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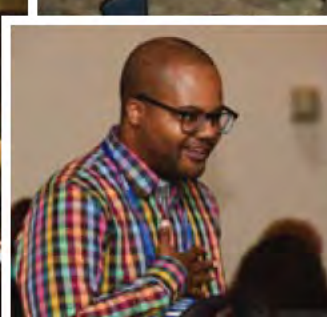
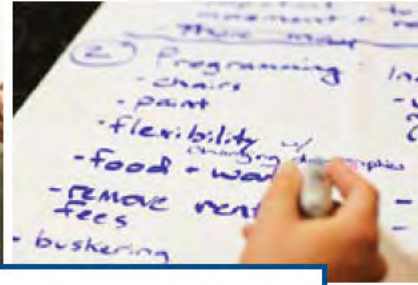
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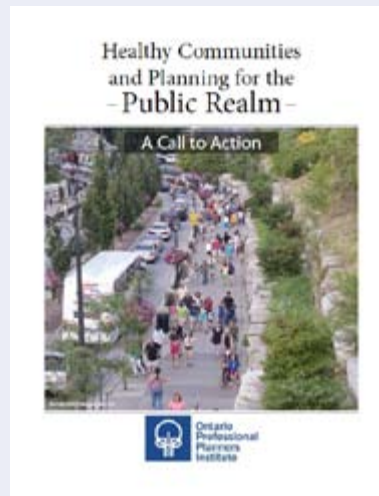
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Call to Action

OPPI recently released a [Call to Action: Healthy Communities and Planning for the Public Realm](#) urging planners, other related professionals, government and the public to make the public realm a focus in community building and placemaking across Ontario. Visit the OPPI website to read it today.

Submit projects for recognition in 2017

OPPI is now accepting submissions for the 2017 Excellence in Planning Awards. OPPI celebrates the role of Registered Professional Planners as integrator and

visionaries in the space between government planning policies, the public and other regulated professionals through these awards. Visit [OPPI's Knowledge Centre](#) to view the 2016 winners and find out how to submit.



Scholarships available

Attention all Student Members. OPPI has two prestigious scholarships available for 2017—Gerald Carrothers Graduate Scholarship and Ronald M. Keeble Undergraduate Scholarship. The winners receive cash, are profiled in the [Ontario Planning Journal](#) and on [OPPI's website](#), are recognized at an awards event and receive complimentary registration for the 2017 OPPI



Conference being held in Blue Mountains October 3-5. [Apply online now!](#)

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



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Expansion of Bike Share Toronto Feasibility Study

By Aaron Baxter & Sean Wheldrake

Recognizing the growing demand for cycling and multi-modal travel choices, the Toronto Parking Authority plans to expand the Bike Share Toronto network by 5,000 bikes and 500 stations over a five-year period being in 2016.

In the first year of expansion 1,000 new bikes and 120 new Bike Share stations were installed across the City of Toronto. This not only increased the number of bikes available in the downtown core, but added them close to transit stations. The majority of the bikes (800) and new stations (80) were purchased in 2016 through a \$4.9-million partnership, announced in 2015, between Metrolinx and the Toronto Parking Authority. The remaining bikes (200) and stations (40) contributing to the expansion were provided by the parking authority. Overall this constituted a fivefold expansion of the original system and will play a transformative role in the future of Bike Share Toronto and transportation in the City of Toronto.

To assist Bike Share Toronto, and its funding partners, the parking authority retained MMM Group Limited to develop a feasibility framework for the system expansion. The framework is designed to assist Bike Share Toronto in identifying areas of higher ridership potential, as well as provide contextual information to facilitate system optimization and efficiencies. It formalizes the current understanding of the contributing factors that impede or promote bike share ridership based on the study team's research into "bikeability" theory and lessons from bike share systems around the world.

Throughout the study process, the team—Toronto Parking Authority, Bike Share Toronto and its operator, Motivate—met at key milestones to discuss the approach and available data, and to review preliminary findings. Comments from those meetings were incorporated into subsequent analyses through an iterative and collaborative process. This feedback was instrumental in developing a sound understanding of Bike Share Toronto operations

and in guiding the structure of the framework.

The centrepiece of the feasibility framework is a GIS model that can assess the relevant validity of potential data sources, as well as allow any number of the verified inputs to be incorporated into a single, easily interpreted, indicator of bike share ridership potential. The model was developed and tested with existing spatial information sources available to the study team. The initial model outputs are intended to be used as due

diligence results to help Bike Share Toronto minimize risks in its initial stages of system expansion.

Recommendations from the study indicate how the outputs should be used to guide expansion and how future revisions and iterations of the model could improve the accuracy and precision of predicting ridership potential and optimum station location analysis.

Methodology

Bike share ridership is influenced by a wide range of factors. This study, while not exhaustive, considers the relative value of some of the most prominent factors raised in professional and academic literature on the topic. Many data sources were used to develop

a set of 22 indicators which were then combined using a variety of GIS spatial analysis techniques into a single surface resulting in a map of overall bike share ridership potential across the city.

Using the assumption that a station catchment area could be approximated by a 300m radius around the station, a Bike Share Station Potential Surface was created by calculating a 300m radial average of the ridership potential value. A multiple linear regression analysis was conducted against station usage data to test the predictive capacity of the Bike Share Station Potential Surface. Using Bike Share Toronto ridership data from October 2014 to September 2015, the total number of trips originating and departing from each station was



Aaron Baxter



Sean Wheldrake

calculated, providing a measure of total trips per year per station. This was used as the independent variable in the regression analysis. The results of this analysis indicated a strong correlation ($p = 5.9e-7$) between the Bike Share Station Potential Surface and observed station usage, with a low, though acceptable, coefficient of determination (adjusted $R_s = 0.23$).

Results

The results of our methodology and analysis were used to inform the development of two least-risk expansion directions. The first direction addresses relatively contiguous expansion outward from the existing network and the second addresses the establishment of a series of satellite networks. Both directions included multiple phases and specific recommendations. The Toronto Parking Authority was able to use these phases to plan its network expansion and allocate resources for new station locations.

Aaron Baxter is a planner with WSP|MMM. He specializes in digital engagement and spatial analysis. An avid cyclist, Aaron is often found bike sharing along Spadina Avenue between his office and his son's daycare. Sean Wheldrake is project lead with the City of Toronto Cycling Infrastructure and Programs Unit. He is proud to have worked on such projects as Bike Share, Bicycle Station, Cycling Ambassadors and Bike Week. A lifelong and avid cyclist, Sean cycles to work every day and mountain bikes on the weekend.

Aaron and Sean would like to thank all the team members who helped contribute on this assignment, specifically: Marie Casista (Toronto Parking Authority), Alyssa Krantzberg, Dilya Niezova and Adam Sweanor (City of Toronto Transportation Services), Scott Hancock (Motivate Company Toronto Inc.) and Shawn Chow, Dave McLaughlin, Jason Neudorf, Kris Hall and Valentina Chu (WSP|MMM).



▲ **Figure 1** - Existing ridership usage by month and rider type



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE AUTHORS

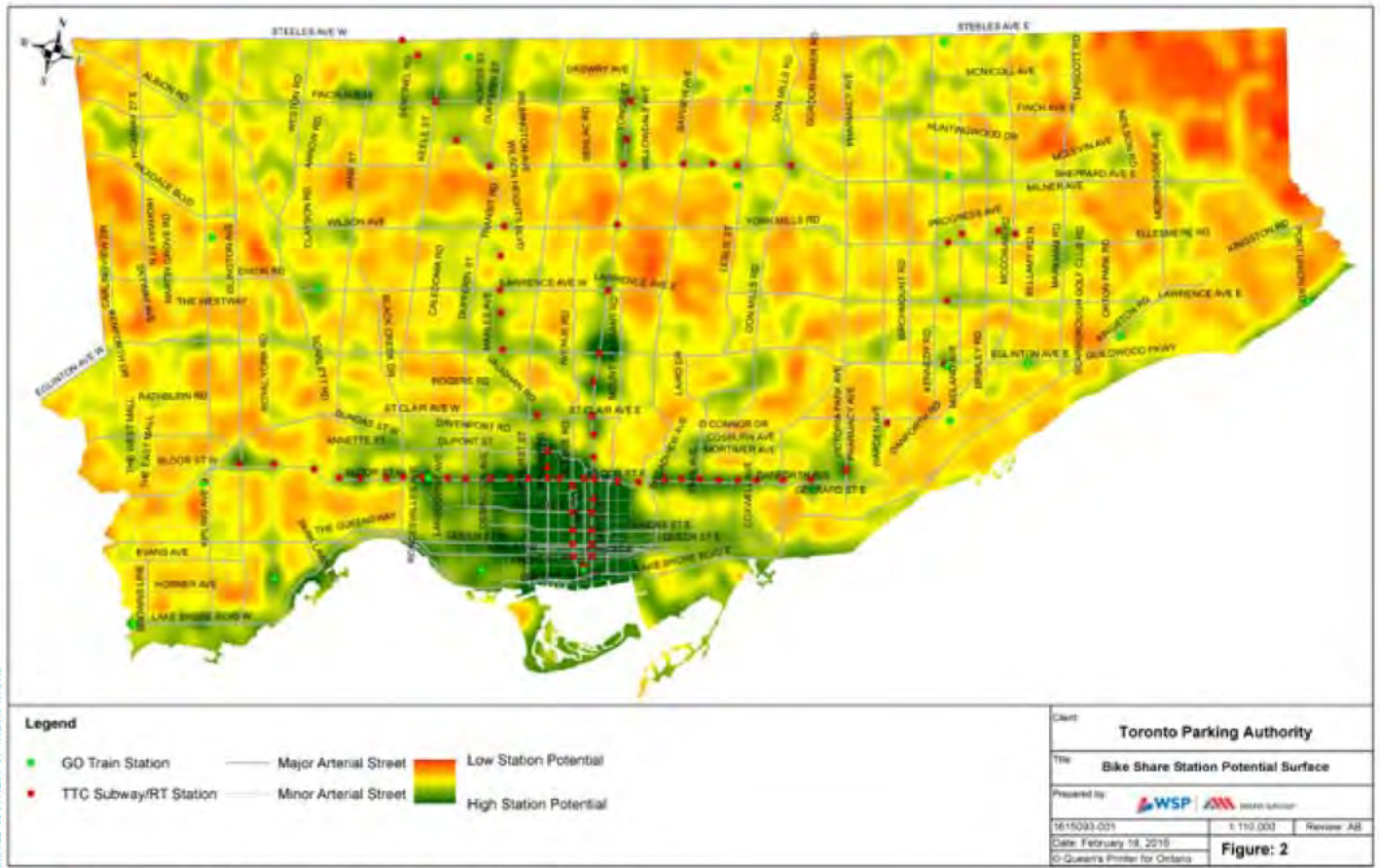


Figure 2 - Separation of traffic families in a 30 km/h environment

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Ottawa's Minimum Parking Review

By Tim J. Moerman, RPP

Like most North American cities, the City of Ottawa's zoning by-law sets out requirements for parking to be included with all new development. But by 2015 it was clear that these rules were badly in need of updating. In some cases, the parking requirements were unchanged since the 1960s, and they were all rooted in the mid-century logic of automobile-oriented planning. They were increasingly at odds with modern realities and Ottawa's planning goals for its urban area, where intensification, infill and redevelopment, walkability, affordable housing and public transit were now priorities. The urgency to make significant change in the city's minimum parking requirements was made all the greater because of the city's huge investments in its new light rail transit system.



But parking is hard to talk about. At best, it's an abstruse and wonkish topic that can leave non-planners confused, baffled or asleep. More often, it is a magnet for controversy and rancor, as adequate parking (or the perceived lack thereof) ends up dominating more than its share of public meetings on development proposals. And this wasn't going to be a matter of nibbling around the edges of the parking minimums, but a real overhaul. Our goal was to eliminate parking requirements entirely in many places, with dramatic reductions in the rest of the inner city.

As part of our public engagement strategy, we needed a way to introduce the project in an accessible and catchy format. More importantly, we had to quickly communicate why the parking rules had to change in such a big way... preferably before the viewer's head could explode.

The result was a 90-second cartoon movie full of pithy arguments, killer facts and (we are assured) gut-bustingly funny sight gags. The video was produced in-house by city staff, with a budget of zero dollars. The lead planner, an amateur cartoonist in his off-hours,

Images from the 90-second cartoon movie:



1. Start with farmland

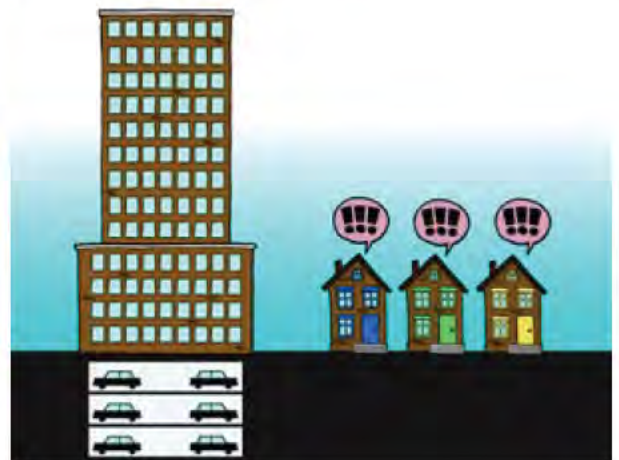


2. Becomes a main street



IMAGES COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

3. Dust clears people



4. A tower emerges

produced a series of still images to be sequenced into basic animation. A graphic designer on staff provided digital colour, and the communications department put it all together with music and narration.

The video focuses on broadly-accepted and popular planning goals such as the availability of affordable housing, support for small business, compatible infill and pedestrian-friendly urban neighbourhoods, and explains how minimum parking rules prevent all of them. It points out that our most cherished urban neighbourhoods pre-date zoning, and couldn't even be built today because of the parking minimums. It makes the point that intensification in the form of high-rise towers—a sore point in many older neighbourhoods—is at least indirectly driven by parking requirements that have long prevented more gradual, small-scale and low-rise intensification.

The video went live on the city's Youtube channel in October 2015 and drew several thousand views in the first few weeks. Then, in November, it was covered by The Atlantic's Citylab blog and caught fire, quickly shooting past 20,000 views over a weekend. The video has drawn attention from cities and transportation groups across North America and around the world.

Did it make a difference? The video was only part of a broader communication strategy, and in the course of our year-long consultation we spoke extensively with a wide range of stakeholders, some of whom had very strong objections to reducing parking requirements. But when all was said and done, and the zoning amendment was finally considered by Planning Committee in June 2016, only two people showed up to speak at the public hearing—both in favour of the reduced parking standards.

We hope the Minimum Parking Review video helps other cities as they seek to modernize their own zoning. More importantly, we hope it demonstrates that any planning topic—even parking!—can be discussed in a fun, engaging and productive way.

Tim J. Moerman is a member of OPPI. He became an urban planner in 2003 when it became clear that cartooning just wasn't gonna pay the bills. After receiving his Masters of Urban Planning from McGill University, he worked in Moncton, New Brunswick for six years before returning to his hometown of Ottawa to join the city's Planning and Growth Management Department and embroil himself in all things zoning.



5. Minds are blown



6. Add people



7. Add traffic



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Elgincentives CIP

By Kate Burns Gallagher

In October 2015, after an extensive planning phase, the Elgincentives Community Improvement Plan was launched. In just a few short weeks the majority of the 2015 funds were allocated among 10 projects. This momentum has continued and all 2016 funds—\$100,000—were allocated by early April.

With such high demand, county council approved an additional \$100,000 from the 10-year program. This capital infusion enabled council to continue to help local businesses enhance their operations while improving the county's built and social environments and diversifying the local economic base. In June, county council once again directed staff to bring forward an additional \$50,000 into the current budget and reduced the original 10-year plan to a six-year plan.



In its first year of implementation, 50 applications from across the county have been approved. Elgin County's investment in these projects totals \$350,000, which has leveraged over \$1-million in private investment.

Stimulating economic growth and development county-wide, the following projects from each of Elgin's seven municipalities illustrate how the Elgincentives CIP continues to grow, improving downtowns, waterfronts, agricultural and tourism areas.

Aylmer—Durkee's Energy Efficiency (project cost \$37,510, grant \$9,377)

"With a year-round comfortable retail space, shoppers will enjoy their shopping experience. They will try on more items and will want to stay and shop longer. This positive experience will make us a destination shopping store for their friends and relatives." ~ Kevin Durkee, business owner



Howe Family Farms Malahide



IMAGES COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

Bayham—Periscope Playhouse
(project cost \$30,714, grant \$12,641)

“The building renovations will accommodate a theatre but also give the flexibility to offer a local venue for meetings, seminars and other educational and cultural activities. The theatre is quickly becoming a primary and positive social focus in the municipality.” ~ Leslie Chilcott, Playhouse operations team member

Central Elgin—Shaw’s Ice Cream
(2015/16 project cost \$63,087, grant \$26,807)

“The residents of Elgin will immediately notice the quality and safety measures put in place, and visitors will find our look appealing and inviting. As a current destination point for travellers visiting Port Stanley Beach we can only improve on our image. Elgincentives help in funding this project allows us to continue to portray a clean, fun and attractive landmark for Elgin County.” ~ Kelly Heleniak, business owner

Dutton Dunwich—David and Nancy Gowan (project cost \$63,657, grant \$14,641)

“Thank you to the Elgincentives team for a process that was efficient and supportive. This program will allow us to renovate a building that has not been used in over four years. We believe renovating the downtown core will build confidence in our rural community.” ~ Nancy Gown, business owner

Malahide—Howe Family Farms
(project cost \$11,375, grant \$2,875)

“A tar-and-chip surface around the farm market will result in an improvement to our property through a more attractive and inviting entrance for our customers, as well as providing a safer surface for customer mobility.” ~ Kevin Howe, owner

Southwold—Great Lakes Farms
(2015/16 project cost, \$27,166, grant \$14,509)

“The Elgincentives funding will help Great Lakes Farms provide local food to Southwold and Elgin County residents for a longer period of time throughout the year, as well as provide healthy produce to the school nutrition program. Great Lakes will be able to provide greater local employment and attract more visitors to the county as a result of this investment.” ~ Mary Anne Van de Gevel, owner

All aboard.

All of Mississauga's transit buses have next stop and boarding announcements.



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West Elgin—In The Hunt (project cost \$44,297, grant \$14,574)

“This grant will help us complete the renovations started in the fall of 2015. Once completed it will give people in the community a place to go for their trailer service, parts and accessory needs. As the business continues to grow it will give me a perfect opportunity to share the benefits of West Elgin with our customers that come from a distance.” ~ Chris Liddy, business owner

In October 2014, Elgin County initiated Elgincentives and retained Meridian Planning Consultants and TCI Management Consultants to assist. The intent was to develop a county-led framework that would allow Elgin to coordinate community improvement efforts across its seven local municipalities, and to generally align community improvement tools with the county’s economic goals and priorities. Specifically, the intent of Elgincentives was to diversify the economic base and support the creative rural economy with a focus on agricultural areas, tourism and downtowns/mainstreets.

Kate Burns Gallagher is the economic development coordinator for Elgin County. Kate was part of the team that developed the innovative and award winning Elgincentives Community Improvement Plan.



Great Lakes Farms Southwold



Shaw's Ice Cream Central Elgin



Periscope Playhouse Bayham



Durkees Aylmer



Dutton Chiropractic Dutton Dunwich

University of Ottawa Campus Master Plan

By Eric Turcotte, RPP

The University of Ottawa holds a prominent place nationally and internationally as one of Canada's leading universities. Located in the heart of downtown Ottawa, it is a key contributor to the city's economy, culture and quality of life. While the University of Ottawa benefits from its important setting along the Rideau Canal, the campus's significant growth over the past 20 years has resulted in a general lack of quality open spaces and connectivity on its limited lands.

The campus master plan re-imagines the University of Ottawa's network of open spaces, buildings and infrastructure. It promotes efficient land use through compact yet context-sensitive design within an integrated mobility network punctuated by iconic open spaces. It calls for re-establishment of a grid of streets, some car-free, others shared, to provide more seamless connections within the campus and with the wider community. Hubs containing amenities and recreational space, together with enhanced landscaping, are

intended to make the campus more inviting and memorable for students, staff and visitors. A key goal of the plan is to promote a stronger sense of attachment to the campus as a place not only to attend classes, but to stay and socialize, eat, sleep, study, attend a sporting event, or enjoy art and culture.

The Design Guidelines and Precinct Plans works within the framework of the campus master plan, supporting implementation by providing detailed direction for specific projects across the campus.

It sets out guidance for campus development at the scale of individual sites. It describes the distinct opportunities and proposed initiatives associated with each of the university's seven main campus precincts, and will help to address existing and future needs for academic facilities, social and recreational spaces, and housing. It also includes guidelines for the design of



Proposed Campus Master Plan, aerial



Illustration of renewed and re-greened campus core



Illustration of the vision for King Edward precinct



Proposed University Square

IMAGES COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

WeirFoulds^{LLP}

WeirFoulds LLP congratulates our Partner, Lynda Townsend, on her retirement at the end of 2016, after more than 30 years of legal practice.

Lyn is one of Ontario's leading municipal lawyers. In 1991, she founded a boutique planning firm, Townsend and Associates, where she spent over 25 years building her career and the reputation that she is known for today. In 2013, Townsend and Associates merged with WeirFoulds to create one of the top planning and development teams in Ontario.

Lyn has received an array of awards and recognitions throughout her career. To name just a few examples, Lyn received the Ontario Bar Association Award of Excellence in Municipal Law in 2013. She received the Ontario Home Builders' Association Member of the Year award that same year. Most recently, Lyn was named Toronto "Lawyer of the Year - Municipal Law" in the 2017 edition of *Best Lawyers®* in Canada.




In her free time, Lyn has worked in various capacities for provincial and federal political parties and volunteered on a number of charitable and other Boards of Directors. She has been an invaluable mentor to young lawyers and a strong advocate for the advancement of women in the workplace.

"Lyn will be truly missed," said WeirFoulds' Managing Partner, Michael Statham. "Her wisdom, passion and commitment have been instrumental in creating one of Canada's strongest planning and development teams. It has been a privilege to practice law with her."

"I can say without a doubt that my time with WeirFoulds was rewarding and welcoming," said Lyn. "I couldn't have chosen a better way to transition from our boutique firm to a new home for the team."

WeirFoulds is grateful for the many contributions Lyn has made to our firm during her too-brief time with us. We will miss her friendship and infectious energy each day. But we are delighted to say that while this may be farewell, it is not goodbye - Lyn will still be available, from time to time, to consult when we need her.

Please join us in congratulating Lyn on a wonderful career and in wishing her all the best for the future.

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various elements of the mobility and open space networks, to be used when public realm improvements are initiated and to ensure new buildings and building additions contribute positively to the public realm. Built form guidelines for all precincts will help ensure the massing, design and ground-floor uses of buildings support comfortable and lively public spaces.

General campus design guidelines cover a range of topics, including sustainability, public art, lighting, signage and street furniture. They also include address specific open spaces, the most significant new one being University Square, a multi-purpose space nearing completion on a former parking lot in the heart of the campus. In total, six new major open spaces are planned. In the River Precinct, on lands recently acquired by the university on the Rideau River, future development will frame a new quad and riverfront park that enhances the natural setting and incorporates multi-use trails.

Guidelines for the mobility network will incrementally lead to major changes in how people move around the campus. In many parts of the campus, space will be re-allocated from cars to pedestrians and cyclists, and the new street grid will create more space for campus events, social gatherings and pedestrian movement. A new campus cycling network will be integrated with the city-wide network, and access to the campus's two future LRT stations will be improved for both the university population and the broader community.

Greening the campus is a theme throughout the guidelines. Trees and landscaped spaces will make the campus not only more attractive but also healthier, helping manage stormwater and mitigate the impacts of climate change. In addition to new open spaces, the guidelines call for widened, landscaped and furnished sidewalks to encourage walking and enhance the campus's identity. They also direct the gradual transformation of King Edward Avenue into a more pedestrian- and bike-friendly street, lined with mixed-use buildings and trees.

The Design Guidelines and Precinct Plans conclude with a section on implementation that outlines how the document is to be used. Already, it has guided a number of building, open space and infrastructure projects on campus.

The University of Ottawa Campus Master Plan has been recognized, not only by OPPI, but also with awards from the City of Ottawa, the Canadian Association of Landscape Architects, the Royal



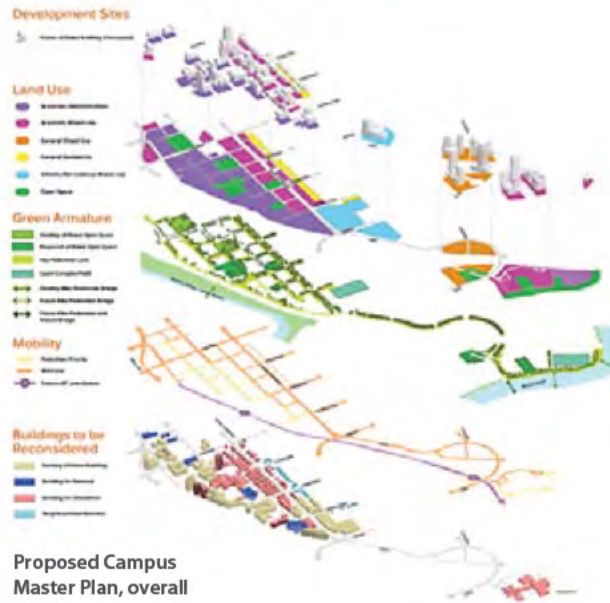
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Architectural Institute of Canada and the Canadian Institute of Planners.

Eric Turcotte, RPP, is a member of OPPI and CIP, and a partner at Urban Strategies. He is an urban designer, a planner and an architect. Eric is a founding member of the Council for Canadian Urbanism and, until recently, he was a member of the City of Toronto Design Review Panel.



Proposed Campus Master Plan, overall north aerial

Illustration of Renewed and Re-greened Campus Core

Illustration of the vision for Station Precinct, Lees Station Plaza Concept



Blue collar revival

By Al Fletcher, RPP & John Ariens, RPP

The view that most people have of the City of Hamilton is the one from the top of the skyway bridge looking across Hamilton Harbour to the heavy industrial area along the South Shore. These industries were the economic engine of the city, and at their peak provided employment to thousands of residents. The neighbourhoods that made up the north end of the city provided a place for the factory workers to reside long before most planners saw the benefits of a closer live-work relationship.

The harsh economic realities of the last 25 years has seen a significant shift in the transformation of this once vibrant manufacturing and employment centre to empty steel mills, barren warehousing and neglected brownfields.

Similarly, the neighbourhoods immediately adjacent to this heavy employment area have also experienced a significant downturn with decreasing populations and the associated closure of many commercial, institutional and other neighbourhood support services.

The Keith is one such neighbourhood. It is generally located north of Barton Street, South of Burlington Street East, between Victoria Avenue on the west and Sherman Avenue to the east.

Like many similar neighbourhoods in Hamilton's north end, Keith has experienced a significant decline in both population and economic prosperity. In 2004, another significant event occurred which would typically be the final push toward a more rapid decline—closure of the Robert Land Public Elementary School on Wentworth Street North.



Al Fletcher



John Ariens

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Remarkably, however, the closure of the school has had a completely opposite effect: the building has been converted into a community centre and additional affordable housing has been developed on the former school playground through a partnership with the Hamilton affiliate of Habitat for Humanity.

The City of Hamilton also worked to stop the decline facing several similar neighbourhoods. In 2011, 11 neighbourhoods were identified as Priority Neighbourhoods. For each a Neighbourhood Action Strategy was developed in partnership with Hamilton Community Foundation, Social Planning and Research Council, Best Start Network and the City of Hamilton, and in collaboration with local residents. To assist with implementation, Hamilton council established a \$2-million Neighbourhood Action Strategy fund. As a result, residents are becoming champions of their own positive change.

Other initiatives include the creation of the McQueston Urban Farm, which will provide fresh produce within a neighbourhood deemed to be a food desert. It will build resident capacity to continue the farming operation, provide much need fresh produce to the local residents and food programs and sell produce at the local farmers' markets.

Most of the actions plans refer to the creation of opportunities for youth. In response the city will be opening the Learning Annex in April. Using a neutral and safe location at the Central Public Library, the

city will create a youth-led youth employment hub. Targeting 18-29 year olds, the Learning Annex will connect the youth to community services, educational opportunities, job skills and employers.

The Keith Neighbourhood has come together to create a safe, inclusive community. One significant success of the process has been the provision of fire detectors in all homes within the neighbourhood. The Hamilton Fire Department undertook to ensure all homes are equipped with fire detectors and where they weren't to install them free of charge. The program is now being extended to other communities. Meanwhile, Keith neighbourhood residents are discussing safety within their neighbourhood and exploring opportunities for fresh produce to be grown within their community.

Keith Neighbourhood is clearly on the rebound and is attracting new investment and more affordable housing. And it now has its own locally-created community centre and literacy centre. The success of the blue collar revival can be seen citywide.

Al Fletcher, RPP is a member of OPPI and CIP and the manager, Neighbourhood Action Strategy for the City of Hamilton. John Ariens, RPP is a member of OPPI and CIP and an associate director with IBI Group. He is also vice-chair of the Hamilton Affiliate of Habitat for Humanity and has lead Habitat's building efforts in the Keith Neighbourhood and elsewhere throughout the city.

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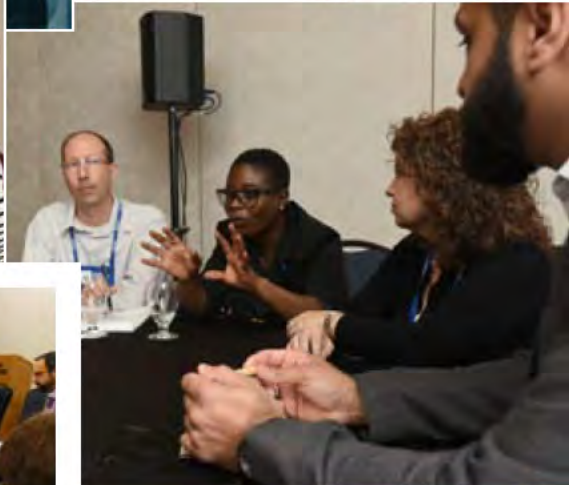
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EASTERN DISTRICT

Walking the Line

By Stephen Alexander, RPP (Ret.)

O PPI's Eastern District Leadership Team partnered recently with National Capital Jane's Walk to mark World Town Planning Day. Almost 60 professional planners, members of the public and community leaders joined the tour along part of the route of Ottawa's new LRT, presently under construction.



The LRT is a significant investment in modernizing public transport in the City of Ottawa and the focus of the walk was on the effects of this mega-project on city life. Ottawa Citizen's Matthew Pearson shared his experience walking the east-west LRT route and was joined by City of Ottawa's Rail Implementation Office business partner Dennis Gratton, who offered technical and historical information. The routing of the entire line was described,

both above and below ground. The walk started at the Ottawa VIA Station, where the group looked at the architecture of the station and considered how the LRT and the pedestrian bridge across the Queensway (Highway 417) would help tie together different levels of transportation. The walk continued west along the bike path toward the new Hurdman Station, where the group could get a better view of the station and guideway construction. Then it returned eastward to look at the where the LRT ducks under the

VIA line and see where rail vehicles are currently being assembled. Thanks to Erin O'Connor and Eric Bays of the Eastern District Leadership Team for helping with the logistics and safe operation of the walk.

Stephen Alexander, RPP (Ret.) spent most of his career with the City of Cornwall until his retirement in 2015. He remains active on the Eastern District Leadership Team.

OBITUARY

John Bousfield, RPP, FCIP

It is with deep sadness that Bousfields announces the passing of John Bousfield, our founding partner on Tuesday, November 22 at the age of 86.

Born in 1929, John attended the University of Toronto, obtaining his honours Bachelor of Arts in 1951 and the University of Wisconsin at Madison, graduating with his Masters of Science in City and Regional Planning in 1953.

For over 60 years, he practiced as a consultant on a full range of planning and development projects. He also had extensive experience appearing before the Ontario Municipal Board as a highly respected expert witness.

The list of his brilliant planning ideas and contributions is extensive, but among his most noteworthy were his 1958 greenbelt proposal for Toronto and the seminal 1967 Toronto Waterfront Plan.

John went on to become one of Canada's greatest and most influential urban planners. In 1974 he established John Bousfield Associates, now Bousfields, which has grown to a staff complement of about 40. His presence will be sorely missed, by his partners, colleagues and all who knew him, as will his professional acumen, sense of humour and his humility.

A celebration of his life will be held at the Thornhill Golf and Country Club on Sunday, January 8, 2017, 3-5 p.m.



Thanks to Erin O'Connor and Eric Bays, here near the LRT line under construction, with their safety flags

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Book Review

Still Renovating— A History of Canadian Social Housing Policy

McGill-Queen's University Press 2016
(Studies in Urban Governance series)

By Greg Suttor

205 pages plus extensive notes, bibliography and index

Reviewed by Noreen Dunphy

Spanning the period from the 1940s to the present, this history is focused on Canada's social housing—public, non-profit and co-operative housing—and the policies and programs that were created, changed, abandoned or maintained on life-support for potential future revival. It is not a study of overall affordable housing needs, or the other programs and levers of government policy that have affected and subsidized market rental housing, affordable ownership and rehabilitation of aging housing stock.

This comprehensive account positions social housing policy within the broader context of changing political forces and thinking on social policy and the role of the state, as they in turn were affected by economic and fiscal considerations amid the changes brought by rapid urbanization and growing housing needs.

The author, Greg Suttor, currently a housing researcher at the Wellesley Institute in Toronto, was previously with the City of Toronto as a housing policy analyst and researcher.

Suttor focuses on six key turning points over the last 70 years, when social housing policy, funding and the roles played by the three levels of government changed significantly, identifying the mid-'60s to the mid-'90s as the "social housing prime period." These 30 years saw high, sustained levels of social housing production (first public housing and then non-profit and co-operative housing) not reached before or since. After federal and then Ontario funding for new social housing was terminated in the '90s, and housing responsibilities were devolved to the provinces, the recent tentative federal re-engagement has resulted in production levels of about 1/3 that of the "prime period."

The central chapters describing the six key turning points for social housing are the most readable and relevant, especially for planners, housing specialists and municipal officials. Points of interest include the story of how provincial public housing corporations—not a model being followed in the U.S. or Europe at the time—came into existence in 1964, and with the support of the federal government, set off a 10-fold increase in the production of social housing. The decision to devolve social housing in Ontario to municipalities is also described.

Suttor downplays the significance of the 1973 *National Housing Act* amendments, which ushered in community-sponsored non-profit and co-operative housing with a mixed-income approach, and the turning

away from large-scale provincial public housing targeted to 100 per cent low-income renters. He points out that much of the public housing was being built among private rental developments in the expanding suburbs of Canadian cities, thus achieving income mixing in these new communities. He does acknowledge that the smaller-scale, mixed-income model in 1973, as a response to mounting public opposition to provincial public housing projects, likely helped prevent a public funding shift away from social housing at the time.

Suttor may be overlooking some of the urban planning significance of the events that fed into that 1973 turning point for social housing. The housing protests and activism of the day, especially in the

Toronto area, ranging from inner-city housing advocates, to neighbourhood homeowners, and suburban residents, converged and resonated politically, and not merely because of anti-low-income or anti-high-rise sentiments. Large-scale and sometimes wrenchingly disruptive "slum clearance" and urban renewal initiatives in the '50s and '60s were linked to government land assemblies and public housing projects. Private rental developers during the apartment boom-years were doing their own assemblies in stable neighbourhoods and were accused of block-busting, with homeowners and tenants feeling equally victimized.

Municipalities succeeded in getting provincial legislation granting some control over such unbridled demolition and destruction of neighbourhoods with residential demolition control under the *Planning Act*. Smaller scale, mixed-

income community-sponsored housing promised to be a better way to respond to housing needs and urban growth pressures.

Still Renovating ends with the observation that social housing policy may be poised for another turning point, with renewed pressures on the federal government to step back into the urban and housing fields, and to increase funding for affordable housing on an ongoing basis.

I recommend this book for anyone looking to improve their understanding of the political, economic and social policy forces that always affect such housing decisions at all levels of government, and for those looking for a comprehensive framework and detailed policy history.

Noreen Dunphy recently retired and is a former member of OPPI and CIP. She has been a social housing practitioner, a policy adviser to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, and a housing policy planner for the City of Toronto.



Town and Crown—An Illustrated History of Canada's Capital

By David L.A. Gordon
Invenire, 2015
438 pages

Reviewed by Dave Aston, RPP, contributing editor

Town and Crown - An Illustrated History of Canada's Capital is a great read and will serve as useful resource for planners, designers, architects and heritage enthusiasts. The book lives up to the title through the use of illustrations of general planning and design principles and theories, historical maps, informative figures and contextual photos. A compilation of over 16 years of archival studies, research and interviews with planners, designers and politicians, the book reflects the author's passion for the subject.



Gordon tells the story of the creation of Ottawa, our nation's capital and, in what might be a surprise to readers, shares his motivation for writing this book.

Organized chronologically from 1800 to 2011, the book offers commentary on the planning and capital infrastructure planning throughout these time periods. References are made to urban planning history and theories that shaped communities and regions throughout the U.K., France and the United States and their influence on what was happening in Canada at the time.

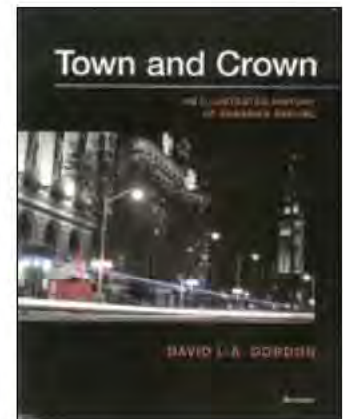
Planning theory and practice are smartly integrated and illustrated, and serve as examples through the evolution of the city. The book also includes a section that sheds light on the lives of the people that played significant roles in shaping

the City of Ottawa and, in many cases, the country. If you have been to Ottawa, you will have recognized that much of its heritage has been embedded in the city through the naming of major streets, parks and buildings.

In the final chapter of the book, there are two fascinating tables: Good Planning Ideas and Bad Planning Ideas. In these the author categorizes, for example, good and bad ideas that were or were not implemented, ideas that seemed good at the time and missed opportunities.

Focusing on what the author describes as capital city elements, the book includes a comparison of Canada's capital with other major capital cities around the world. Gordon concludes with recommendations to "build a better Canadian capital," which are relevant in any planning context: "... take a long-term view, aim high and get on with the job."

I encourage anyone interested in urban planning, capital infrastructure management, heritage and their interrelationships which shape our cities, towns and communities, to read this book. Also, if you are someone who likes to visit a city and explore by walking the streets and visiting sites, this book would be a great resource for a self-guided tour of the City of Ottawa and surrounding area.



David Aston, MSc., MCIP, RPP, is a member of OPPI and partner/vice-president with MHBC Planning, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture in the Kitchener office. If you are interested in doing a book review, please contact him at daston@mhbcpplan.com.



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Duty to Consult tutorial

By David J. Stinson, RPP

A recent tutorial on the Duty to Consult provided both an Aboriginal and historical context, as well as some guiding principles. However, it was the case studies that brought focus to the discussion.

The meeting took place within the traditional territory of several communities of the Mississauga Nation, and it was the presence of representatives from these communities that proved most useful. What does it mean when development is approved on a known burial site and human remains are found? How is a rural recreational property to be enjoyed when it imposes on wild rice habitat? The ensuing discussion was frank and honest.

Skye Anderson, land and resources liaison for Alderville First Nation, asked why wild rice should not be considered a heritage plant with the respect owed other heritage features. It certainly begs the question of whether heritage is only something static such as a church steeple preserved as a museum piece, or if it can also be dynamic like a plant, or even the entire ecosystem that supports its existence.

There were other lessons offered as well. Tom Cowie an Elder for Hiawatha First Nation spoke of an appreciation of Traditional Knowledge, and how it goes a long way when one is engaged in planning: "... our Elders know the land better than anyone."

Melissa Dokis, lands resource consultation liaison for Curve Lake First Nation, noted that the word "Aboriginal" is not appropriate when addressing a specific First Nation. This is a collective term that carries constitutional weight, but individual communities wish to be called by their own name.



Canada has just announced that it will join the rest of the civilized world and remove its permanent objector status to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The declaration contains articles that include a relationship with and access to the lands and resources traditional to their communities. This becomes interesting when one realizes that every piece of this continent is the traditional territory of someone, and has been long before the *Planning Act* existed. The government's assertion that "free, prior and informed consent" are now part of our constitutional obligations remains to be tested. But as an essential skill, the duty to consult may become even more important in the near future.

The author wishes to acknowledge the following communities and individuals for the stories used in the preparation, review and editing of the case studies, and/or the thoughtful and articulate participation in the workshop itself: Dave Mowat, consultation, lands and membership supervisor for Scugog Island First Nation; Lori Loucks, lands resources/consultation for Hiawatha First Nation; Tom Cowie, lands resources/consultation and Elder for Hiawatha First Nation; Skye Anderson, land and resources liaison for Alderville First Nation; Melissa Dokis, lands resource consultation liaison for Curve Lake First Nation. Also recognised is Carolyn King from Shared Path Consultation Initiative for her humour and insight. Thanks as well for the cultural cuisine of our caterer, Cheryl Peterson, especially her chicken and wild-rice soup!

David J. Stinson, RPP, is a member of OPPI and CIP and a partner with Incite Planning. Incite works with First Nation communities, municipalities and the public sector. David is a member of CIP's Indigenous Peoples Planning sub-committee.



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Litigate or Mediate, Part 4

By Ian James Lord

Previously in the Journal, I advocated a more rigorous use of mediation as a means of *Planning Act* dispute resolution. In this article I suggest the value of formalizing and implementing a mediation process before a council or committee decision, and challenge the planning profession to support mediation for all eligible applications.

In addition to statutory public meetings, many municipal planning departments convene informal working groups and committees to help assess project proposals and resolve issues. Some of these involve the area planner, municipal specialty staff, local councillor, applicant and even ratepayer association representatives or neighbours. Most such efforts are ad hoc.

There are many examples where this process has been constructive, resolved differences and led to consensus decision-making. There are many more which, for a variety of reasons, never begin or fail for lack of direction, commitment, challenge, structure, support or social or systemic barriers. In examining the benefits from local dispute resolution, it is hard to justify why more effort is not expended to overcome the inadequacies, easily identified, in existing hit and miss practices.

Formalizing a local dispute resolution process requires no legislative change. Its elements are depicted in the accompanying figure. A draft Explanatory Note and a draft Mediation Practices By-law can be found on the [OPPI website](#). The draft by-law, if enacted, would offer a method for identifying interests early and a process for engaging those interests in constructive discussion.

In my view it is important for the planning profession to support a more deliberative system for early dispute resolution. It is likely that only planners can make a system of evaluation and potential early consensus work. With that burden can come the potential for relief from strained staff resources, awry departmental budgets and the stress of the trial process at the Ontario Municipal Board.

In some instances, the process set out in the draft Mediation Practices By-law reflects that which is currently and informally in place in some municipalities. In all instances, if adopted, it offers uniformity and equality in a more common universality of application.

It is acknowledged that not all matters are resolvable by consensus and discussion and that mediation is not a panacea for all land use issues. Intractable differences will remain and will have to be accommodated by council decisions or appeal mechanisms. However, today the vast majority of land use planning decision making is done through consent discussions and Settlement Hearings, many at the Ontario Municipal Board.

At issue is whether the planning profession is ready for enhanced responsibility at the front end of the planning process.



The draft by-law would put the profession in the forefront: determining whether a matter is a candidate for informal dispute resolution, whether a planning position can or should be taken before a political consideration has occurred, whether the integrity of independent professional judgment is compromised or impeded by an effort at dispute resolution, whether resources are or can be available for mediation discussions.

In my view these issues, seemingly of great moment, are readily resolvable.

The issue of deciding whether a matter should proceed through a mediation stream at the local level, is simply a question of good judgment. There is no reason the professional planner cannot make this assessment. The default position should be 'yes, try mediation'. Only with a compelling rationale should the somewhat archaic process of today, with its risks, be retained. The goal is a consensus recommendation to council/committee, not an OMB appeal.

The current land use planning system in Ontario expects that the professional planner will perform the requisite assessments and formulate a professional planning opinion for delivery to an employer, public or private, as an input to decision making, (i.e., before a decision on approval, investment or application is made). Instituting a mediation process as part of that process is no different.

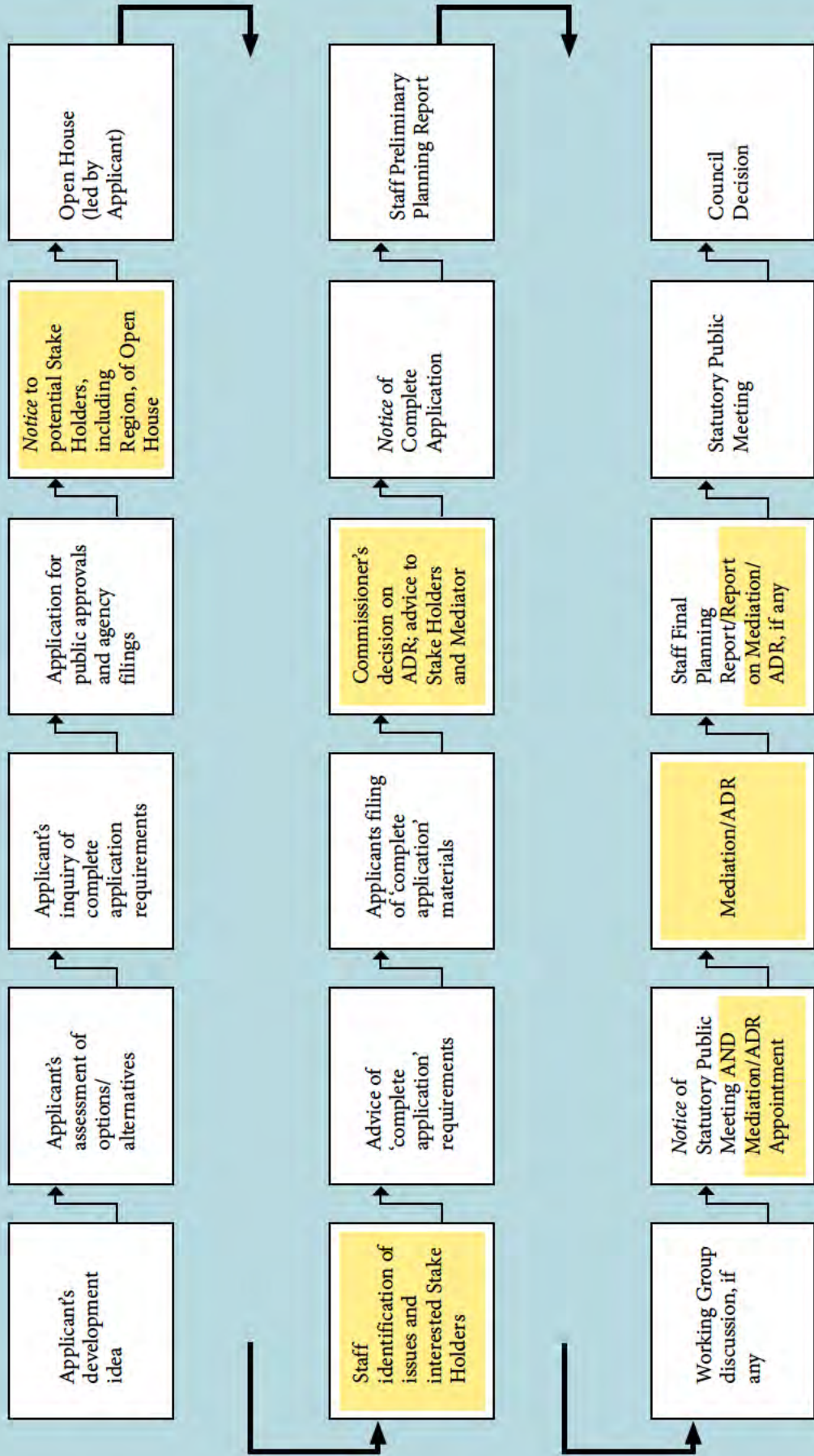
The benefit of a municipal mediation process that yields a consensus recommendation comes in the form of tangible rewards: less councillors' time in public meetings and deputations, less resources allocated to OMB appeals, lower costs with fewer appeals, constructive recommendations and local decisions made on the basis of local policy by local politicians.

There are systemic costs incurred in implementing a Mediation Practices By-law. Staff resources in some municipalities with volume business may have to be augmented. The procedure calls for the selection and appointment of a mediator to convene the parties in a timely fashion. While competent mediators can be home grown, the greater likelihood is that they will be private practice practitioners with training and experience in municipal and planning-related mediation services. There would be a cost incurred, although that cost may be recoverable, in whole or in part, as a component of the originating application fees. Moreover, the costs of mediators over multiple files with only one successful mediation would likely be a fraction of the costs of one appeal hearing.

Ian Lord is a solicitor and counsel with WeirFoulds LLP. His practice for many years focused on municipal and planning matters; it is now restricted to advancing mediation services and other alternative dispute resolution practices on behalf of WeirFoulds LLP, in addition to private assignments. The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author.

Municipal Mediation/ADR Services BEFORE a Council Decision (schematic formalized by municipal procedural by-law*)

(Rev. June 2, 2016)



*Municipal procedural by-law requirements are highlighted in yellow.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have a voice. How are we going to use it?

By Andrea Bourrie, RPP

OPPI is the recognized voice of the planning profession in Ontario. Our voice has helped to shape key conversations and ultimately shape policy for almost 25 years.

Yet I sometimes hear from members and other stakeholders that our voice is “neutral.” That we don’t take a position or say enough, particularly on substantive issues.

Council recently explored the concept of “voice” in a generative discussion. We use generative discussions to look outside the usual framework of overall operations and get at the heart of issues and ideas that may influence our vision, mission and strategic goals. Generative thinking is about probing assumptions about the organization and identifying what can affect strategy and tactics for the best possible outcome.



Some of what Council discussed was the connection between our voice and our brand. We also tackled the concept of a unified position when there are so many voices within the membership on any given topic. Council explored the question of evolving OPPI’s policy voice, an idea that arose during Inspire OPPI. Here is some of what we came up with—

OPPI’s voice is professional, trusted, respected, measured, collaborative and diplomatic. Sometimes it is that of a sage advisor who is publically silent, sometimes it is the framer of the issues and supportive of further discussions.

Going forward OPPI should consider being proactive in naming and framing the issues, ensuring the diversity of opinion expressed reflects the membership, maintaining diplomacy and respect, amplifying its voice through members and continuing to be the voice of the public interest and not special interests.

We do have a voice. Let’s [talk](#) about how and when to use it.

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Agenda for an Urban Century

By Harold Madi, RPP, contributing editor

We are well into the 21st century, coined by many as the Urban Century given that city regions are now decidedly the world's economic engines and for first time there are more of us on this planet living in urban areas than rural ones. While Canada—at over 80 per cent urbanized—had reached the urban tipping point well before this century, it is the nature of how that urbanization is occurring that has rapidly changed in recent years.



Urban growth patterns are shifting from conventional suburban expansion, mostly through greenfield development, to intensification of existing built areas through urban regeneration. While this shift presents significant opportunities for economic growth, revitalization and sustainability, it also presents significant challenges given the inherent complexity – logistically, technically, and politically - of altering or redeveloping within an existing built context.

Join me over the coming months join me for a series of

discussions on current, emerging and contemplative urban design topics that underpin and propel 21st century approaches to urbanism.

It seems evident that well into this urban century we have turned a corner and urban design is front and centre in negotiating and defining the next generation of built areas, and in doing so, evolving them into more urbane places.

There are principles, objectives, strategies and processes that can help steer and guide practitioners. There are also real projects that are either complete or underway, which can offer inspiration and valuable lessons.

I suggest there are five aspirational themes for the urban places we seek to create:

Walkable—nurturing and sustaining an active transportation culture through compact urban form, fine-grained interconnected circulation networks, quality and design of the public realm as well as the buildings that interface with it. (01 West Don Lands)

Contextual—building forms and designs that respond to, and are rooted in, place, while providing authentic and enriching experiences. (02 Queen Richmond Centre)

Flexible—enduring spaces and buildings designed to be multi-purposed, adaptable or shared in response to changing seasons, diverse users and interests, needs or market demands. (03 Union Station Plaza)

Diverse—fine-grained mix and variety of uses, activities, housing choices and building typologies that ensure complete and lifelong communities as well as year-round appeal and vibrancy for stimulating social and economic activity. (04 Port Credit)

Green—employing resilient and low-impact practices to the design of buildings and spaces so as to mitigate the



Flexible - flush street with bollards that move seasonally or for events - Market St, Toronto



Green - green roofs and community gardens in Regent Park, Toronto

IMAGES COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR



Diverse - fine grained mix of uses and housing types in St Lawrence Park, Port Credit



Contextual - old and new are combined harmoniously to create a new sense of place at Lansdowne Park in Ottawa

Walkable - shopfronts, benches, landscaping invite pedestrians along Queen St in Niagara-on-the-Lake



West Don Lands in Toronto, site of the 2015 Pan Am Games Athlete's Village, demonstrates a best practice of 21st century urbanism



impacts of climate change, and in turn minimizing our impacts on the environment. (05 Regent Park)

And upon further reflection, I suggest there are five common themes that define an urban design agenda in bringing those aspirations closer to fruition:

Reinstate the human being as the fundamental building block and point of reference for configuring and designing urban places. In doing so, elements such as walkability, comfortable public space micro-climates and the quality of grade-level conditions become priorities and measures of success. (06 Ryerson Student Learning Centre)

Treat, use and respect the public realm as a vital and precious shared resource. With increasing densities, the demands on this finite land area are far greater than in the past. But the resilience of intensified urban areas hinges on achieving a well maintained public realm and integrated green infrastructure. (07 King Street Kitchener)

Embrace context-driven place-making to enable growth and development that contributes to improving the urban condition, while retaining the essence and authenticity of place. It's about urban evolution, not revolution. (08 Lansdowne Park)

Embrace urban complexity using integrated, multi-disciplinary and strategic approaches to navigate its challenges, while sustaining its virtues by using more flexible and inclusive regulatory tools, such as design performance standards and form-based codes. (09 King East)

Nurture a culture and sensibility for urban design excellence. Growing a broad based appreciation, support and expectation for good urban design can compel the political will to allocate the necessary resources for ensuring a brighter and healthier urban future. (10 Sugar Beach)

Harold Madi, RPP is a member of OPPI and Urban Places Canada lead at Stantec and former director of Urban Design for the City of Toronto. He has two decades of planning and urban design experience leading numerous large-scale, multi-faceted and visionary projects across Canada and internationally.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Dear Dilemma,

Sometimes when I am having conversations with my friends planning issues are brought up. Although I like to share my knowledge to help others understand planning processes, I want to ensure that I do not cross any professional boundaries. For example, if one of my friends approaches me about applying for a severance application and wants to know more about the committee of adjustment, how to prepare for the COA hearing, how to deal with objectors, can I feel comfortable giving this advice?

~ Good Friend

Dear Good Friend,

It's normal to want to be helpful when it comes to a topic when one has specialized knowledge. As we know, navigating the planning process for the public can be overwhelming so knowing what to expect during the process is helpful. While

you want to be helpful your reluctance in giving advice off the cuff is wise. Before you respond to your friend's questions ask yourself: Could there be a conflict of interest, particularly if you are employed with the same municipality in which your friend is living and s/he indicates at the COA hearing that s/he has received advice from you. It may be perceived as a conflict of interest.

Always ask yourself: are you able to give an independent professional opinion? If you stray beyond the procedural questions of how the COA works and your friend presses for more technical advice, ask yourself if you have the correct information and objectivity to give an independent professional opinion. It may be preferable to suggest your friend hire a planning consultant.

Generally it is best to keep your advice to procedural matters and suggest that your acquaintance consult with the relevant planner in the municipality to discuss technical details of the application or hire a planning consultant to assist with the application to ensure s/he gets the proper advice throughout the process. Stay clear of recommending specific strategies or negotiation approaches.

Yours in the public interest,

~ Dilemma

Dear Dilemma,

I am a municipal planner and walked into a very awkward situation during my evaluation of a proposed residential subdivision application. When I arrived I noticed there were "No Trespassing" signs on the property. When I began my walk about, I was met by a woman who identified herself as the daughter of the current property owner. She had no knowledge of my site visit. She told me I was not allowed on the property and that I was trespassing. I then left and returned to my office. Was I trespassing on the property? My municipality does not require the property owner to sign a consent form.

~ Just trying to do my Job

Dear Trying,

Without a signed statement of consent by the current property owner allowing you to enter the property, you were opening yourself up to a potential trespass complaint. However you took the corrective action by immediately leaving the property upon request. Unlike land surveyors, peace officers, or public utility employees, planners do not have statutory powers to enter onto a property to conduct site inspections. Consent to enter a property from the owner is required for a planner to conduct a site inspection on private property.

Many municipalities have incorporated language into their application forms in which the property owner acknowledges that representatives of the municipality may wish to access the property as part of the application review process. Keep in mind that an applicant is not always the owner. Therefore whoever signs the application form must be legally able to sign for and bind the owner.

Planners ought to remember that their actions in public are a reflection, not only of their employer, but of the profession as a whole. Legal advice ought to be sought where access issues are unclear and must be considered prior to entering private property. This safeguard also applies to persons appointed by municipal council to the COA and planning advisory committee.

You did the right thing by not challenging the owner's daughter's authority and defused a potentially litigious situation. Always exercise caution where trespass issues are unclear.

Yours in the public interest,

~ Dilemma

Mediation unwrapped

By Ian Flett, contributing editor

In our last column, we considered different standards of review that might control how the Ontario Municipal Board intervenes in municipal decision-making. In this column, we'd like to turn that equation on its head and focus on a process where the parties to an appeal, rather than an OMB panel, effectively determine a case's outcome. That process is mediation and it is well underway at the OMB. The province's review of the OMB has pinpointed the promotion of mediation as an opportunity to improve the OMB.



Mediation is an assisted negotiation. An effective mediator helps parties in a dispute generate ideas about how to resolve their differences, and they may push parties to compromise and then assist them in drafting the agreement they'll sign off on. While the board must be persuaded that the outcome of a mediation is consistent with law and policy, it will, in most other respects, defer to the parties' agreement.

Around 50 of the roughly 2,000 cases the OMB has considered in the last couple of years are resolved through its mediation process. The balance are resolved through contested hearings, uncontested hearings and settlements achieved between parties on their own initiative.

The province indicates it sees opportunities to promote mediation more widely, by potentially requiring all appeals to be considered by a mediator before scheduling a hearing, making more mediators available earlier in the application process, improving how the board streams cases, creating timelines and targets for scheduling cases that include mediation.

Currently, only a handful of OMB members focus most of their attention on mediation even though almost all the members have received some mediation training. While mediators don't always need subject-matter expertise to help resolve a dispute, having that expertise gives them credibility in the process. It also gives them the ability to deploy an important mediation tool when there's a breakdown in negotiations: an evaluation of the parties' chances of success. However, students of mediation focus much attention on the ethics of using evaluations. Used too early they can stifle resolution, prejudice an outcome or exacerbate a power imbalance.

The board currently endorses the interest-based model of negotiation developed by Harvard Law School professors William Ury, Roger Fisher and Bruce Patton. This model urges parties to look beyond their positions—"I'm building 40 Storeys!"—"We demand you build townhouses!"—to their interests—"We have promised a return on this investment."—"We feel better about an incremental change to our urban landscape."

Another fundamental tenet of interest-based negotiation is that deal-making does not need to be a zero-sum game with winners and losers. Rather than fight over the apportioning of a fixed pie, interest-based negotiation seeks to expand the pie. This often happens in OMB mediations where proponents recognize ancillary ways of sharing the benefits of development with their neighbours and municipalities, such as with voluntary improvements to infrastructure or facilities (e.g., park improvements) or where their projects may help achieve municipal objectives for affordable housing or other community-orientated benefits.

Ontario Municipal Board vice-chair James McKenzie, who is one of the OMB's busiest mediators, reflected on potential areas for reform in a recent conversation with us. He's interested in steps that lead parties away from the adversarial approach as a default and towards mediation as a given "first step" while recognizing parties' right to a contested hearing.

Rather than force parties to mediate the way it is done in civil courts, McKenzie sees a chance to reform the process so that parties are required to opt-out of mediation rather than opt-into it. He says that notwithstanding the few cases that currently benefit from mediation, he sees both a growing demand and indications that many parties have at least considered the option of mediation.

An important question for everyone involved in land use planning reform is when to use mediation. Should mediation attempts happen upstream—early in the application process—or downstream—as a step closer to a hearing. Each approach has its advantages and drawbacks. Mediate too early in the process and the issues and interested parties have not crystallized the way they do in advance of a hearing. Mediate too late and parties may be missing opportunities for early resolution that would head off complex appeals.

It's also important to identify which appeals are suited to mediation. Some cases are best resolved through litigation because they concern ambiguous or ambitious policies. In other cases, a proponent or opponent may feel his or her case is so strong that there is no need for compromise.

Planners have a lot of experience in balancing interests. They articulate interests effectively by providing the rationales tying a concept to a policy. A planner's ability to explore the myriad ways of achieving a single policy aspiration is one of the most effective tools in mediation because it assists parties to a dispute to see a problem as something to be solved, rather than something to be won. A core talent of planners is generating ideas that expand the pie.

As the province considers reform, planners should reflect on where their talents will best serve their clients and the public interest. Planners' opinions will surely diverge, in some cases because of experience and in others because of the clients they normally serve. Either way, the province appears eager to hear those opinions.

Ian Flett practices municipal and administrative law at Eric K. Gillespie Professional Corporation. Ian dedicates his pro bono hours to better cycling infrastructure in Toronto.

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Use OPPI's Learning Path to make the most of your CPL in 2017. This tool allows you to quickly and easily identify your learning needs and set professional goals aligned to the core competencies of the planning profession.

Once finished you can email, print or save a copy of the Learning Path as a reference. It is a simple and effective tool that facilitates Ontario's professional planners in their lifelong learning objectives. The Learning Path is now being used by some planning firms across Ontario as part of their professional development programs.

OPPI's [Learning Path](#) is available at ontarioplanners.ca.



A Year to Remember

By Loretta Ryan, RPP

Oh, what a year it has been! 2016 was the busiest year to date for OPPI's public policy volunteers and staff. As the recognized voice of Ontario's planning profession, the Institute released over a dozen submissions to the government, launched an online learning tool for public health and planning professionals and issued a Call to Action and video on the public realm.

Through the Planning Issues Strategy Group OPPI strengthens the Institute's leadership and influence by formulating public policy positions. It helps to scan the planning environment and recommend priority planning issues and positions. The strategy group has several working groups that it relies on for input and comments.

In addition to the strategy group and its working groups, members are involved and kept up-to-date on the Institute's public policy activities through its e-newsletter, website, conferences/symposiums, District events and social media so that timely responses can be submitted. Hundreds of

volunteers are working on behalf of the Institute.

We have received considerable positive feedback and our [submissions](#) have been shared with many stakeholders.

But OPPI doesn't simply react to government documents, it is also proactive. OPPI moves forward in the public interest on key planning issues with initiatives such as Calls to Action, the latest, [Healthy Communities and Planning for the Public Realm](#), was released at a press conference November 10th at Queen's Park. It calls on planners, government, municipal departments, agencies, other related professionals, builders, developers, community groups and members of the public to make the public realm a focus in community building and placemaking efforts across Ontario.

As professional planners, we are at the forefront of planning for the public realm. Read the [Call to Action](#) on the OPPI website and check out the accompanying short animated [video](#).

Why did we release this particular Call to Action? The public realm is crucial in achieving healthy communities across Ontario. It comprises a large part of our communities—everything from streets, lanes, open spaces, plazas, square, sidewalks, trails, parks, waterfronts, public transit systems, conservation areas through to the interior and exterior of civic buildings.

Too often the public realm is considered a nice to have or an afterthought in community building efforts. It needs to be at the forefront of planning. When well-planned, the public realm can increase physical and mental well-being, enhance public safety, encourage private investment and allow citizens to embrace and celebrate their places and spaces. In essence, the public realm knits together places



Seeking authors

2017 OPJ themes

March/April	The future of the planning profession
May/June	Use and influence of big data in planning
July/August	Planning programs and beyond
Sept/Oct	Infrastructure resilience

Author accreditation

OPJ authors will be identified in the byline by name and where appropriate, RPP, to indicate the author is a Registered Professional Planner. A short bio should be included at the end of the article indicating title, company and relevant professional affiliations. The author should also indicate whether s/he is a member of OPPI and CIP.

and spaces. It is the glue that makes communities liveable.

OPPI was also busy this year launching Public Health and Planning 101—a free online course for public health and planning professionals that was created to help foster a healthier built environment. The course is made up of short videos, exercises and activities with supporting resources. This introductory course is intended to help connect the two professions and lay the foundations for future collaborations. Almost 600 people have registered for this course since it launched this past summer.

The Institute is grateful to everyone who stepped forward last year to help with the strategy group's activities. We simply could not have done it without them. On behalf of OPPI, I would like to thank the members of the Planning Issues Strategy Group: Rob Voigt (chair), Eldon Theodore (Community Design Working Group), Paddy Kennedy (Municipal Affairs), Darryl Young (Transportation Working Group), Sandra Weber (Agriculture & Rural Affairs) and Christine Furtado (Health & Planning). I would also like to thank Allan Rothwell and Scott Tousaw for their longstanding contributions. These volunteers have contributed much to our profession.

We are expecting 2017 to also be an exciting year. As Inspire OPPI—the Institute's new Strategic Plan—rolls out, OPPI will continue to move forward on public policy issues. Want to participate in helping to shape public policy? Check the monthly newsletters, website and social media for opportunities to be involved. Feel free to also contact me at submissions@ontarioplanners.ca.

Loretta Ryan, RPP, CAE, is a member of OPPI, CIP and the Congress for the New Urbanism, Ontario Chapter. Loretta is OPPI Director, Public Affairs and leads the Planning Issues Strategy Group.

2016 OPPI comments on provincial policy

Shaping Land Use in the Greater Golden Horseshoe: Co-ordinated Land Use Planning Review: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, Greenbelt Plan, Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and Niagara Escarpment Plan

Aggregate Resources Act and the Mining Act Schedule 1 of Bill 39 - Aggregate Resources and Mining Modernization Act, 2016

Consultation on Role of OMB in Ontario's Land Use System

Northern Ontario Multimodal Transportation Strategy Discussion Paper: Towards a Northern Ontario Multimodal Transportation Strategy MTO discussion paper on Cycling Initiatives under the Climate Change Action Plan

A Wetland Conservation Strategy for Ontario 2016-2030

Review of the Environmental Bill of Rights - A Provincial Dialogue

Conservation Authorities Act Discussion Paper - Conserving Our Future

Review of the Ontario Municipal Board (pre-consultation comments)

Bill 204, Promoting Affordable Housing Act 2016 Proposed Wildland Fire Risk Assessment and Mitigation: a guidebook in support of the Provincial Policy Statement, 2014 draft

Proposed new regulations under the Planning for the Smart Growth for Our Communities Act, 2015 (Bill 73)

Response to the proposed Excess Soil Management Framework

Congratulations!

Full members who recently completed their certification and became Registered Professional Planners

Congratulations to our 59 new Full members who recently completed their certification and became Registered Professional Planners. The title RPP signifies both their achievement, and their pledge to abide by OPPI's Professional Code of Practice. We applaud their commitment to the public interest, to quality professional standards, and to advancing healthy and sustainable communities.

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Matthew Alexander
Haseeb Amirzada
Ruchika Angrish
Jesse Auspitz
Dalia Bahy
Eric Bays
Jonah Bonn
Joanna Bowes
Allen Burgess
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Caroline Cregan
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Laura Dainard

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Andrew Morgan
Lara Nelson
Julie Nolan

Erica Ogden
Brynne O'Neill
Brandon Orr
Evan Perlman
Michael Pirocchi
Caitlin Port
Kevin Rachman
Aaron Raymond
James Reed

Melissa Ricci
Scott Ritchie
David Sajecki
Shannon Van Dalen
Mirej Vasic
Emily Wall
Vicky Weekes
Kimberley Wilmot
Ryan Wong

The notice is accurate at the time of publication. For questions regarding membership, please email membership@ontarioplanners.ca or call 416.483.1873 ext. 222.

Be involved

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR MORE OPPORTUNITIES to be involved in your professional planning community? Are you passionate about the planning profession and accountability to the public interest? If the answer is "Yes" consider volunteering for OPPI.

Being an OPPI volunteer opens up a world of collaboration with other planners who are future-oriented, progressive and seeking meaningful ways to advance the planning profession in Ontario.

Member-led events, online groups, District-level activities and partner collaborations are just some of the ways you can get involved. Share your unique skills, knowledge and experience. Make a difference in Ontario's planning profession. [Log on to your Member Profile](#) and click on Volunteer Opportunities to sign up today.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Members are encouraged to send letters about content in the *Ontario Planning Journal* to the [editor](#). Please direct comments or questions about Institute activities to the OPPI president at the OPPI office or by email to the [executive director](#). Keep letters under 150 words. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

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