOUR CURRICULUM,
DON'T FORECLOSE OPTIONS ’



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CONTENTS

Features

Q&A with Meric Gertler 1
Queen's University 4
 Development indicator system 5
 Code of small downtowns 5
Ryerson University 6
University of Waterloo 8
 Resilient communities 8
 Adapting to climate change 9
 Confirming career goals 10
 Evaluating the Growth Plan 10
 Transferring transport knowledge 12
 Across the pond and back 12
York University 13
 Sustainability policy 14
 Biking with George 15
 The 21st century planner 15
University of Toronto 16
 Detroit's resilience 16
 Inclusionary zoning 17

University of Guelph 18
 Individual & collective interests 19
 Review of four municipalities 19
 Making the most of it 20
Post-conflict planning 21

Districts & People

Eastern 22
Celebrating Brian Brophsey 22
Student delegate 22
Education manager 22
Obituary 23

Commentary

Litigate or mediate? 24

Departments

President's Message 26
Canadian Institute of Planners 26
Membership outreach 28
Members register 29

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2014 OPPI Symposium



Niagara Falls, Ontario October 1 & 2, 2014

This year's theme—Healthy Communities & Planning in a Digital Age—examines how the landscape of communication, consultation and engagement is changing. The [Symposium program](#) details are now available on the OPPI website. Keep checking for updates! Early bird pricing is available until July 31st. Student Day is October 2nd. With [registration](#) for the Symposium, OPPI provides students with transportation from school to the conference and back again that same day. The 2014 OPPI Symposium features:

- The Planning Knowledge Exchange (PKE) is the central hub of activity at the conference
- An OPPI Symposium App will help participants navigate the symposium
- An OPPI Design Charrette

OPPI Student Delegate Announcement

Please join OPPI in welcoming our new 2014-2015 Student Delegate, [Anthony Dionigi](#). Anthony follows a wonderful line-up of Student Delegates who have provided outstanding leadership. OPPI would like to thank George Liu for his hard work, foresight and contributions as the 2013-2014 Student Delegate.



George, along with his colleagues on the [Student Liaison Committee](#), worked hard to link together students, Council and OPPI Members.



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



Q&A with Meric Gertler

Local Foundations, Global Success

OPJ sat down with planner and University of Toronto president Meric Gertler to explore how the planner in him influenced his career path to university president, the legacy he would like to leave and his advice to student planners.

OPJ: What qualities or aspects of being a planner gave you the foundation for your current position?

My education in planning has provided a wonderful foundation for what I am doing now, in all kinds of ways. Thinking long term and being able to connect the short term and the long term, I think is the most obvious point. Focusing on where you want to be in five, 10, 20 years and what kinds of decisions you need to make now to get there.

Second, thinking in an integrated way about how all the different elements and systems come together to produce change.

Third, the ability to collect, analyse and marshal evidence, whatever form it may take—quantitative or qualitative. The kind of analytical, evidence-driven, evidence-based work that planners do is a skill set that I employ every day, all the time, and in all different aspects of this job. All of that contextual knowledge, which I absorbed in my career as a planner and planning educator, turns out to be so important and so useful in informing the kinds of big decisions university presidents make.

Policy analysis is critical and I get very deeply involved in interpreting and analyzing the consequences of actual or prospective policy decisions, as well as formulating the university's strategy once such policies are revealed. So understanding the world of policy and how policy and politics interface with one another is really helpful.

OPJ: What do you think the next big planning conversation should be about?

Transportation planning is the obvious place to start. We seem to have difficulty in the GTA moving beyond conversations to

decisions that are truly evidence-based. My great concern is that we are on the brink of making some decisions that will commit us to major investments without having really examined the evidence or paid proper attention to the work that planners and other skilled professionals have been doing in this realm.

It hits home very directly here, when I talk to students about the issue of transportation, and particularly how we can improve public transit. It is top of mind for many of them. We are really committed to helping engage students so they understand that they can effect change.

Second, Toronto is really blessed to be growing. It's one of the few places in North America that is attracting inward migration, particularly international immigration, which is one of the big drivers of growth in this region. We have a strong real estate market and a stable investment climate. Capital is also flowing into this city in a big way. The number of cranes we see in the sky is quite striking and evidence of the prosperity all around us.

At the same time, of course, not everyone is prospering to the same degree. One of the issues that I think we need to be focusing on, and it's not a short-term question, is affordable housing. We have a very vibrant economy here. But there are polarizing trends. Those at the upper-most end of the skills and occupational hierarchy are prospering; they are doing really, really well. Providing services to those high-end professionals is a rapidly growing service class. But it is increasingly challenging for them to find places to live and work. Many middle-class families are struggling with this. Our students are struggling with this.

In terms of Toronto's long-term sustainability as an economy and as a society, the housing question is paramount. We haven't yet reached price levels one sees in the most expensive housing markets in North America, like New York or San Francisco or even Vancouver, but we are very much on that trajectory.

A third conversation needs to be about public schools. One of the great successes of the Toronto region has been the strength of its public school system. Not only as a levelling device—creating

Above: Meric Gertler with Lieutenant-Governor David Onley at a reception at U of T Scarborough (photo by Ken Jones)

opportunities for all of these wonderful newcomers that are coming to Canada—but also as anchors of neighbourhood stability. Nothing is more important to the stability of a neighbourhood than the presence of a good public school. Conversely, if the quality of that school is allowed to decline, that sets in motion a really unfortunate downward spiral. We have had a public system in place that has been able to minimize differences in quality from one community to the next. And it's so important for the long-term success of this region to have that quality maintained and enhanced.

These three things—transportation, housing, schools—are really critical pieces of social infrastructure that have all kinds of implications for the long-term success of this region.

OPJ: What do you want your legacy to be as a planner?

The University of Toronto has been seen recently as an institution that hasn't fully embraced its position in the city. We have three, very substantial campuses in the GTA. We are one of the largest landowners in the city region. So our footprint, in every sense of the word, is quite significant.

I have been making the case that we can benefit significantly by embracing our role as a city-building organization much more enthusiastically and systematically than we have done in the past.

We are proud of our global ranking. We are the only university in Canada that cracks the top 25 routinely in the major global rankings. But, I have been making the case that our ability to continue to succeed globally rests very much on our local foundations, in all kinds of ways. It is a matter of enlightened self-interest that the university should be taking its city-building role very seriously.

We should be working actively with community partners to help them address the challenges they face on a regular basis. We have the expertise and we have the energy of our students, who love to get involved in experiential learning opportunities, placements, internships, course work-based projects. Also, it has been a way of drawing faculty members into community-based research, policy-focused research, where often very interesting issues, problems and challenges come to their attention. As a result they re-orient their own research agendas to focus on these new questions. There is already a lot going on in this regard at U of T, but we have to do a better job of letting the world know that we are doing all of this.

We already have a tremendous amount of expertise in the urban realm. Another one of my key goals will be to ensure that our expertise is a little more coherently connected within the university and easier for people outside the university to find and tap into. U

of T is such a big place and often people don't know where to start.

We have great scholars doing work in urban policy-related fields. They have access to great databases and the ability to gather further data. They have networks of scholars with whom they are connected around the world. We can leverage those networks for the benefit of serving local needs.

We have great physical spaces on campus, which could be, and should be, used to host important debates about issues that matter to the city. I want to see the university opened up on a more regular basis. It really does come down to enlightened self-interest, as I said. The better we make Toronto, the easier it is for the University of Toronto to succeed—the easier it is for us to attract and retain fantastic faculty, and to recruit great students from across Canada and from around the world.

A strong city region helps make its university strong, but in turn, institutions of higher learning enable the city to succeed in the future. Urban economies everywhere are going to have to reinvent themselves continually into the future if they are going to survive and thrive. And universities and colleges are the places where those reinvention processes are going to start. It's where innovation and cutting-edge research takes place. It's where human capital is created. It's also where connections between that city region and other centres of knowledge creation around the world are strongest.

We have the potential to link the Toronto region to other great research centres around the world and allow it to tap into their expertise as well. It's why when I talk about international partnerships as one of my priorities, I've proposed that we focus in particular on partnerships with other great universities in other great city regions around the world. This way we can leverage not only the expertise inside our partner universities, but also their experiences of how they work collaboratively to benefit the city region in which they are situated.

The public doesn't fully understand the full scope of what universities do and how they benefit society. The current debate about whether we are producing job-ready graduates in sufficient numbers is quite short term, very limited in scope. I think it is important for people in positions like mine to help raise the level of debate.

The other thing I'll say, coming back to the original question, is that universities have a big role to play, literally, in city building. We are building new buildings on all three of our campuses. We want to make sure that in doing so we are elevating the quality of the built environment and promoting sustainability.

OPJ: What advice do you give student planners?

I think it's a great field. You leave planning school with a fantastic skill set—with the ability to see the bigger picture, to think laterally, to see connections that perhaps aren't obvious to others.

There is a natural tendency for students to want to specialize in a certain area, but my advice is: don't overdo it. Rather, think broadly as you plan your curriculum, don't foreclose options. It's important not to lose sight of those broader skill sets that will actually give you the greatest flexibility, long term, in your career. It will give you the ability, not just to get a great first job, but to have a great career.

Our students find themselves in the most amazing jobs down the road that they could never have predicted when they entered or even when they left grad school. They are senior leaders in all kinds of different portfolios that, on the face of it, have no obvious connection to urban and regional planning. Yet, they are there because they have that mindset, they have that analytical capacity. They are great critical thinkers, problem solvers and communicators.



Those three skill sets can take you an awfully long way.

I would also encourage as many young people as possible to get some international experience. I think the lessons that one can learn, even if you come back and build your career in Canada—maybe especially if you come back and build a career in Canada—are so valuable. It's important not to limit your knowledge base to your local context. It's indeed your responsibility as a planner, or public policy professional more broadly, to be aware of what other jurisdictions are doing. We can learn so much. It's so wasteful to have to reinvent the wheel and repeat other jurisdictions' mistakes.

I certainly encourage students to take every chance they get to see the world, visit other great cities and learn from what they are doing. Toronto does many things well, but there are a lot of other great cities out there that are leading the charge, in terms of urban policy, environmental innovation, and design. The better informed we are through our travels, the more successful we will be in our work here.

Meric Gertler, MCIP RPP, is the University of Toronto's 16th president and is an economic geographer and planner by training. He is the son of urban planner Len Gertler, who founded the University of Waterloo's planning program. Meric went to McMaster University to study geography and then the University of California, Berkeley, for his master's in city and regional planning. After graduating he spent a year working as a policy analyst with the Ontario Ministry of Industry and Tourism. Soon after he completed his PhD in Urban Planning at Harvard University, he joined U of T's geography department and planning program. Before becoming president Gertler served for five years as dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science at U of T.

This interview has been condensed and edited for publication.



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Building a Balanced Academy

By Dave Gordon

It's been a lovely year at the Queen's School of Urban and Regional Planning (SURP) but the highlight for me was the Canadian Institute of Planners' conference in Vancouver. I was there to present research and launch a book, but the stars of the day are in the accompanying happy image.

The tall fellow in the middle is Andrew Palmiere MCIP (MPL '02), a SURP alumnus who had just won a National Planning Award for his Calgary neighbourhood planning. The three beaming young people are Nicholas Danford (MPL'13, Vancouver), Hillary Morgan (MPL'13, Victoria) and Jon Pradinuk (MPL'13, Regina), who between them have just received four CIP Awards for academic excellence at the graduate level.

The CIP conference illustrates a few reasons why the School of Urban and Regional Planning is a strong example of a "balanced academy." We are a small, research-intensive graduate school with a transformative learning experience for our students. Our MPL program starts with outstanding students drawn from across Canada—literally from Victoria to St. John's this year. SURP fosters a close-knit and collegial environment with an intensive orientation, a school setting that encourages interaction and an open-door policy.

We immediately immerse students in a core curriculum that qualifies them to become professional urban planners, getting them out of the classroom in first term with field trips to [Montreal](#), [Toronto](#) and [Ottawa](#). Most SURP courses have strong active-learning components and group work. Our community planning projects have real-world clients, budgets and adjunct instructors drawn from the profession. This year our students worked with the City of Ottawa to [animate the Rideau Canal](#) and developed a [multimodal transport policy](#) for the Ottawa Airport. Other teams worked with the KFL&A Health Unit to prepare [an active transportation strategy](#) for the Queen's Campus Master Plan and developed [sustainability indicators for Auroville](#) in India.

The India project course was just one of the school's initiatives to provide [international student experiences](#) in 2013. Two students were interns in Beijing, three others went on exchange to the University of Western Australia and four won International Experience Awards to travel to Vienna, Masdar City, Stockholm and Christchurch. And SURP's environment is enriched by our Chinese interns and exchange students from partner universities.

A new Memorandum of Understanding with the BVDU College of Architecture in Pune, India has already shown some promising results with a visit by Dean Kiran Shinde and new collaborative research grants won by Professor Ajay Agarwal. The SURP-Pune partnership will have a joint workshop course in fall 2014 and further action-oriented research.

Research is the other component of a balanced academy and SURP continues to contribute, with two new books,

many refereed articles and scores of conference papers. Gerald Hodge and I published a sixth edition of *Planning Canadian Communities*, while Hok-Lin Leung's *Cultural DNA of Western Civilization* spent time at the top of China's non-fiction best-seller list. Professors Leela Viswanathan, Patricia Collins, Graham Whitelaw and Ajay Agarwal also won new grants from SSHRC and the Shastri Foundation. We work hard to transfer new



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

Nicholas Danford (MPL'13, Vancouver), Andrew Palmiere MCIP (MPL '02), Hillary Morgan (MPL'13, Victoria) and Jon Pradinuk (MPL'13, Regina)

knowledge to the broader community, by editing two journals—*Urban Studies* and *Canadian Planning and Policy*—and outreach through the [National Executive Forum on Public Property](#), the [Queen's Real Estate Roundtable](#), the Ambassadors' Forum and [China Projects Office](#). Our work was recognized by over 100 national media citations, but perhaps the nicest acknowledgement was when the *Globe and Mail* named Professor Andrejs Skaburskis as one of Canada's top three researchers in urban planning and architecture. Andrejs will retire this summer, but will continue his research and editing.

Finally, teaching and research at Queen's bridge several scales. The school takes advantage of its location in a charming college town, with access to three major metropolitan areas, a national outlook and international perspectives. This equilibrium between teaching and research and also between local and global supports our concept of a balanced academy.

Dr. David Gordon, MCIP, RPP, is professor and director of the Queen's School of Urban and Regional Planning. Dave's books include Planning Canadian Communities (2014 with Gerald Hodge) and Planning Twentieth Century Capital Cities (2006). His current research includes analysis of Canada's suburbs and an illustrated history of Canada's capital.

Customized sustainable development indicator system for Auroville, India

By Ajay Agarwal

In December 2013, eight SURP students and I travelled to Auroville for an intensive two-week field trip as a part of SURP's international project course. Auroville is a small experimental community located in southern India with an explicit focus on sustainable development. Impressed by the student work done in 2012, Auroville Integral Sustainability Institute invited SURP to help develop a system of sustainable development indicators customized for Auroville's unique context.

The project was immensely challenging. How does one objectively measure sustainable development in a community where sustainability is "practiced as an everyday life experience" (quote from an Auroville resident)? The student team started out by familiarizing itself with Auroville's context, history, philosophical foundations and future development goals and objectives. While still in Canada, the students engaged with several Auroville residents including architects and planners using Skype. The team also conducted detailed case studies of existing generic sustainability indicator systems such as LEED-ND, BRREAM Communities, and other more location specific examples from across Canada. Nothing seemed to quite fit Auroville's needs. The team landed in Auroville in December thinking "what do we do next?"

Over the next 12 days, the students worked tirelessly conducting numerous lengthy interviews and engaging in group discussions and

systematic site observations to finally produce the Auroville Sustainability Indicator System (AVSIS). The system includes both quantitative and qualitative measures.

According to student project manager Michael Rac (M.Pl. '14), "AVSIS is not only a measurement system, but also a way to facilitate discussion and dialogue regarding meaning and interpretation of sustainability. Student team member Rebecca Tan (M.Pl. '14) added, "AVSIS is purposefully designed to be a dynamic system that could be adapted to meet the evolving needs of the community."

On the last day of the fieldtrip, the team presented AVSIS to the public at Auroville town hall. More than 60 local residents attended the meeting. As a testimony to the interest AVSIS generated, the presentation went more than 30 minutes overtime because of the ensuing discussion and ended only because the auditorium staff had to leave! The student work received wide local media coverage including an interview broadcast by the local radio station and reports in the community newsletter.

The big takeaway for the students is that sustainability can be interpreted and practiced in different ways by different communities; the interpretation is a reflection of the community's values. No single generic measurement system could do justice to the many shades of green (final project report is available upon request).

Dr. Ajay Agarwal, PhD, is an assistant professor in the Queen's School of Urban and Regional Planning, where he teaches physical planning, community design and urban transportation courses. His current research investigates the emerging travel behavior of Generation Y. He can be reached at ajay.agarwal@queensu.ca.

Cracking the code of small downtowns

By Per Lundberg

Through my 2013 summer internship as a student planner at the Township of Cramahe and my academic coursework, I have developed an interest in the planning tools used to shape the urban form. The following is a brief summary of my Master's report which explores some of these tools. The research was supported by the Canadian Institute of Planners Past President Scholarship Award.

From a case study of three communities and four study areas, the research investigates and evaluates four types of planning controls in four study areas in three communities: 1. traditional zoning by-law (Township of Cramahe, ON), 2. hybrid form-based code/traditional zoning-by-law (Truro, NS), 3. form-based code (downtown Sylvan Lake, AB) and 4. urban design guideline (50th Street, Sylvan Lake, AB).

The research question asked is "What are the relative advantages of hybrid-zoning (HZ), form-based codes (FBC) and urban design guidelines (UDG) compared to traditional/Euclidian zoning for guiding the improvement of the built form of a small town central business district?" The methodology was a qualitative case study research design using observation, interviews and document review to evaluate the built form and plan of each of the study

areas. Five assessment criteria were developed, primarily from the work of Philip Walker and Kent Robertson on the revitalization of small community downtowns.

The existing built form of the study areas varied greatly from poor to very good as did the evaluated planning documents which varied from fair to very good. The traditional Euclidian zoning bylaw of the Township of Cramahe scored the lowest in terms of providing the type of physical design guidance necessary to improve the streetscape in accordance with the five principles of good downtowns developed for the research. Scoring the highest were the evaluated form-based code of Sylvan Lake, AB and the downtown hybrid-zoning of Truro, NS.

The report recommends that the Township of Cramahe adopt the type of urban design guidance provided by the Town of Truro Land Use By-law. The preferred form-based codes regulate built form to achieve a pedestrian-friendly streetscape, but are a significant departure from the typical land use based zoning. Hybrid zoning, however, maintains continuity with existing zoning practices while introducing urban design controls similar to a form-based code. With its closer connection to existing zoning practices, hybrid zoning is likely easier for smaller municipalities with fewer resources to support and develop.

Per Lundberg is an OPPI student member who recently completed the requirements for a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning (M.PL.) from Queen's University. He is currently a planner at EcoVue Consulting Services Inc. in Lakefield, Ontario.

Ryerson University

Fostering and Celebrating Big Ideas

By Christopher De Sousa

A primary goal shared by Ryerson University and the School of Urban and Regional Planning is to forge vital and long-lasting community partnerships aimed at enhancing the quality of life of those residing in the GTA, Ontario and beyond. We are deeply committed to understanding and solving real-world problems and ensuring that our students have the tools they need to affect change “on the ground.”

As professional planners and researchers, the mission of our faculty is to share academic expertise and research capability with the community in order to enhance the public good. This is done through our own research projects and the over two-dozen studio projects that we oversee each year. Through these projects student groups conduct sophisticated planning studies for real clients.

One particularly exciting studio project this past year focused on Regent Park, which is undergoing a dramatic revitalization aimed at building a healthier and more sustainable community. Supervised by Professor Zhixi Zhuang, and mentored by Professor Joseph Springer, this group (Rebecca Augustyn, Vanessa Fletcher, Kristin Flood, Georgio Luyt, Emily Osborn, Joey Reeder, Mark Romeril, Lisa Ward Mather) was charged with the task of evaluating the community impact of The Daniels Centre of Learning. The centre opened in 2010 to provide educational/training programs and community building activities. The students conducted a series of focus groups and interviews with program participants, staff, board members and other community members to gain an understanding of the centre’s contribution to social inclusion and community building. This research will also assist with ongoing evaluation plans and tools to direct future growth. The approach allowed the students to develop a logic model and survey tool for conducting future assessments in addition to the program evaluation.

Another studio group (Catherine Buckerfield, David

Cogliano, Amarpreet Guliani, Megan Ketchabaw, Mark Sadoway, Lauren Sauve, Rayson Wong, Heren Wu) investigated Toronto’s requirements for contributions to the public art program for the city’s public art coordinator. The students examined practices in other jurisdictions and user perceptions of the program, as well as the effectiveness of the city’s guidelines and processes. The group recently presented its recommendations to the Toronto Public Arts Commission and outlined measures for establishing clearer expectations for program participants, improving the guidelines, generating an inventory and enhancing the role of the Toronto Public Art Commission. They also made broader recommendations for recognizing public art as a community benefit and integrating it with design, planning and economic development.

In addition to overseeing many of the studio projects, our faculty investigates a wide range of important planning topics through each person’s own research. In year two of a [SSHRC Partnership Grant](#), Graduate Director Pamela Robinson is exploring how civic hackathons, open data and app contests are being used by local governments to add value to their work and to provide new civic engagement opportunities. Professor Ron Pushchak, who has published extensively on environmental assessment and facility siting, recently delivered two presentations to the energy community on the siting of new energy facilities following the controversial cancellation of the west-GTA gas plants last year. The first was an invitation-only session at the Ontario energy planning conference in September at the University of Toronto’s Mowat Energy Centre and the second was to planning staff at the Ontario Ministry of Energy on the application of the collaborative community energy planning approach.

Professor Raktim Mitra continues his research on active transportation planning in the GTA and is working closely



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with several community-based organizations. In collaboration with the Toronto Centre for Active Transportation, Mitra supervised a studio group exploring public perceptions of bike lanes and wider sidewalks (versus parking infrastructure) in Toronto. This year he offered a new graduate course titled Active and Healthy Communities, which covered the concepts and practice related to active transportation planning that are particularly relevant to Canadian municipalities.

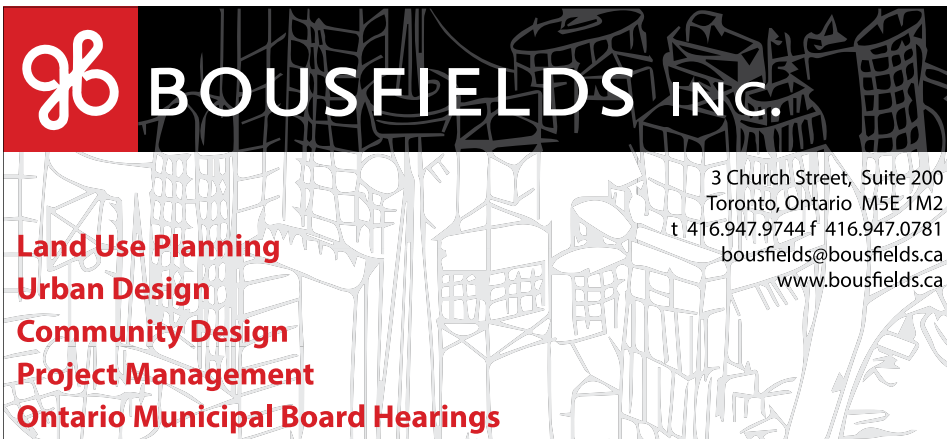
Professor Nina-Marie Lister, through her Ecological Design Lab, has been developing new ways to (re)connect landscapes through green infrastructure, with a particular focus on wildlife movement across urban roadways. Recent studio work was shown at Evergreen Brickworks through fall 2014 in a public education exhibit entitled XING—(re)connecting landscapes. The XING project continues this spring and summer with partners at the City of Toronto's Environmental Planning and Transportation Services, Rouge Park and [ARC Solutions](#). The project involves several student interns undertaking site assessments and developing concept plans for the construction and implementation of three eco-passages in Rouge Park for the safe movement of species-at-risk. This pilot project is part of Lister's ongoing work on wildlife crossing infrastructure and ecological design, featured in *Projective Ecologies*—her recent book with Chris Reed, published by Harvard University's GSD and Actar, New York (2014).

I have recently wrapped up a five-year research project on sustainable brownfields redevelopment, funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In addition to traditional scholarly papers, numerous pragmatic outputs were also

generated, including over a dozen [best practice case studies](#) available to the public online, two chapters in a publication by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the [2013 Menomonee Valley Benchmarking Initiative Report](#). The latter tracks the impact of a decade of redevelopment activity in one of Milwaukee's largest urban mixed-use districts. I am also looking forward to resuming my Canadian brownfields work through a recently awarded SSHRC Insight Grant and another grant from the new Center for Urban Research and Land Development, which was successfully launched by Professor David Amborski with generous support from many alumni and supporters.

In addition to creating knowledge aimed at helping practicing planners, our school is very pleased to announce an endowment established by Heather and Ellen Simpson in honour of their father, Raymond Simpson, founding partner of Hemson Consulting Ltd. This will help us better disseminate planning research through an expanded and formalized public lecture series. This will be a forum for planners to share knowledge and experiences in an ultimate effort to help us better tackle real-world problems and improve the quality and livability of our communities.

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.



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Multi-sectoral Collaboration

By Jennifer Dean

The School of Planning at Waterloo offers a senior-level undergraduate course that brings together students in planning, public health, geography and related disciplines (e.g., international development, environmental psychology, engineering) to learn about conceptualizing and building healthy communities. The focus is on understanding the complexity of a healthy community—the combination of built form, social engagement, supportive policy and integrated governance—and how this translates to improvements in the physical and mental health of populations. Students are exposed to a mix of traditional and guest lectures, academic literature, policy documents and current media reports from public health and planning fields.

A major course component is an interdisciplinary group assignment where students identify an at-risk population in an Ontario city and design a public health intervention involving the built environment. Groups comprise students from at least three different disciplines to provide an experiential learning opportunity that simulates multi-sectoral collaboration for healthy communities.

The exciting array of final products included a community greenhouse to combat food insecurity, landscape redesign to prevent mosquito transmitted infectious diseases, a multi-purpose community centre to improve mental health among youth, and integration of transportation systems to promote active transport among suburban residents.

One particularly exceptional project focused on improving the physical activity of youth in Oshawa. The group decided to build on the existing waterfront trail system and designed an all-season outdoor sports complex with outdoor fitness equipment, extended and widened trail for cyclists and runners, a convertible tennis court/ice rink, open space for a cricket pitch and community-run group fitness activities. The project, titled Waterfront Outdoor Recreation Centre, was created by senior students from four different disciplines: Marija Adzic (Health Studies), Bennett Hannam (Planning), Tiffany Ly (Geography), Ian Pinnell (International Development) Duncan Webster (Planning). The students shared their experience using an integrated approach to study healthy communities.

“Being able to communicate higher-level planning concepts to individuals who are not as familiar with the content as myself is a skill that will stay with me as I enter the professional planning world. Effectively communicating planning jargon and concepts to people outside of the planning community is crucial, as multidisciplinary approaches to projects and public involvement in the planning profession continues to increase.”

“The coordination and experience working with other fields of



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

Students from the University of Waterloo and the University of the West Indies on a tour of the island of Tobago

study was something that I was not used to before, but really opened my eyes to the real world. It was amazing to be able to work with students who look at the problem from a perspective that you did not even know existed!”

“The assignment served to reinforce my belief in the need for interdisciplinary teams to tackle issues such as public health. I have taken a wide range of courses but I know that a lot of university programs are so specialized that people do not get to

look at issues from a variety of perspectives. This assignment showed how much more effective a team can be when it is composed of members with all different perspectives on an issue and who all respect each other’s disciplines.”

Professor Jennifer Dean is a planning social scientist with a PhD in health geography from McMaster University. Her research program broadly focuses on social and environmental determinants of health, planning healthy and inclusive communities, and social equity and justice. She has a strong background in qualitative research methods, community based research, and has worked with various marginalized populations including youth, recent immigrants and low-income families.

Resilient communities

By Jennifer Giesbrecht

My UW School of Planning Master’s research explores the relationship between smart grid implementation and climate change adaptation efforts in Ontario. It is part of a SSHRC-funded academic- industry partnership exploring the policy and societal dimensions of smart grids within Canada and the United States.

In popular press, the term smart grid is typically associated with the advanced metering infrastructure that allows utility companies to charge electricity consumers using time-of-use pricing schemes. It also provides near real-time consumption and price data to consumers and their future smart appliances. However, smart grid encompasses a much broader range of electricity infrastructure that integrates communication technology with electricity generation and delivery. In addition to the well-known advanced metering infrastructure or smart meters, the smart grid has a variety of resilience building technological characteristics that are not typically communicated to the public.

In the context of increasing threats of extreme weather events associated with climate change, many lesser-known smart grid

technologies are valuable as part of climate change adaptation strategies as they increase resilience, or the ability of the infrastructure to cope with and recover from damage. Increasing the resilience of electricity infrastructure is crucial for communities seeking to adapt to climate change given that resilient infrastructure will more effectively cope with the impacts of climate change, including increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events. Smart grids have the capacity to recover from minor faults in transmission lines as well as allow utility companies to monitor transmission lines, detect locations of damage, re-route power and therefore decrease the likelihood of system-wide failures (i.e., blackouts).

My research seeks to determine the factors motivating smart grid implementation in Ontario and to understand the dissemination of smart grid information to the public. Using an Ontario case study to guide my research, I will use key informant interviews and questionnaires to explore the extent to which smart grid implementation in Ontario is motivated by goals relating to resilience and climate change adaptation as opposed to energy conservation initiatives or regulatory requirements. Specifically, I will conduct interviews with representatives from the primary policy, regulatory and distribution organizations involved in smart grid implementation in Ontario. Additionally, I will distribute a

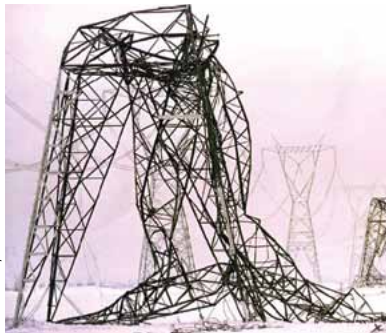


IMAGE BBC, 2014

Damage to electricity infrastructure from extreme weather

questionnaire to electricity consumers within a case study area to determine the extent of public awareness about the resilience benefits associated with smart grid technology.

This research will directly benefit electricity distribution companies operating within the case study area. I will provide information regarding how consumers have interpreted communication about smart grids as well as recommendations as to how distribution companies can educate consumers on the resilience and climate change adaptation benefits associated with smart grid technology.

Through my research, I intend to initiate a conversation regarding the relationship among smart grid technology, infrastructure vulnerability, resilience and climate change adaptation. This discussion will draw attention to the current lack of mainstream climate change adaptation strategies in Ontario

and provide insight into how policy-makers, regulators and distributors can integrate climate change adaptation strategies into their day-to-day operations.

Jennifer Giesbrecht is an MA candidate in the School of Planning at the University of Waterloo. She is working with Professor Geoff Lewis on exploring the potential of smart grid as disaster-risk management and climate change adaptation strategy. Jennifer is also on the executive of the Association of Graduate Planners at UW. She can be reached at jgiesbre@uwaterloo.ca.

Adapting to climate change

By Luna Khirfan

I am linking research and teaching through a series of experimental studios on community climate change adaptation. With a group of graduate and undergraduate planning students I traveled to the island of Tobago in June 2013 and will be traveling to Negril, Jamaica in June 2014 to research how communities there could adapt to rapidly changing climate through the built and urban form.

Small island developing states (SIDs), like Tobago and Jamaica, are especially at risk to climate variability and global climate change, due to their vulnerability to stressors such as rising ocean levels, ocean acidification, coral bleaching and anthropogenically-derived pollution of coastal zones. This vulnerability is exacerbated by their economic reliance on tourism and their fragile food and freshwater supplies.

The research is part of the Partnership for Canada-Caribbean Community Climate Change Adaptation, a research project led by Waterloo Canada Research Chair in Global Change and Tourism Dr. Dan Scott. This project focuses on two Caribbean sites—Tobago and Negril in Jamaica—and two Canadian sites—PEI and Nova Scotia.

Through research-based studios, I bridge my research and teaching by involving planning students in the investigation of how innovative community design could help vulnerable communities adapt to changing climate. These studios incorporate input from local communities and thus deploy design charrettes to gather information at the community level. When combined with visual surveys and the documentation of hazards, these studios integrate local needs, choices and preferences in the development of resilient design solutions.

While in Tobago, my students and I literally recruited volunteers from all walks of life by walking through the streets

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IMAGE COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR



Students from the University of Waterloo and the University of the West Indies preparing for one of the design charrettes

and asking people if they would participate in a design project and share their local knowledge of the situation. In an over-researched context like Tobago, the local people are typically reluctant to interact with foreign experts who parachute in and try to instruct them on what to do. In contrast, by approaching the local communities for their input on how to adapt to climate change, these local communities enjoy the process because they felt empowered. More often than not, local community leaders, planners and policy-makers approached us with offers to share further information whether through guided tours of the vulnerable sections of the island or lectures on relevant matters. Furthermore, by involving students and faculty from local universities, particularly, the University of the West Indies, we exhibited our commitment to learning from the local context rather than instructing it.

The interactions between the students from the University of Waterloo and the University of the West Indies proved beneficial on more than one front. The students learned from each other, exchanged information and gained insights about each others' culture. Indeed, the participating students enjoyed and benefitted from a true integrative learning experience that transcended academic boundaries and encouraged them to address real-world problems. Through the combination of lectures in Canada and in Tobago, studio sessions, guided tours in Tobago and formal and informal studio critiques, the students were able to synthesize multiple areas of knowledge and to consider climate change adaptation from a variety of perspectives.

Luna Khirfan is a professor in the School of Planning at the University of Waterloo. She teaches urban design and her research expertise includes community climate change adaptation, urban design and place making and international development and comparative planning. A true multi-disciplinarian, her degrees include architecture, archeology, heritage management and planning.

Confirming career goals

By Anand Balram

As a future planner, I hope to one day make a positive contribution to the creation of sustainable cities that are planned with intergenerational equity in mind. My care for the environment has led me to develop a keen interest in studying the ties among climate change, transportation and urban design. To combat climate change, we must start at the local level promoting climate policy and walkable and transit-friendly cities. This will

decrease the level of carbon emissions and our reliance on motor vehicles.

The University of Waterloo has done an amazing job in fostering the development of environmentally-oriented planners like me, through an all-encompassing curriculum, co-op program and a variety of field trips. I was privileged to have been chosen by a council of faculty members to take part in the United Nation Convention on Climate Change 19th Conference of Parties in Warsaw, Poland as a youth delegate. This conference emphasized how big a role planners can play in the development of resilient cities. This reaffirmed my career goals.

In my last two co-operative education terms I worked for the City of Ottawa's transportation and strategic planning department and for Waterloo Region doing development review with respect to water services. These were both amazing opportunities that offered me valuable experience in the field of planning.

Anand Balram is an OPPI student member. He is an undergraduate planning student at the University of Waterloo and the 2014 winner of the Ronald M. Keeble Undergraduate Scholarship.

Monitoring and evaluating the Growth Plan

By Dave Guyadeen

In March 2014, the Ontario Growth Secretariat released twelve potential performance indicators to measure the implementation of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (2006) for discussion. While the intent of these indicators are to measure the Growth Plan's targets, policies, and general principles over the life of the plan, it is focused on a narrow set of measures. This stems from a lack of readily available data that is consistent, accurate, and applicable across all municipalities in the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

The release of these indicators is at the heart of a larger issue in planning. Planners continually grapple with how to appropriately monitor and evaluate plans and policies. Indicators are an important component to any monitoring and evaluation strategy as they provide the rules for operationalizing the policies being assessed through a consistent set of qualitative and quantitative measures. Given the importance of indicators, we need to consider whether the Growth Plan indicators will contribute to an appropriate monitoring and evaluation strategy for assessing the plan's implementation and ultimately outcomes.

Without an appropriate monitoring and evaluation strategy, it is not possible to assess the operation and outcome of policies. More importantly, since the outcomes of policies often do not become apparent until many years after implementation, continuous monitoring provides early opportunities for feedback that can be used to improve the quality of the policies. Another benefit of monitoring and evaluation is that it legitimizes planning by making the process transparent while holding planners accountable to their actions.

For the Growth Plan indicators to contribute to an appropriate evaluation strategy there are a number of considerations that must be taken into account. First, the selection of indicators should not be guided by data availability. Such an approach will inhibit planners from identifying measures that more accurately

assess the operation and outcome of policies. Unfortunately, the majority of indicators released by OGS seem to be guided by data that is readily accessible. OGS relies on four data sources: Statistics Canada Population and National Household Survey Employment data, Land Information Ontario Datasets, Municipal Property Assessment Corporation data, and Geospatial datasets of Growth Plan geographies. Two of these datasets—NHS and MPAC—have limitations that may inhibit the use of consistent indicators across the Greater Golden Horseshoe. For example, changes to the 2011 NHS from a mandatory to voluntary survey make it impossible to compare the results against past census periods. With MPAC, there may be a lag between the construction of buildings and the time they are assessed and included in the MPAC database.

There are several ways of overcoming this challenge. One is to engage regional and local planners in the development and selection of indicators. Since municipalities are the primary implementers of the Growth Plan, they are better positioned to assist in identifying appropriate indicators and their data sources.

The second consideration relates to selecting indicators that provide a clear causal link between planning actions and outcomes (Carmona & Sieh, 2008). The Growth Plan consists of numerous policies that attempt to manage growth and development through different means—economic, environmental and social policies. However, the plan does not operate in isolation of other policies and initiatives that also support the objectives of the Growth Plan. For example, both the Greenbelt Plan (2005) and the Growth Plan function together to achieve similar goals. The challenge therefore is “tracing the precise weight to be attributed to a particular policy in a network of causation” (Carmona & Sieh, 2008, p. 432). The indicators chosen for the Growth Plan must recognize the interrelationship of plans. It is

not entirely apparent as to whether clear causal links can be established among policies, indicators and outcomes for the Growth Plan.

Furthermore, indicators should be appropriately linked to the policies and outcomes we are trying to assess for the Growth Plan. Within the four themes identified by OGS, a clear causal link between the indicators and themes has not been established.

Finally, when developing a monitoring and evaluation strategy, it is important to recognize and avoid potential unwanted consequences. For example, a side effect of monitoring is that planners will plan according to the monitoring criteria rather than the true objectives of the plan. For the Growth Plan indicators, it is quite possible that municipalities will be tempted to plan for these indicators instead of focusing on the plan’s overall objectives. While some of the indicators represent targets in the plan, they are only one aspect of the plan that contributes to its overall objectives. The indicators then should not become benchmarks for success or failure.

It is important to ensure that the indicators we agree upon will contribute to an appropriate monitoring and evaluation strategy. This requires a tremendous amount of resources at the provincial, regional and local levels of government if we are to effectively assess the Growth Plan. The release of these indicators will hopefully ignite discussions among practitioners and academics about how we can appropriately evaluate the plans and policies planners develop and implement.

Dave Guyadeen is a PhD Candidate in the School of Planning at the University of Waterloo. He can be reached at dave.guyadeen@uwaterloo.ca. He would like to thank Dr. Mark Seasons and Dr. Pierre Filion for their comments.

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Transferring transport knowledge

By Kevin Yeung

International best-practices in transportation planning are exchanged most effectively through personal hands-on experience. Over the past year, students from the University of Waterloo, McGill University and Concordia University have had the opportunity to exchange ideas on planning sustainable transportation infrastructure with peers from Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences in Karlsruhe, Germany.

Karlsruhe, located about 150 kilometres south of Frankfurt in the province of Baden-Württemberg, is a prime example of a vibrant mid-sized city supported by a multimodal transportation network. Last October, students from the three universities spent a week exploring Karlsruhe. One of the key transportation assets in this city is the light rail transit network along the main retail street in the city centre. Surrounding this main corridor are numerous walkable streets with a diversity of activities including employment, retail and restaurants. The transport network increases the convenience and attractiveness of walking, cycling or taking transit within the city centre.

The neighbouring city of Freiburg provides a great example of successful sustainable transportation planning. About an hour away from Karlsruhe by high-speed rail, Freiburg is a city where walking and cycling accounts for about 50 per cent of all trips, while driving accounts for 30 per cent.¹

Students explored the city by bike and learned about the residential neighbourhood of Vauban, which is designed to discourage car use. Many of the Vauban residents do not own a car

as the neighbourhood is within walking distance of the light rail station and within cycling distance of the city centre.

After exploring the cities of Karlsruhe and Freiburg, students applied their knowledge by creating solutions to several local transportation challenges in Karlsruhe. The Canadian students collaborated with their German colleagues to develop ideas and plans for a cycling superhighway network and a cycling way-finding strategy, as well as cycling infrastructure designs to overcome barriers and gaps in the city centre.

In June, the two Montreal universities welcomed the Waterloo and Karlsruhe students to a week-long conference. Several practitioners shared their expertise on travel data collection, transit planning and design, infrastructure management and sustainable mobility. Students also shared their ongoing transportation planning research in a poster presentation session.

The strength of this exchange has been in the sharing of ideas and best practices for transportation planning across different contexts and continents. The transfer of knowledge will continue as Waterloo hosts the next iteration of the exchange in the fall of 2014.

Kevin Yeung is an OPPI student member and a Masters student in the School of Planning at the University of Waterloo, where he researches with the Waterloo Public Transportation Initiative. He also serves as the co-president of Association of Graduate Planners at the University of Waterloo and participates in the OPPI Student Liaison Committee.

Reference

- ¹ Broaddus, A. (2010). Tale of two ecosuburbs in Freiburg, Germany. *Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board*, 2187(1), 114-122.

Across the pond and back

By Jennifer Giesbrecht, Rahul Mehta and Navroop Tehara

Each year a small group of students from the University of Waterloo has the opportunity to travel to Oxford, U.K. as part of an exchange with Oxford Brookes University. Unlike previous years where all students came from the School of Planning, the 2014 class comprised students with diverse academic backgrounds and interests. The course, led by Dr. Geoff Lewis, is a comparative planning course, intended to broaden students' perspectives of planning and history in the context of Canada and the U.K.

Students attended lectures covering a range of planning topics. Laura Novo-de-Azevedo provided a perspective on creating a sense of place on our streets. She gave insight into the changing use of Oxford's streets, the decline of multi-modal transportation and the opportunity to bring back social and cultural functions. Tim Jones explored sustainable mobility both locally and globally. Other topics included heritage management (Brian Goodey), planning and climate change (Elizabeth Wilson) and the relationship between planning and policy with Gypsy/Roma and Irish Travellers (Maria Faraone).

Students also participated in fieldtrips throughout southern England. Examples included Garden Cities (Mike Breakell), science and business parks (David Valler) and exploring the character of British towns (Professor Philip Turner). These incorporated historical sites, villages, towns and small cities. As well, students had the opportunity to see the unique and beautiful countryside of Southwestern England. The rolling green countryside and small

medieval villages helped bring the lecture material alive.

Visiting cities such as Letchworth and Milton Keynes was exciting because these cities are often discussed as practical applications of planning theory. Students experienced master planned communities where historic planning principles had been applied and unique architecture and design preserved.

Similar to Canada, the U.K. is striving to reduce auto-reliance in cities by promoting public transportation, cycling and walking. Additionally, the U.K. is focused on climate change goals and has embarked on many interesting green building initiatives. We also noted that planners in the U.K., as in Canada, strive for high levels of community engagement in all planning initiatives.

Town planning in the U.K. differs from that in Canada. With its considerable history there is a tension between the desire to conserve heritage buildings and the necessity to accommodate the urban demands of the 21st century. Furthermore, development is far more regulated here than in Canada. In many villages and towns there are significant restrictions on building heights preventing large, high-density development within urban areas. Additionally, many urban areas are surrounded by greenbelts, preventing development in rural areas. It was particularly interesting to travel through the English countryside and observe the distinct urban and rural divide that can no longer be seen in the Canadian countryside due to fringe development.

Thank you to the UW School of Planning for providing us with this unique opportunity to experience planning in U.K. firsthand!

Jennifer Giesbrecht (OPPI student member), Rahul Mehta and Navroop Tehara are first year Masters' students at the University of Waterloo School of Planning.

News You Can Use!

By Laura Taylor

The everyday life of a practicing planner doesn't leave a lot of time to think, much less room to commit to learning something new. But take a moment and be inspired!

I'm often asked for advice: about whether or not someone should go back to school; about travel destinations to see great or not-so-great planned and unplanned places; and about great planning reads. Here is my advice...

First, though, let me take a moment to congratulate Gerda Wekerle on her retirement from the faculty and to thank her for her tireless support of the planning program over the years.

Back to school?

Graduate school definitely gives people room to think. The Faculty of Environmental Studies welcomes students who are mid-career and who are looking for time and space to think about issues raised in their work. Planners choose our graduate school to understand more about social and environmental justice in relation to their own practice. People without practical or academic planning experience also come to explore nature and cities, cities and their regions, and the kind of world we are building together through government, civil society and activism.

Our students' research is incredibly varied. Within our two-year Master's program, students spend a year or so doing course work and field experience before spending two or three terms focused on their own research.

For example:

Disentangling the ideas of Complete Streets from Context Sensitive Solutions—Connie Tsang (MES '14) worked in support of new road-design policies in York Region (transportation planning has finally embraced urban design...).

Why don't condos have bike parking on every floor?—James Pyo (MES '14) completed a detailed study of bicycle culture among condo residents and considered simple solutions to a real problem.

Looking for alternative ways to fund affordable housing for smaller communities—Pawel Nurzynski (MES '14) suggested a model to generate revenue as well as sustainable power from local wind energy projects.

Community Energy Planning—Recent grad David Macmillan (MES '14) has written a great review of district

energy, drawing on work on community energy planning of former student Bahareh Toghiani Rizi (MES '12), both of which you can find under Publications at sei.info.yorku.ca.

Check out all our outstanding student papers (arts, environment and more) at fes.yorku.ca/research/students/outstanding.

Consider a PhD in Environmental Studies, too. As planning is so often interdisciplinary, our intersection of researchers in humanities, natural and social sciences provides a great foundation to study environmental issues.

CPL! If you are looking for Continuous Professional Learning credits, we are offering Consulting Skills this summer (see consultingskills.ca) and more courses to come in the future. This is in addition to our International Political Economy and Ecology summer course, check out fes.yorku.ca/ipee. If you have questions, contact us.

Places you should visit

Costa Rica is a well-known eco-tourism destination and is a great place to learn about sustainability and climate change. Each year, about 50 FES students enrol in the field course in sustainability and applied ecology to study all aspects of ecological research and conservation in the Las Nubes rainforest in Costa Rica.

York is working with local communities and scholars to create a conservation corridor between the lowlands around

Los Cusungos and the highlands of Chirripo National Park and La Amistad Biosphere Reserve. For instance, students help in reforestation efforts along the corridor where the high rate of tropical deforestation is appalling. Forest clearance destroys habitat for tropical species, causing the populations to decline. Removal of tropical forests destroys the watershed causing soil erosion, siltation, water contamination and loss of wildlife habitat. Forests also play a significant role in

carbon fixation, removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, thereby easing the increase in global temperature.

Plans for a permanent Las Nubes campus are underway. Check out lasnubes.org for more information.

The civil war in Sri Lanka ended in 2009, opening up the



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

Subway construction looking south from the Kaneff Tower with Schulich Building in the background

Northern Province for outsiders for the first time in years. Professor Barbara Rahder toured the city of Jaffna with a former MES student who now teaches in the Department of Geography at the University of Jaffna. Rahder then gave a talk about post-war Sri Lanka at the 2013 Changing Cities Conference in Skiathos, Greece. The transformation of the landscape in Sri Lanka has been profound and the future is uncertain, as the Urban Development Authority has now become the Ministry of Defence and Urban Development.

Interested in transit? How about York University as a local getaway to see the construction of three subway stations being built through (and under) the Keele campus: Finch West, York University (in the Common) and Pioneer Village. The disruption to normal car and bus traffic patterns is mindboggling at times but the potential is exciting. Expected opening of all stations is 2016.

Given the extremely high level of current construction, the Keele campus could arguably be confused with anywhere in downtown Toronto. In addition to the subway (as if that wasn't enough), we also have a new engineering building underway to house the Lassonde School of Engineering, as well as a new track and field stadium for the 2015 Pan Am and Parapan games. Plans for a new Student Centre are also underway.

York is the size of a good-sized town: 48,000 undergrads and 6,000 grads in 2013, 1,500 full-time and 1,400 part-time faculty, plus staff. Commuting ranks high on the list of study topics for students.

The beautiful Centre for Excellence building at York's Glendon campus won a Toronto Urban Design Award in the fall. Designed by Montreal firm Daoust Lestage, the building fits perfectly with the built and nature heritage of the campus and is worth a visit (Bayview and Lawrence).

Books you should read

I am often asked for suggestions about good planning books to read. In addition to the Great Reads list on the MES Planning website, here are the most recent books by FES faculty of interest to planners:

Suburban Constellations: Governance, Land and Infrastructure in the 21st Century edited by FES professor Roger Keil based on the hugely successful Global Suburbanisms conference last fall, and including chapters by FES professor Ute Lehrer on suburban form and MES grad Sean Hertel (MES '12) on the Greater Toronto Suburban Working Group. The book provides a much needed, multi-faceted view of the GTA as more than downtown-inner suburbs-suburban cities. Keil concludes the GTA is entering the post-suburban era.

Urban Explorations: Environmental Histories of the Toronto Region (2013) edited by FES professor Anders Sandberg with Stephen Bocking, Colin Coates and Ken Cruikshank. The City of Toronto has been shaped by its natural landscape and has in turn shaped the environment in which people live.

The Oak Ridges Moraine Battles: Development, Sprawl, and Nature Conservation in the Toronto Region, by Anders Sandberg, Gerda Wekerle, and Liette Gilbert. Do you know the story of why the Oak Ridges Moraine was (finally) protected? Consider the power of social movements to bring about landscape change as told by three FES professors.

Landscape and the Ideology of Nature: Green Sprawl, edited by Kirsten Valentine Cadieux and Laura Taylor. This book considers the pull of nature in making sense of why people

move out of the city and explores the complex exurban landscape beyond the urban fringe occupied by people who, paradoxically, want to both live in it and protect it. Chapters focus on Brampton, Calgary, Muskoka, Walden Woods, and other areas of the urban-rural fringe in the U.S. and Canada.

I sometimes wonder if the best planners are those who keep reading and learning, who love to travel, and who try very hard to look at the world from many different perspectives.

Laura Taylor, MCIP, RPP, is an associate professor and MES/ planning program coordinator in the Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University. She is a member of GGH Greenbelt Council and studies exurbia and the politics of nature in Ontario. Contact: taylorL9@yorku.ca, [@laura9taylor](https://www.instagram.com/laura9taylor) and check out the MES Planning website.

Engaging with sustainability policy

By Nabil Malik

My current research, which is a comparative case-oriented study, explores how changes in direct settlement patterns by recent ethnic immigrants influence the development and implementation of sustainability planning policy for two regional municipalities. Both the regional municipalities of York (Ontario) and Wood Buffalo (Alberta) has undergone significant increases in population growth through immigration by ethnic migrants over the past 20 years.

The policy that is being investigated is the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP). The study is exploring whether there has been culturally appropriate and adequate response by the two regional municipalities to the change in social composition that has occurred through immigration. Specifically it is looking at public engagement in the development and implementation process of their respective ICSPs.

Since 2005, ICSPs has been required in Canada through federal and provincial Gas Tax Agreements, where a portion of fuel tax is returned to local governments which have prepared these plans. ICSPs are built on four pillars: the natural environment, social aspects of communities, the economy and culture.

With funding from the Canadian Polar Commission's Northern Scientific Training Program, I am currently visiting the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo conducting interviews with municipal politicians, bureaucrats and community leaders.

This research has the potential to benefit both municipalities by assessing whether their current public consultation processes are sufficient with respect to engagement with recent ethnic migrants in the planning process.

Nabil Malik is completing a Master of Environmental Studies (Planning Program) and a Graduate Diploma in Democratic Administration at York University. He is specializing in sustainability policy development and implementation, stakeholder engagement and regional planning. He is an OPPI student member and a co-managing director of the York Sustainable Enterprise Consultants (YSEC). He may be contacted at nmalik@yorku.ca or nmalik@ysec.ca.

Biking with George

By George Liu

The nexus of behavioural change and active transportation is the focus of George's major research project for his Master in Environmental Studies degree at York University. Together with principal investigator Dr. Beth Savan at the Toronto Cycling Think and Do Tank, George is investigating how participation increases in active transportation can be achieved through social infrastructure, community building and peer mentorship.

George is the recipient of a Mitacs Accelerate grant to work with over 60 new Canadian participants in the Bike Host program. Bike Host matches up newcomers who are open to cycling with mentors who ride regularly, giving participants the opportunity to practice their communication skills and learn about civic engagement while exploring Toronto by bike. Bike Host creates social norms for new Canadians by engaging with them through social



George Liu

interaction, community-based activities and public statements of commitment to cycling.

This summer, George's role with the Toronto Cycling Think and Do Tank is to carefully document participants' use of bicycles for transport and for leisure over the course of the Bike Host program. In addition, participants will be asked to complete entry and exit surveys to measure their changes in attitudes towards cycling. Inspired by the success of the program to date, the final goal of the 2014 project is to produce a toolkit to enable future bicycle mentorship programs at other organizations.

Bike Host is affiliated both with the Community Connections Mentorship Program of CultureLink Settlement Services and the Bike to School Project offered by CultureLink in collaboration with Cycle Toronto, the Toronto Cycling Think and Do Tank and Evergreen. It is funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, the Ontario Trillium Foundation and Citizenship and Immigration Canada and (in 2014) the Metcalf Foundation.

George Liu is an OPPI student member and served as the 2013-14 OPPI Student Delegate. He is the winner of the 2014 Mary Lou Tanner Scholarship. Currently completing his final year in the MES (Planning) program at York University, George can be reached at georgeintraffic@gmail.com or through his website at www.georgeintraffic.com.

The 21st century planner

By Patrick Amaral

The complex nature of our planets urban and rural environments requires a special kind of planner. One that can adapt and be aware of the diverse daily interconnections that are so unique in many different parts of the world.

This requires a planner to be equipped with a wide ranging set of skills and knowledge. The argument here is not to say that planners of the past have not required the same set of diverse skills, but instead to say that the role of the planner is more critical today than ever before. Especially in a time when globalization has caused increased economic, environmental

and social issues that require the expertise of planners to salvage any glimmer of hope for a better future.

Planners today must be able to understand the role they play within society and the influence they can have on decision making. This role requires a planner to be the advisor, which means it's essential for planners to understand the dynamics of the intersecting micro and macro functions of cities and surrounding regions. For that reason, the planner of the 21st century must understand the context of interrelated land use and transportation planning, environmental sustainability, economic development and social equity.

The 21st century planner must be able to plan locally but think regionally. The issues that challenge our towns, cities and regions cross political jurisdictions and require the collective cooperation of a diverse set of individuals from many differing disciplines. Planners have the ability to bring different disciplines together and approach problems from an interdisciplinary background that can be comprehensible to all. Without this essential ingredient the problems that challenge our society will continue to flourish without any structure or effective plan to mitigate them.

Overall, the 21st century planner must be ready to tackle the uncertainty of our urban and regional environments. This requires more creative and reflexive ideas and approaches to the planning discipline. Effectively addressing the issues of our society desperately requires the evolution of the 21st century planner.

Patrick Amaral is an OPPI student member and a Masters in Environmental Studies Planning Candidate (Class of 2015) at York University. His research focuses on land use and transportation planning.



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PATH Dependence

By Kyle Miller

Many readers will be surprised to learn that the first tunnel in PATH, Toronto's underground city, was constructed in 1900. Ever since the T. Eaton Co. first used an underground link to connect its main store to an annex, a network of tunnels has grown steadily beneath Toronto's streets. Until 2012, this growth was unmanaged, with private entities building underground infrastructure primarily to suit their own interests and often to increase retail revenue. The City of Toronto had limited involvement. As of 2012, however, PATH finally has a master plan, a crucial planning tool that will guide the system's growth. As PATH plays an increasingly important role in Toronto's downtown pedestrian network, its master plan could not have come at a better time.

Grade-separated networks, of which PATH is one, have periodically captivated planners ever since 1928, when the CIAM (Le Corbusier et al.) began to promote the removal of pedestrians from automobile environments. This call was taken up enthusiastically by Matthew Lawson, Toronto's planning commissioner from 1954 to 1967, who initiated a program of incentivization to encourage tunnel-building. However, by the late

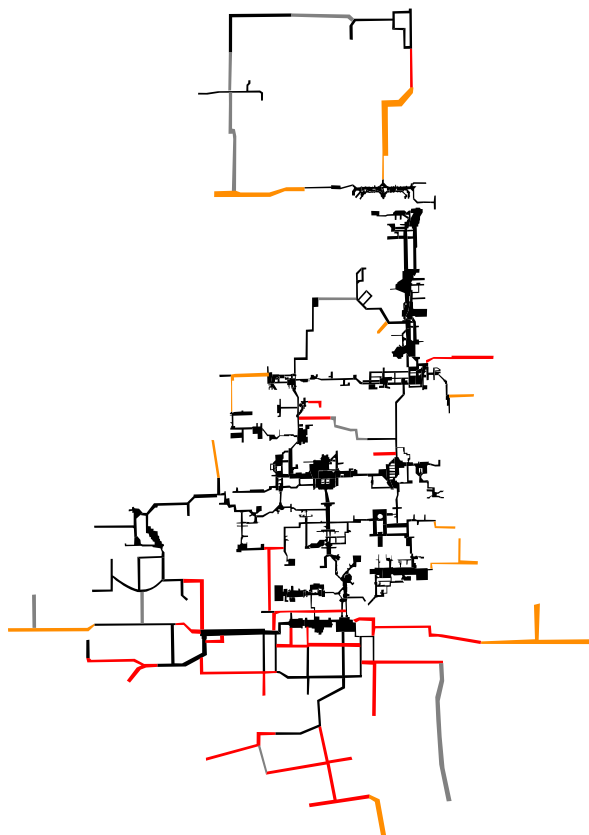
1980s, critics such as William H. Whyte had begun to warn against "underground utopias" that were functioning too well, at the expense of street life on the surface.

PATH (which is not an acronym) has by all accounts succeeded, but fortunately not at the expense of street life. Rather, what began as a suburban-style mall underground has now become a critical piece of transportation infrastructure, alleviating surface sidewalk congestion by accommodating 200,000 commuters below grade daily. In 2010, Toronto transportation planning director Rod McPhail noted that the city's downtown sidewalks could no longer, on their own, adequately handle the pedestrian traffic that was being shared with PATH. The system had become essential.

Despite its role as a public thoroughfare, PATH is not accessible 24 hours a day, nor does it represent true public space in the conventional sense. Rather, PATH currently lies at the blurry intersection of public and private downtown space, and this is unlikely to change in the future. It is the job of planners to ensure that PATH remains open and accessible; for now this is achieved through countless individual agreements signed with private property owners. Even though planners do participate in this process, it is a testament to the uniqueness of PATH that, even with the master plan in place, few people in Toronto (if any) can actually explain who is in charge of PATH.

PATH and systems like it were built primarily for economic reasons, and the convenience they offered subsequently caused them to become integral parts of downtown pedestrian networks. While some have criticized grade-separation as a relic of high-modernism, PATH remains a defining characteristic of downtown Toronto and an essential piece of transportation infrastructure for hundreds of thousands of commuters.

Kyle Miller is an OPPI student member and the 2014 recipient of the OPPI Gerald Carrothers Graduate Scholarship. For more information about Kyle's work, you can contact him at kyle.miller@mail.utoronto.ca. This article is based on research completed by Kyle Miller in November 2013.



Map Kyle created for his PATH research, showing the existing network (black), high-priority new connections (red), medium-priority new connections (yellow), and low-priority new connections (grey)

Detroit: Ruin and resilience in a declining city

By Kerry Thompson

Planning education at the University of Toronto tends to emphasize the challenges and opportunities confronting the fast-growing world city: how to manage development, immigration, housing supply, environmental pressures. Yet throughout North America cities are in decline.

Interested in supplementing my locally-oriented classroom education with experiential learning outside of my comfort zone,

I signed up for *Spacing* magazine's weekend tour to Detroit in April. In attendance were seven first-year planning students from U of T, along with a variety of other individuals—people of varying ages and backgrounds keen to discover to what extent the dismal scenarios painted by the popular and academic press were true. Detroit declared municipal bankruptcy in 2013.

In many ways, Detroit confirmed our worst fears. Coming from a city where every lot seems the subject of jealous demand, the neglect evident in the countless vacant downtown high rises was disorienting. Many of these are century-old towers built during the city's heyday, whose exceptional architecture provoked our admiration and envy. Likewise, the tour brought us through residential neighbourhoods where dilapidated houses are scattered among expansive, unkempt fields, interspersed at intervals by burnt-out shells.

Yet the bleak impressions of Detroit we received were moderated by other, more positive experiences along the way. The downtown tour that revealed decaying heritage high-rises also showcased those that were being restored and repurposed through private investment. The Heidelberg Project, a neighbourhood art installation that uses found objects for social commentary, was both heartbreaking in its cemetery-like ambiance, and inspiring in its message of community solidarity and personal integrity. Well-tended houses and a community garden graced the streets of one troubled neighbourhood, and a flexible-space social enterprise bordered a vacant factory in another.

Perhaps my most potent memory of Detroit is the

friendliness of its residents, often across racial and socioeconomic divides: strangers on the street giving directions, yelling greetings, engaging us in conversations over lunch. Still, in spite of their general good cheer, no one was under the illusion that Detroit would ever regain its former glory, or that even modest achievements would ever come easily. Ultimately, the pragmatism, resilience and cautious optimism of Detroiters comprise a unique response to a city in decline.

Kerry Thompson is an MScPl Candidate at the University of Toronto and a student member of OPPI. She can be reached at kerryleigh.thompson@mail.utoronto.ca

Inclusionary zoning

By Sarah Chu

In recent years, inclusionary zoning has emerged as a potential policy tool to address the shortage of affordable housing in Toronto, although some claim that the policy will worsen housing affordability by causing market distortions that will discourage housing production and raise average house prices.

The basic premise of the policy is to harness market forces and the expertise and resources of the development industry to stimulate the production of affordable housing in new residential developments.

Municipal governments can use inclusionary zoning programs to cultivate social integration and income mixing by generating equitable housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income households in the private housing market. Programs can be mandatory, requiring developers to include a fixed number of units, typically ranging from 10-20 per cent, of affordable housing as a condition of the development approvals process. Or they can be voluntary, using regulatory concessions to incentivize developers to include affordable housing in multi-unit residential developments.

While not without its shortcomings and limitations, inclusionary zoning is worth exploring as part of a suite of housing tools, so long as it is designed in consultation with relevant stakeholders and is reflective of local housing conditions and needs. While an inclusionary zoning policy will not solve Toronto's housing affordability problems, it can help the city leverage its high growth housing market to increase its supply of affordable housing.

Sarah Chu recently completed her first year in the Master of Science in Planning Program at the University of Toronto, and is specializing in Urban Planning and Development. She can be reached at sarahcailin.chu@mail.utoronto.ca.

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Appreciating Rural Regions

By John F. Devlin

In a rapidly urbanizing world rural regions are easily overlooked. They are challenged by low-population densities, long distances, lower services and fewer amenities. Their labour markets are less specialized and their product markets are small. So it is easy to forget how important they are. But urban Ontario is deeply dependent on its rural regions. Agri-food is Ontario's largest industrial sector. Minerals, energy, and timber flow from rural areas to feed industry. Environmental services like clean water, carbon sequestration, and air purification, recreational benefits of rural landscapes and wilderness and the preservation of Canada's deep rural identity all depend on healthy rural regions. As our urban centres grow rural regions deserve ever greater appreciation.

The Rural Planning and Development program in the University of Guelph's School of Environmental Design and Rural Development (SEDRD) maintains a strong focus on rural regional development and its components: agriculture, food, water, resources, stewardship and community. This focus encompasses research projects on rural regions in Ontario, across Canada and internationally.

Regional development

The Evaluating Rural Economic Development Initiatives (EREDI) project is assessing the ideas of new regionalism. This suggests that successful regional economic development emerges where regional strengths and assets are recognized and enhanced and the region emerges as a locus for economic, social and political action. Led by John Devlin and involving faculty and students the EREDI project asks, under what conditions an enabling environment, enhanced human and social capital, active networks, shared regional identity and strong institutional and governance structures emerge in rural regions.

Labour force strategy

Harry Cummings and a team of graduate students have been examining labour markets for Huron, Perth, Bruce and Gray counties for the Four County Labour Market Planning Board. They are using census data as well as data collected through employer, employee and high school student surveys. Presentations have been made this spring to the Huron County Council and the Huron Manufacturing Association focusing on effective labour market strategies for the regional economy.

Agriculture and Local Food

Through the SSHRC funded Planning for Agriculture in Canada: Connecting Agricultural Policy with the Public Interest in Food Sovereignty, Wayne Caldwell and a team of graduate students are looking at land use practices in Ontario that support food sovereignty. Additional projects focus on the role of co-operatives in the local food system and the role that mobile abattoirs can

play in food processing and the development of a local food sector.

Water and Waste Water Services

John FitzGibbon and his students are researching municipal water and waste water services. One study is investigating the opportunities and impacts of collaborative delivery on the sustainability of municipal water services. They have interviewed water services managers in 175 municipalities and developed an integrated water supply and waste water management database of all 440 municipalities in Ontario. The outcome will be a Best Practices Manual for collaborations on municipal water services. A second study is investigating the potential of private water supply and waste water systems as a delivery option for municipalities.

Immigration and Healthy Rural Communities

Two separate projects lead by Wayne Caldwell are exploring the factors that impact the health of rural communities and rural residents. The project, Working with new immigrants: Policy and program implications for rural areas, examines the role that rural municipalities can play in attracting and retaining immigrants. A second project funded by Public Health Ontario examines the health of rural populations, noting important and problematic differences compared to urban populations. Rates of obesity, heart disease and suicide are worrying. There are a host of land use, social, economic and environmental factors that contribute to these rural health outcomes. This research explores these factors and identifies practices that rural municipalities may pursue in planning to improve the health of their residents.

Impact assessment and monitoring

Natural Resources Canada suggests that over the next 10 years there will be 600 major resource projects representing



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\$650-billion in new investments initiated in rural and northern Canada amid promises of high economic returns, cumulative social benefits and limited environmental impacts. John Devlin is asking how the impacts of these projects will be assessed and monitored given the remote locations and prohibitive expense of travel. He is assessing the potential for crowdsourcing economic, social and environmental data to allow for long-term community-based monitoring of resource development projects through the use of social media and online data archiving.

Rural planning program

“Being based in the Ontario Agricultural College, we are situated within one of the most highly regarded colleges in the world for rural research,” says Caldwell.

The Rural Planning program maintains active connections with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Ministry of Rural Affairs, numerous rural municipalities and civil society organizations such as the Rural Ontario Institute, the Southwest Economic Alliance, Ontario Farmland Trust and the Organic Council of Ontario. Within SEDRD, Landscape Architecture and Capacity Development and Extension also provide resources and enhance teaching and learning opportunities for students interested in rural planning.

The Rural Planning program also actively pursues international research. In fact, the MSc in Rural Planning and Development includes accredited Canadian and international

streams. Recent international research includes a participatory evaluation of beekeeping training in Vietnam and studies of small and medium enterprise clusters in India as well as cleaner production systems in the Philippines conducted by Nonita Yap. A report on the impact of training for community health promoters on maternal and child health in Tamil Nadu, India has been completed by Harry Cummings working with the Canadian Red Cross and Indian Red Cross. John FitzSimons has been exploring agricultural development in Liberia, gender impact of an agricultural project in N. Nigeria, and small farmer vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in N. Nigeria.

Over the past five years Rural Planning and Development faculty and students have been keeping rural regions in focus through 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, Zimbabwe and Canada.

John F 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.

Bridging the gap between individual and collective interests

By Ryan Deska

New Regionalism literature suggests that rural regions should be in a position to promote successful regional economic development through collaborative interjurisdictional partnerships facilitated by rural networks and mutually shared norms of trust and reciprocity. However, research in the Okanagan Valley and Upstate California suggests that rural collaboration across jurisdictional boundaries is difficult to initiate and sustain.

While there is much talk of regional collaboration there is limited evidence of its practice. Why the gap? Collective action literature helps to provide an explanation. Collaboration generates transaction costs and risks that must be absorbed by someone. Economic development officers, politicians and local business leaders act from individual and locally-defined self interest. It is often difficult to identify how the collective benefits of collaboration will be distributed. As a result potential gains from regional collaboration are lost.

The lesson for policy makers is that regional collaboration must be publicly supported to bridge the gap between individual and collective interests. With government absorbing transaction costs regional actors can take on the risks involved in broader regional initiatives that can generate new economic activities, employment and investment.

Comparative review of four rural municipalities in ontario

By Jenn Huff

Concern for the rising rate of obesity and chronic diseases in Ontario (and their associated costs) has led many health professionals to tout the benefits of physical activity as both a preventative and interventionist medical approach. Further, while the rates of obesity and some chronic diseases appear to be particularly high in rural Ontario, many of the initiatives targeting the promotion of physical activity appear to have been geared to urban municipalities. Therefore, this project focused on how the natural and built environment of a rural municipality may be adapted to encourage physical activity at the community level.

The research evaluated ways in which four rural municipalities promoted physical activity in their official plans. It was found that each municipality has a number of unique assets and challenges that has influenced the way in which physical activity is approached. All four shared a limited access to staff time, specialized knowledge and funding, and an abundance of natural resources. Three of the four municipalities considered the local health unit to be a key source of opportunity to enhance access to resources.

The paper suggests ways in which planning and health professionals could potentially collaborate to promote community health initiatives thereby strengthening the combined effort of promoting physical activity in rural Ontario.

Making the most of your planning student experience

By Shelby White and Monika Rau

Planning is a rapidly growing and ever-changing field. A great way to keep up with these changes is to take part in professional networking opportunities. As a new student entering the world of planning, networking and brainstorming did not top our priorities as ways to become involved. Being involved with OPPI first hand, we were able to get involved and dive into the reality of planning in today's world. Attention current and future students—here is a brief insight from fellow students and aspiring planners on how to use your planning school program and OPPI to successfully become involved and part of the planning network.

We quickly realized the importance and effectiveness of involvement while having the opportunity to sit on an OPPI student committee. Several opportunities to network with professionals were presented throughout the year. Some of these events included the OPPI conference, World Town Planning Day, District holiday parties, the Canadian Association of Planning Students conference, the CIP conference. These events allowed us not only to network with professional planners, but also with students who shared similar interests. Additionally, we were given the option to volunteer at some professional planning events, which helped to cut the cost of attending. We believe it is noteworthy that we not only met people through OPPI events, but these interactions led us to our summer internships.

Aside from network opportunities, being involved with OPPI provided us confirmation that planning was in fact what we wanted to study and continue learning for the rest of our lives. It was this

experience that confirmed our passion for the planning profession, and help us to narrow down our specialties.

We realize the path to becoming involved may not also be easy so we have included some tips and tricks on how to prepare for successful networking. First, it is important to recognize that although student networking is important, professional networking is also key. Make sure you don't spend too much time socializing with other students when there is a potential for networking with a nearby professional planner. When you do approach the professional, show that you are prepared and bring along business cards (even if they are student business cards merely stating your program). If you are attending an event such as a conference where an attendee list is available, take time before the event to research potential professionals that you are interested in networking with. Remember, persistence is just as important as the initial contact. Ensure that you follow-up after you have made the initial networking connection (whether it's by email or phone). These professionals were once students too and you will be surprised how open and willing they will be to network and share their experiences.

We hope that our personal involvement and experiences with OPPI will further student awareness of the benefits of professional and student networking as well as other opportunities that may arise. Upon completion of our program, we hope to continue our constant involvement with OPPI and the planning world to complement our careers. ■

Shelby White and Monika Rau are students in the Master of Science Rural Planning and Development program at Guelph. They are both student members of OPPI and are the student representatives for the University of Guelph on the OPPI Student Liaison Committee. Shelby can be reach at white.shelb@gmail.com and Monika can be reached at mrau@uoguelph.ca.

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Post-conflict Planning

By Victoria Prouse

In May 2013, I participated in the Dalhousie School of Planning field course to Croatia and Bosnia. Travelling throughout southeastern Europe provided an excellent opportunity to reflect on the diverse planning paradigms and processes adopted by localities in post-conflict environments. Each area we visited was subject to varying degrees of damage during the Yugoslav Wars that ravaged different parts of the region persistently from 1992 to 1995.

I observed how post-conflict planning is an inherently unique process, entirely responsive to the local cultural, economic and historic context. I was particularly interested in exploring the dichotomy that was revealed: should post-conflict planning seek to completely erase markings of the conflict or refashion the landscape in a way that incorporates memorial aspects of the conflict?

Each region we visited adopted its own unique approach to remediation.

Redevelopment schemes in Dubrovnik and Sarajevo illustrate the different economic and cultural factors that influenced post conflict planning. Serbian forces significantly damaged both cities. Sarajevo suffered a three-year siege characterized by persistent bombings and widespread murder of civilians, while the Serbian army sought to completely eradicate the built form of Dubrovnik's symbolic old town—a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Reminders of the war remain omnipresent in the Sarajevo landscape, while Dubrovnik's buildings have been completely restored to their previous state.

The most obvious difference between their approaches to remediation is their government's financial capacity to facilitate reconstruction. Because of its UNESCO designation Dubrovnik's rehabilitation proceeded swiftly. With no economy or capacity for governance, the restoration of buildings in Bosnia's core is still not close to completion. The lasting damage offers daily reminders of the war and its consequent trauma.

Visiting these communities one wonders whether the omnipresence of destruction is detrimental to building a lasting peace? Does it fuel animosity among different ethnic groups living in the city? I spoke with the guide of our walking tour, a



Tori Prouse

young Muslim student who was born and raised in Sarajevo. His insight into the conflict and current conditions helped me to understand that the constant reminders of conflict go far beyond the availability of money to finance reconstruction.

The guide explained how, in Muslim culture, it is crucial to leave visual reminders of traumatic experiences and events that precipitated death as daily reminders for citizens to seek justice and not revenge and ensure the dead are not forgotten.

The "Sarajevo Rose" is symbolic of the cultural influence in post-conflict planning. Instead of repaving the streets with normal cement, city officials chose to fill in shelling damage on pavements and sidewalks in bright red to serve as an enduring reminder of the conflict. Another example of this explicit memorialization of destroyed landscapes is the bullet holes refashioned into stars on the exterior wall of the Bosnian Museum.

Our visit to Mostar, Bosnia, revealed another dimension of post-conflict planning and reconstruction:

tourism through redevelopment. In Mostar, post-conflict reconstruction has been transformed into a tourist attraction. The Stari Most Bridge bridge was completely destroyed by Croatian bombing, separating the Muslim and Christian sides of the city. Through a collaborative effort it has now been rebuilt. Tourism has served as a unifying tool and has become the fundamental driver of Mostar's economy since the war.

Finally, I found the disparity between urban and rural redevelopment striking. Croatia and Bosnia are quite rural compared to other European countries. The most severe destruction wrought by the Yugoslav wars occurred in rural areas where abandoned villages remain ubiquitous reminders of the conflict. This illustrates the importance of pursuing a regional strategy for post-conflict planning. This field course has ignited in me an interest in post-conflict planning and I hope to have an opportunity to further investigate and research the subject.

Victoria Prouse, OPPI student member, received her Master of Planning degree from Dalhousie University in May and is currently living and working in her hometown of Sault Ste. Marie.



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR (2013)

Re-imagining bullet holes at the Bosnia Museum



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR (2013)

Sarajevo Rose

EASTERN ONTARIO DISTRICT

Municipal Information Day

By James Holland

Environmental planning in southern Ontario requires effective coordination between conservation authorities and municipalities. Regular turnover in staff and councillors makes this even more critical.

South Nation Conservation's annual Municipal Information Day is an effort to facilitate communication. Every spring, we host a unique, day-long networking and information-exchange workshop. This year we hosted our third annual Municipal Exchange Day and 28 staff from 10 municipalities and several councillors from eastern Ontario attended. The hot discussion topics were South Nation Conservation's changing role under the amended *Fisheries Act* and the roll-out of Source Water Protection Plans. Feedback was

Celebrating 5

Congratulations and thank you to Brian Brophy. The OPPI Registrar and Director Member Relations celebrated his five-year anniversary with OPPI in April. It has been a productive and exciting time for advancing professional standards for the planning profession. We appreciate Brian's steady hand in developing and implementing our new membership and continuous professional learning standards.

—OPPI Council and staff



gained on the support that municipalities need to implement their source water protection policies.

James Holland, RPP, MCIP, is a watershed planner for South Nation Conservation. He can be reached at jholland@nation.on.ca.

STUDENT DELEGATE

Introducing Anthony Dionigi

A world traveller, food connoisseur and motorcycle enthusiast, Anthony Dionigi is OPPI's new Student Delegate. A motivated advocate for improved equity and accessibility, he is interested in improving transit access for the most transit-dependent populations in Toronto.

Anthony is committed to working effortlessly to create and facilitate accessible spaces for planning students to engage, collaborate and share ideas. He wants, not only to bridge networks between planning schools, but to contribute to the intellectual and professional development of students.

Currently enrolled in York University's Master in Environmental



Anthony Dionigi

Studies (Planning) program, Anthony can be reached at adionigi@yorku.ca.

EDUCATION MANAGER

Welcoming Ryan Des Roches

OPPI is pleased to present its new Education Manager, Ryan Des Roches. Ryan holds a Bachelor of Education from the University of Ottawa, with a focus in History and Geography. He has taught at elementary, middle and high schools. He also developed and taught courses for adult learners. He previously worked for a not-for-profit association providing interactive workshops about human rights to members of the public.

Ryan will blaze the trail in the newly-created position of Education Manager, where he will use his skills and career experience to develop and implement OPPI's new Learning Strategy. He will oversee the development and delivery of learning programs to meet our members' vastly increased demand for Continuous Professional Learning. Ryan can be reached at education@ontarioplanners.ca, or 416.483.1873 extension 227 or 1.800.668.1448.



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OBITUARY

Remembering Paul Zamodits, 1970-2014

April 16, 2014 we lost a wonderful colleague and exceptional planning professional, Paul Zamodits. Paul passed away unexpectedly at the age of 44. Our collective memories of Paul's life, his sense of humor and his strive for perfection, has brought tears of both sadness and laughter over the passing weeks.

A Registered Professional Planner in Ontario and LEED Accredited Professional, Paul joined Bousfields as a planner in 2008, becoming an associate in 2010. He divided his time in our office between planning and urban design projects and gained a wealth of experience in Toronto and across the GTA. Prior to joining Bousfields, Paul worked in the public sector as an assistant planner in Loyalist Township, just west of Kingston, Ontario.



Paul Zamodits

Paul was a consummate communicator, a powerful thinker and prolific author. And he held everyone to THE highest standards. When it came to the interpretation of complex zoning by-laws and provincial policies, he was perceptively knowledgeable and quick-witted. Aside from his own professional achievements, Paul was a champion mentor. At Bousfields, he was generous in lending his time to the younger professionals; to inspire them to rise above external limitations and personal vulnerabilities.

"... I would fondly remember his patience and non-judgmental stance with learning curve errors and abundance of dumb questions; he would never talk down to us." (Farhana Sharmin, Bousfields)

A graduate of the School of Urban and Regional Planning at Queen's University, Paul continued his mentorship role and maintained his connections with the program by generously donating his time to current students and providing career advice for those exploring opportunities in Toronto.

Paul loved cycling, choir singing, coffee and most of all, good wine. A few months ago Paul initiated Friday after-hour wine tasting in the office. Paul will not be joining us next Friday, but his memory will always be a reminder that we should take time to enjoy the company of our colleagues, share our knowledge with newer members of the profession and live life to the full.

We miss you Paul,

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Litigate or Mediate?

Dispute Resolution in Context

By Ian James Lord

Mediation services are a known commodity in civil litigation. They are less well known in the insular world of municipal and planning law.

Practitioners in the planning field will be aware that the Ontario Municipal Board offers mediation services. The board has become increasingly aggressive in its suggestions, inquiries, advisories and even demands for mediation among the parties. Mediations conducted by the board are governed by the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Ontario Municipal Board.

In these remarks, I am a clear advocate of mediation opportunities in development reviews, but at a much earlier stage than is currently contemplated.



Ian James Lord

Getting the job done right

Land use disputes are among the more graphic subjects engaging personal space, beliefs, principles and reasonable expectations. However, the serving professions have not typically engaged in voluntary dispute resolution.

The reality is that in the land use planning system in Ontario today practitioners do not anticipate either timely delivery on reasonable expectations or informed dispute resolution. Dispute resolution has become increasingly arbitrary and dysfunctional. More kindly, dispute resolution is disjointed, expensive and unpredictable. Despite the goals, the Ontario system can no longer be relied upon to deliver on expectation, intent or objective.

Land use and planning decision making is encumbered by a series of systemic imperfections: top-down policy cannot be detailed and universally applied; five- (or 10-) year reviews are not manageable in the context of political and administrative decision-making processes that defy the passage of time; hierarchical decision-making structures may assist clarity but public sector resources are not adequate in time and money to sort out the discrepancies that arise to achieve resolution. Moreover, Ontario residents have learned that

often there may be more than one solution to address a problem.

The rights, aspirations and needs of individuals—including corporate decision making that contributes investment value to the Ontario economy—demand boundaries that are reliable, accessible and responsive to the legitimate interests of all stakeholders.

At issue is whether we have lost sight of resolving problems in a cost-effective, timely and equitable manner in favour of having procedures in place to be seen to address all nuances of dispute resolution.

The legal system is obliged to apply norms in what has become known as the Fairness Principle in administrative justice. The Rule of Law arguably requires that these protections be evidenced in all aspects of decision making leading to dispute resolution involving land and property rights. These principles are of undisputed benefit and worthy of the most rigorous protection. Yet it is that very discipline that has led to an increasingly dysfunctional system of dispute resolution when it is required to address each problem with the same degree of detachment, rights, privileges, procedures and liabilities.

Whether it is the current 13 or the sought after 26 members of the Ontario Municipal Board, a member's task is herculean. The members do the best they can, but are they working within a system that can no longer accommodate the demands made of it?

Towards a new system of decision making in land use disputes

Civil litigants have access to a panoply of dispute resolution vehicles that themselves are under constant stress. These include pre-trial conferences, mandatory mediation, specialized courts, private arbitration and mediation resources, settlement conferences, cost protocols, as well as an ethic of judicial independence and detachment from government, including the influence of emerging policy.

In public and planning law matters, most municipal decision making remains subject to appeal at an exceptionally low qualifying cost. Each such appeal engages the cumbersome machinery of statutory decision making, generally by the board, as it alone is

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placed at the apex of authority for statutory dispute resolution. Yet the board is also subject to oversight and appeal rights by a party or the minister, on qualifying interventionist grounds and in the political appointments process itself.

The very concept of finality within a reasonable timeframe is jeopardized by an aged system of dispute resolution that has been encumbered by successive add-on grafts of statutory powers, procedures and protections.

There are three points in municipal and planning decision making where dispute resolution can be an effective and timely aid, prior to engaging in a trial of an issue before the court or tribunal charged to make a final determination on appeal: on the identification of issues; at the time of exercising the first Statutory power of decision; and at the courtroom door.

The cost, delay and uncertainty to all involved in the resolution of land use disputes increases exponentially as the clock ticks from the inception of an idea that requires a need for public approvals.

Ontario Professional Planners Institute

In the land use planning system, a first guardian of the public interest in the identification, avoidance or resolution of disputes are the planners. They constitute a body of trained professionals disciplined to pursue the public interest in the avoidance of land use conflicts.

Ontario has, arguably, in OPPI, the most resourceful professional planning body in the country. Constituted by private statute, the majority of the qualified planning professionals in the province have consensually joined through membership in a regulated body that provides all the attributes of an established profession: education and practical training standards, continuing education, discipline body, communication vehicles and administrative oversight. While not all

planners in the province are members of OPPI and bound by its Code of Conduct, the majority are.

Planners in the Ontario system are advisors, not decision makers. But in this role planners make a significant contribution to the Ontario economy. Their task is to gather and assess relevant issues and information, assimilate public opinion as expressed by interested stakeholders, apply policy, principle and experience, and recommend a course of action or modification, to best address the legitimate interests of the public, including the proponent.

OPPI plays a leadership role across Canada in integrating and elevating professional membership criteria, qualifications, mobility standards and standards of practice. The profession would be strengthened and its responsibility for the public interest enshrined if the planning profession were deemed to be a fully self-regulated profession with universal standards of accountability. This is something OPPI and the Ontario government should address, at the earliest opportunity.

Part 2 of this three part series explores how mediation at earlier intervals would serve to reframe timely, accountable and cost-efficient land use planning decision processes. Part 3 addresses the Ontario Municipal Board and whether its continued presence is a necessary and contributing component to dispute resolution.

Ian James Lord, M.Sc.(Pl.), LLB, is a mediator and municipal and planning law counsel at WeirFoulds, LLP. The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of WeirFoulds, LLP, the publication or the Ontario Professional Planners Institute. Lord is a practitioner and lecturer in planning and municipal law with over 35 years' experience. He can be reached at ilord@weirfoulds.com. The full text of each installment will be available after publication at www.weirfoulds.com/publications.



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CIP/ICU Articles of Continuance

Times are a Changin'

Paul J. Stagl

In 2010, OPPI Members overwhelmingly supported the "Planning For the Future" (PFF) project, as did professional planners across the country. Over the past four years, CIP and the six provincial / territorial institute / association partners have affected a number of professional and organizational changes to reflect those new directions.



Paul Stagl

It is now time to implement the last two changes mandated through PFF. First, you will have received an email concerning CIP/ICU's Articles of Continuance and will be asked to vote on revisions. These also relate to revisions to the *Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act*. Second, in 2015 you will be asked to vote on the remaining PFF changes—a new CIP/ICU By-law.

The intent of the CIP/ICU's Articles of Continuance is to enable CIP to continue as an organization while its new by-law is

drafted and circulated for comment. This is preferable to the alternative: dissolving the corporation and then filing new Articles of Incorporation at a later date. The parameters and objects set out in the Articles of Continuance have been drafted to accommodate later by-law changes.

The proposed Articles of Continuance in some respects take us back to our roots as a profession. Two of the original objects of CIP's predecessor, the Town Planning Institute of Canada, were to facilitate the interchange of professional knowledge among its members and to enhance the usefulness of the profession to the public. These are fundamental tenets of the proposed articles.

Moving forward, the Registered Professional Planner (RPP) designation is, or will be, the designation for professional planners across Canada. Some provinces, like Ontario, have the RPP designation in place now; others continue to pursue opportunities to enshrine it in their relevant legislation. Meanwhile, use of the MCIP title will continue until the RPP designation has been appropriately protected across Canada.

Members' mobility to work in various provincial and territorial jurisdictions across the country is now guaranteed by federal legislation. They are guaranteed consistency of professional standards to ensure smooth transfers and professional expectations. Similarly, professional planners are now regulated by provincial and territorial legislation and CIP/ICU no longer has direct membership service responsibilities.

The articles also set out the number of directors on CIP Council, which includes a flexible number of provincial/territorial partners as it evolves.

OPPI Council has reaffirmed its ongoing support for continuing the national corporation as described in the Articles of Continuance, on the understanding that a number of matters still require consultation. These are the by-law and agreement details that CIP Council has committed to finalize in collaboration with its provincial /

territorial institute / association partners and their members.

The email with the ballot is in your inbox now. Please read the materials and if you have any questions contact the [OPPI office](#) or Andrea Bourrie directly.

I am pleased to share with you that I will be voting in favour of the continuance of CIP. Whatever your decision might be, I encourage you to vote.

CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS

Evolving Role of CIP

Needs are Changing

By Andrew Sacret

The Planning for the Future initiative shifted CIP's responsibility from membership certification and accreditation of planning schools to the promotion and advancement of planning in Canada.

CIP and each of the provincial and territorial institutes and associations, including OPPI, recently endorsed a new purpose statement for the national institute, eloquently captured in the Consensus Statement on the Future of CIP dated April 6, 2014. The consensus statement reflects a continuing evolution in the role of CIP that will better serve individual planners, the provincial and regional institutes and associations, and the planning profession as a whole.

CIP is taking the opportunity to formalize these changes through actions required by the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act*. This new legislation modernizes the rules governing nationally-incorporated non-profit organizations. CIP's first requirement is to obtain member approval of the Articles of Continuance, which will serve as CIP's constitution under the new act.

The [table on the CIP website](#) summarizes the main changes to CIP's governance structure, purpose, partners and corporate name that will take effect after approval of the Articles of Continuance.

Member voting on Articles of Continuance

All CIP members are invited to vote by electronic ballot on the Articles of Continuance (sent from CIP via email) between Tuesday May 27 and Thursday July 10 (4:00 p.m. Atlantic Daylight Time). Because each member is invited to vote electronically, the vote will be deemed to be cast at a Special Meeting on July 11 in conjunction with the CIP Annual General Meeting at the CIP | Atlantic Planners Institute conference in Fredericton, New Brunswick. The Articles of Continuance will be deemed approved via a special resolution of the members if at least two-thirds of all votes cast are in favour of the new articles. Please note that a live vote will not be held at the

Special Meeting and a minimum of 50 members must attend the Special Meeting to meet quorum.

If you've not yet had the chance to review the materials on the Articles of Continuance, there is still some time. Visit the CIP website to obtain copies of the material and cast your electronic ballot before the July 10 deadline. We hope to see you in Fredericton, for the People Matter conference, July 9-12, 2014.

For more information

All CIP members are invited to visit the CIP website for more information on these proposed changes (FAQ, timelines and other documentation). If your reading sparks additional questions or comments, email [CIP](#) and/or OPPI. Useful telephone numbers and email contacts are listed below.

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We ask that you please help us in advising your IT department to whitelist Constant Contact so that you receive important information from OPPI. If this is not possible, we ask that you log into your profile by visiting the OPPI website at www.ontarioplanners.ca and change your work e-mail address to your home e-mail address.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Members are encouraged to send letters about content in the *Ontario Planning Journal* to the editor (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.

MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH

Tips for Job Seekers

By Chris Wicke

A new group of planning students has recently graduated and are no doubt seeking career opportunities. Whether you are a student or not, if you are actively looking for a new position there are two more things that you can do—one before and one after the job interview. Both can make a big difference in finding a position and in building your professional network along the way.

The information interview is done in advance of an employment interview, though it may ultimately result in a job opportunity. The debrief is helpful if you're finding it hard to get your application to the top of the pile, or to close the deal once you've been given an interview.

Information interview

Information interviews are one of the best ways that you can get helpful insights, find leads and build both your confidence and your professional network. An information interview is

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when you contact a professional and ask them for a small amount of his or her time, perhaps half an hour, so that you can ask about his or her career and about the planning profession.

The OPPI website has a list of members that can provide a starting point for finding contact information for professionals in your vicinity and area of interest. When you contact them, be clear about what you're asking for and how much time you would like. Go prepared with a list of questions. Have your resume on hand so that the person you're meeting with can get a sense of your background and interests. Take along your portfolio too so that they can see your work. Remember, while this will be more casual than an interview, you are still making a first impression, so professional protocol should be followed.

The benefits of an information interview are many. You get interview experience without the stress of a job being on the line. You can introduce yourself to a potential future employer and make an impression by taking the initiative. You get an insider's perspective from a professional who can help identify hurdles to avoid and opportunities to seize. And ultimately, you'll get a new connection that may prove beneficial in the future. One of the most important questions to ask, usually at the end of the interview, is "can you recommend someone else I can contact?" Having that professional reference makes the second call easier as it isn't simply a cold call. In general, people are happy to speak to others about their work, especially if a job isn't being offered at the moment.

The debrief

So you've applied for the perfect job. You even got an interview—and it went well! The days pass, and you haven't heard back. Eventually, you receive notice that someone else has been hired. Most of us have had that disappointing experience. There is, however, opportunity in the disappointment by seeking a debrief from the organization. This applies whether you had an interview or submitted an application, but didn't get any further in the process. Rather than simply moving on to the next application, see this as a chance to learn and prepare

for the next possibility. Organizations will not generally provide unsolicited feedback; however, if asked, the potential employer can provide valuable information to you. Were there errors in your application? Could you have answered the question more thoroughly? Is there an additional qualification that you should be seeking? A debrief after the interview can provide candid insights into your application or interview that help highlight where you can improve for next time.

The risks in this instance are mainly to your ego. Feedback can be hard to hear, but it's far better than the alternative of making the same mistake repeatedly—while being none the wiser. On the upside, if the same organization is hiring again in the future, you will be better prepared to resubmit an application, and many employers will appreciate your willingness to seek feedback, and act on it.

In both instances, potential employers will be impressed by your initiative and your drive for self-improvement. These two techniques, along with a myriad of others, can contribute to your job success. Good luck!

Chris Wicke, MCIP, RPP, is chair of the OPPI Outreach Committee and is a senior planner with the City of Kingston.

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OPPI's [LinkedIn](#) page is a great place to network with 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.



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

The following Full Members resigned in good standing from OPPI for the 2014 membership year:

Janet Babcock	Johanna Wenona Hashim	Mike Millar
Vance Bedore	Romualdas Juknevičius	Robert Miller
Robert Bolibruck	Nadia Khushman	Michel Molgat Sereacki
Joe Borowiec	Mart Kivistik	June Murphy
James Burr	Timothy Lambe	Guillaume Neault
Sandra Chan	Michael Logan	Chris Papatolis
Denis Charron	Paul Mallard	Jennifer Phillips
Matthew Child	Ivano Manias	Dana Rahkola
Ted Cieciora	M. Scott Manning	Natalie Shing
Donald Drackley	Ronald Marini	Brian Smith
Matthew Fitzgerald	Patrick Mason	Larry Spencer
Julius Gorys	Julie McAuliffe	Donald Stewart
Yves Gosselin	Timothy McCabe	Terry Stortz
Lynne Gough	Colin McGregor	Michael Telawski
Kay Grant	Erin Miiffin	Lori Thornton
		Jack Toppari

The following Full Members have been removed from the register for non-payment of membership fees for 2014:

John Calvert	Deanne Mighton
Kenneth Chan	Agnes Mochama
Carla Clarkson-Ladd	Paul Mondell
Michael Cook	Carlos Moreno
Eric Gupta	Rob Panzer
William Hollo	Zubeda Poonja
Pamela Hubbard	Hessie Rimon
Michael Jones	Sabine Robart
Donald Kaufman	Linda Shaw
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The notice is accurate at the time of going to press. For questions regarding membership, please email Member Engagement Manager, Rupendra Pant at membership@ontarioplanners.ca or call 416-483-1873 Ext. 222.

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