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HEALTHY COMMUNITIES • SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Journal

A stylized illustration of a woman with vibrant pink hair, wearing a dark blue top and large hoop earrings. She is holding a pen to her lips in a thoughtful pose. The background is a futuristic, sci-fi landscape with a tall, segmented tower, a flying saucer, and a small structure on a hill under a yellow sky.

PLANNING IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM

A look at planning across the generations



INSPIRE OPPI



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participants relevant, high-quality educational material and the opportunity to build valuable

relationships. Early bird registration begins in early March and continues until July 31. The [Call for Presentations](#) for students will remain open until September. To learn more about sponsorship and to get the latest updates visit the [OPPI Conference webpage](#).

Call for Nominations: OPPI Council Election

OPPI's Governance & Nominating Committee is calling for nominations for OPPI Council Directors. Learn more



about the positions and how to apply on our [Call for Council Nominations](#) webpage. Online nominations are accepted annually between February 1 and April 1. We are OPPI. Be involved.

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

It's a generational thing

Views to the future

By Cara Chellew & Sean Hertel, RPP

The events and conditions each of us experience during our formative years help to define who we are, how we view the world, how we like to learn and communicate, and what jobs we choose.

Today, the vast majority of OPPI members are millennials and Gen X-ers. They, especially millennials, thrive on fast-paced access to information and career-focused learning, and tend to be avid users of technology with a proclivity for social media. They are also idealistic and want their actions to matter, to make a positive difference. Gen X-ers, while still striving for and open to positive change, have become in large measure the “new old guard” of planning, and quite often find themselves serving as the go-betweens in the transfer of knowledge from the incoming millennials and outgoing Baby Boomers. How will these generations change the face of planning?

This issue of OPJ explores differing views of planning, with an emphasis on millennials and Gen X-ers. Its intent is to begin a conversation, to create space for critical thought and debate—what is important to the planning profession, how might the profession evolve, what makes a good planner, and how can we best contribute to building sustainable communities.

Peter Marcuse, professor emeritus of urban planning at Columbia University makes a distinction between good planning and progressive planning. In his online article, “What’s the matter with Good Planning?” he writes: “Good Planning is practical, politically feasible, economical, and implementable. It is neutral, depoliticized, and avoids addressing issues and topics deemed controversial. Good Planners accept how the process of urbanization currently takes place and refrains from critical reflection regarding the causes of inequality.” In contrast he says, progressive planning is future and action oriented. It is imaginative, innovative, critical, and works to disrupt the status quo. This is the reason why many young people are drawn to planning and urban issues.

Looking to the future is central to what planning is all about, and what planners do. Looking to the future requires an understanding of the complexity of our times. For instance, building resilience into our communities to prepare for mounting challenges like climate change, rapid urbanization, rising socio-economic inequality and ecosystem destruction.

Given the scope and scale of the challenges we face, the future requires planners who are more

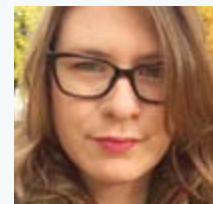
than neutral, unbiased, mediators among multiple stakeholders. Planners must have a progressive vision and active voice to guide policies that are fair and equitable for everyone regardless of race, religion, class, gender, sexual orientation, gender identification, age or ability. This requires asking some tough questions, and perhaps getting into some uncomfortable conversations.

To that end we offer a view through a multi-generational lens. It features a sampling of articles from planners at different stages of their careers—from recent millennial graduates from planning school to mid-career Gen X-ers to seasoned Baby Boomers. The stories encompass a broad range of planning issues and perspectives: the importance of balance in achieving positive change, the need to evolve the profession to address current realities, the value in listening to a broad spectrum of voices, and new approaches to how planning is taught and practiced.

It is important for us, as individual practitioners and collectively as a profession, to continue this conversation together. Collaborating across generations will enable us to ask better questions and identify more effective strategies for overcoming challenges and embracing shared opportunities.

Cara Chellew, MES, is a millennial, a student member of OPPI and a research administrator for the Major Collaborative Research Initiative Global Suburbanisms research project at York University. Cara’s research focuses on the design, regulation and politics of public space. You can find her on twitter @CaraChellew. Sean Hertel MES, RPP, MCIP, Gen X, has been leading his own small Toronto-based practice since 2012. He specializes in transit-oriented development policy and implementation,

housing and public engagement. Also active in academia, Sean conducts transit and suburbanization research at the City Institute at York University, and teaches planning at Ryerson University and the University of Waterloo. Wander and wonder with him on twitter @Sean_Hertel.



Cara Chellew



Sean Hertel

Traditionalists	born 1922-1943
Baby Boomers	born 1944-1960
Generation X	born 1961-1980
Millennials (a.k.a. Gen Y)	born 1981-2000

Adapting to Millennial Planners

By Justine Giancola, RPP and Adam Wright, RPP

As OPPI Council members, we spend a lot of time thinking about OPPI's value to members and asking what we can do to better serve our membership. Although we are both technically millennials, at times we feel somewhat disconnected from the millennial generation (possibly a sign that we're undoubtedly millennials) and we often wonder how our generation will shape the planning profession and our communities.

By now you have probably heard that millennials are entitled, impatient when it comes to workplace advancement, don't have the same loyalty as their parents, are uncomfortable with rigid structures, expect immediate access to information, require constant feedback and value instant gratification. What you may not have heard is that millennials face serious challenges with increased student debt, high levels of unemployment, lower household incomes and growing inflation rates.

According to recent studies by PwC and Forbes, millennials prefer to seek out meaningful work, rate professional development and work/life balance as more important than financial reward and tend to value experiences (taking that trip) over owning things (buying that car). These trends are important to consider, as this generation will one day make up over 50 per cent of the global workforce and currently are the largest generational group, recently edging out baby boomers with roughly 35 per cent of the population. With this in mind, we have to ask ourselves what this means for the planning profession and how OPPI can ensure that it continues to provide value to its evolving membership

So what can OPPI do to adapt?

Continue to improve the membership experience

Millennial's value of experience over products provides an opportunity for OPPI, as we serve our membership without relying on the sale of product. However, at the same time, millennials do not have the same loyalty towards organizations as past generations and are more willing to

make changes if their needs are not being met.

This elevates the expectations around customer service and the need to provide a membership experience that makes people want to join and continue to be part of the Institute. This means providing value at each stage of a member's career, from welcoming newcomers to the planning industry, to helping them achieve career development goals, and providing guidance when they are considering retirement (or transition to another planning field).

With millennials valuing professional development, OPPI's role in networking, connecting emerging planners with job opportunities, providing advisors/mentors, facilitating knowledge exchange and meaningful opportunities for volunteerism are particularly important.



Justine Giancola

Provide quick and accessible information

Millennials grew up in the digital age, and with this comes certain expectations in terms of access to and communication of information.

Utilizing emerging technology gives significant power to organizations that can synthesize and direct people seamlessly to the information they want.



Adam Wright

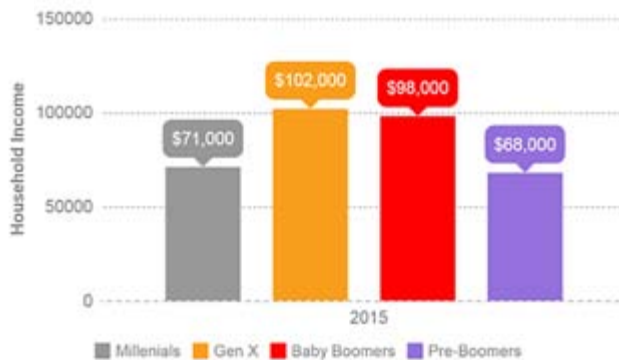
As the recognized voice of the planning profession, OPPI has the opportunity to be the platform where planners can exchange knowledge and expertise. It also has the responsibility to provide information about the organization, whether related to professional exams, membership fees, or the agendas/outcomes of council meetings. And the expectation is that it will be available at the click of a finger.

Council is currently conducting a strategic review of OPPI's consultation and communications approach in relation to implementation of its Strategic Plan. Effective

Percentage of Labour Force



Lower Average Household Income



communication with the OPPI membership will need to be a key area of focus.

Provide feedback and recognition to drive continuous improvement

A culture of feedback and recognition supports OPPI's continuous improvement and cultivates a member's sense of ownership. With millennials' interest in constant feedback, OPPI should continue to seek out ways to gain feedback to enhance the membership experience. The 2016 Symposium is a good example, where OPPI provided online opportunities for participants to provide instant feedback. Other opportunities should be explored to enhance feedback and recognition mechanisms, such as following the RPP examination process and for volunteers, who are the bloodline of OPPI and could be better

recognized for all of their efforts and commitment.

OPPI's new Strategic Plan 2020, **INSPIRE OPPI**, includes many of these concepts. Now it is time to implement them!

If you have suggestions as to ways OPPI can meet the multi-generational needs of its membership, please send them to info@ontarioplanners.ca.

Justine Giancola, RPP and Adam Wright, RPP, millennials, are both serving their first term as OPPI Council Directors. Justine is an associate, senior planner and project manager with Dillon Consulting, based in its Kitchener office. Adam works as a special project officer with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and has been actively involved with OPPI since he first volunteered as a student representative for the University of Guelph in 2011. Both Justine and Adam always have time to chat about planning issues, so please don't be shy if you have any questions or just want to say hi.

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Good Planning Knows No Age

By Elizabeth Howson, RPP

I was asked to consider two questions in this article: “What does the baby boomer generation of planners see as future planning issues and challenges, and what could that generation teach, and learn from in turn, the incoming millennial generation of planners?”

My conclusions reflect my more than 40 years of experience working with a variety of planners from all generations.

Future issues and challenges

The essential issues and challenges we face as planners in Ontario have not, and will not, change. It always has been and will be about finding the appropriate balance between a range of competing interests—not consensus, but the right balance. The *Provincial Policy Statement* initially released in 1996, nicely summarizes those issues including:

- How to manage and direct land use to achieve efficient and resilient development and land use patterns
- How to create a true multi-modal transportation system
- How to protect natural heritage, agriculture and other resources.

These same issues were there in the 1970s when the boomers started their careers, and they are still central to our work today, although the context is more complex. For instance, in the 1970s the province adopted the Foodland Guidelines, which related to the protection of agricultural land. The *Provincial Policy Statement* built on and strengthened that initial policy direction, while still dealing with the fundamental issue—how to ensure that agricultural land is protected for agriculture, and how the agriculture industry can survive in southern Ontario. Similarly, since the 1970s, on-going consideration has been given to a number of issues, including transportation and the provision of a more balanced transportation system, affordable housing, the nature of employment, social equity, the evolution of institutions and commercial development patterns, and the decline of the downtown. The approaches may vary somewhat but the issues remain the same.

What makes a good planner?

In my view, the boomer generation does not have any kind of a lock on being good planners. Regardless of age and experience, in my observation, there are two planning archetypes: planners who are actively passionate about creating strong communities and prepared to use creative approaches to achieve that goal and planners who are more process-oriented and rules-based, who are less concerned about changing the status quo. A good planner in my view is someone who actually tries to get things done—who breaks down barriers rather than creating them.

There are many good planners out there today of all generations and I have been truly privileged to work with many of them—from the late great John Bousfield to some very impressive millennials, and a number of terrific planners in their 40s and 50s. The common strength of the best planners is their ability to establish a clear vision and to carry it through to completion.

Let the planners plan!

However, in my observation, it is getting harder for planners to actually plan—to get plans in place and then to implement them. Unfortunately, it now seems that process above all else takes precedence in planning, making it increasingly difficult for passionate, change-making planners to move things forward. This, in my opinion, does damage to the brand of professional planning and planners—being perceived as more concerned with process than with achieving positive change. This is not a generational issue. Rather it is a direct result of the introduction of a rigid rules based, one size fits all, planning system, which appears to be premised on the belief that more process will result in better planning.

The latest recommendations for provincial planning policy changes, arising through the Province of Ontario’s coordinated land use planning review process, exemplify this approach. Overall, the submissions from planners have clearly identified the important issues with these proposed changes and solutions to those issues, including moving away from a planning by the numbers approach and related costly technical studies. These submissions confirmed for me that we have good planners of all generations who are committed to getting planning right. What is required is a change to the system that will let them plan.

Elizabeth Howson, RPP, MCIP, a boomer by age cohort with a millennial mindset, is a member of OPPI and a partner in the firm of Macaulay Shiomi Howson Ltd. She has a broad range of experience as the planning lead and project manager for planning projects throughout southern Ontario.

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How to Make Friends and Influence People

By Zahra Jaffer

Designing a public engagement platform for a project is a task that is often challenged by the realities of a world of information abundance. In the age of fake news and a perceived sense of apathy among the under-30 crowd, social media is often touted as being the answer to capturing the attention of an otherwise disengaged audience. Arguably, internet-based media can be a powerful tool in disseminating information, sparking a conversation, and generally attracting attention to the civic issues with which planning projects are most often concerned. However, getting millennials to the table is only half the battle, the other half is, how do we keep them there?

The answer lies in a combination of tactics, including giving people a reason to care about a project, making engagement easy, and conveying information in more visually appealing and digestible formats. This requires institutions to be willing to commit to transparency and have an authentic conversation about issues with an informed audience.

Studies abound regarding the levels of participation in public process among the millennial generation, and depending on which you believe, Gen Y-ers are either more engaged than older residents across Canada, or inversely, increasingly apathetic and disillusioned. Consider this: in a study led by Samara Canada, “when it comes to rates of participation in political and civic life beyond voting, younger Canadians’ participation rate is 11 percentage points higher, on average, than their older counterparts across 18 forms of participation.”¹ On the question of civic engagement, the rate of participation among the 18-to-29 crowd in activities related to being part of a group or organization, or working with others to solve a community problem, outpaced their counterparts in older groups.

If we acknowledge that millennials are willing to participate in civic issues, then our focus shifts to what drives them to feel a sense of ownership in the outcome and a belief that their participation matters. This is where trust comes in.

“For citizens to feel that their participation indeed improves the quality of life of all inhabitants, they have to trust local authorities. Citizens have ownership of their city when they feel that they are an active part of it and identify with it. When this happens, citizens see the city as a shared property, and they take care of it as such. Participative processes feed from and reinforce these feelings, enabling a virtuous cycle that creates a more open and transparent

public administration that is willing to plan together with citizens and hence also reinforces trust.”² (World Bank report for 2013 Youth Summit)

The central point here is a simple one: Meaningful engagement is a powerful tool in improving the quality of decision-making regarding public projects. In order for engagement to be meaningful, there needs to be trust, which in turn only exists if all sides are willing to engage in difficult conversations.

Millennials are accustomed to utilizing the internet as an educational tool, are able to absorb complexity, and are influenced by the views of those in



their social network.³ By that token, to foster trust with millennials it is important to acknowledge that a range of views and solutions exist relating to any given issue, and to be prepared to have open conversations about how decisions are made on a project.

If there is anything the events of the past year have taught us, it is that now is a more crucial time than ever for public institutions to pick up the mantle of transparency

and think about how to establish a channel of continuous communication with all groups, and in particular with millennials who are ready and willing to be engaged. This is not just important to the principles of planning, but to the very survival of trust in civic process.

Zahra Jaffer, millennial and pre-candidate Member of OPPI, is a planner at Dillon Consulting Limited and works on a range of planning projects across Canada. She has lived and worked in Kenya and the UAE, and has an undergraduate degree in Environmental Biology from the University of Toronto and an MES in Planning from the University of Waterloo.

Footnotes

- 1 Samara Canada (2015). *Message not Delivered: The Myth of Apathetic Youth and the Importance of Contact in Political Participation*. Samara’s Democracy 360, September 2015.
- 2 World Bank Group (2013). *Millennial communications for inclusive city planning – Project Information Document*. Youth Summit 2013 – Development Case D.
- 3 Rochon, L. (2013). Why the cities of the future belong to the millennial generation. *Globe and Mail*, April 12 2013.
- 4 Environics Institute (2016). *Canadian Public Opinion on Governance 2016. Final Report, June 2016*.

Across Canada, there are 10-million millennials.³

Nearly 2-million millennials live in Canada’s major cities and inner suburbs. Many are new immigrants.³

Trust in public institutions is lower among millennials than their older counterparts.⁴

Re-imagining the Future

By Ben Puzanov, RPP

As a member of the millennial generation, I, like many others, entered the planning profession with aspirations of making a difference, not only in the lives of people today but in the lives of our children and grandchildren. In short, I wanted to improve the world for future generations.

As I reflect on the last decade, I am hard-pressed to convince myself that the world is better off than it was 10 years ago: climate change has altered our weather patterns considerably and has caused disasters of catastrophic proportions; the gap between the rich and the poor has widened; many regional economies are still reeling from the global financial crisis of 2007 and 2008; and the number of refugees fleeing war-torn regions is one of the highest that it has ever been since World War II.

While these calamities are global in nature, their effects are felt locally. We cannot afford another decade like the last and collective action is critical to address climate change and socio-economic inequality. But what can we do as planners?

It starts with deconstructing the traditional planning process, which is often fraught with conflict, and helping people to imagine what their communities will look like 50 years from now if things remain the same. While planners

must be visionaries, unifiers and collaborators, we must also be educators if there is to be real, meaningful change. Given many peoples' preoccupation with the present it is difficult to engage them regarding the future of their communities five years from now, much less 50 years from now. Thus planners must be agents of change, we must help people shape it.

Most importantly, planners have to engage in meaningful consultation regarding local solutions to address global problems if we are to start fixing the mess that future generations are set to inherit.

As readers will be aware, in 2016 OPPI embarked on implementing the Institute's new strategic plan, Inspire OPPI. It directs the exchange of knowledge and expertise for the betterment of

planning in Ontario. While it is expected that this exchange will include the sharing of best practices, it should also include critical evaluation of the planning profession. As the last decade has shown, the world can change on a dime. It is our duty as planners to be ready to respond in kind. Collective constructive criticism is critical to this process.

Ben Puzanov, M.P.L., M.P.A., RPP, MCIP, millennial, is a senior planner with the County of Middlesex and a Director on OPPI Council. Follow Ben @BenPuzanov.



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Bryan Beca, Tunde Paczai, Terence Tourangeau, and Liana Bresler have each demonstrated a remarkable aptitude for design, engagement, and leadership. SvN welcomes each Associate and offers congratulations on their achievements.

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Mosaic of Generations

By Markus Moos, RPP

As Canadians, and as planners, we are often keen to celebrate the diversity of our communities in ethnic, gender, linguistic, sexual orientation, socio-economic and other dimensions of social differentiation. Societal changes since at least the 1960s have brought us a long way toward greater equality. Yet we remain far from actually having attained equality of outcomes, or even equality of opportunity—the latter being a less stringent measure of equality.

There are some aspects of community diversity that do not even appear on our radar as frequently as they should. Generational mix is one of these factors. While we commonly plan for aging communities, we have paid much less attention to age and generational diversity within our communities. I founded the “Generationed City” research project at the University of Waterloo to help fill that void. The project studies the housing, employment and commuter characteristics of young adults, and aims to be a conduit of generational research more broadly.

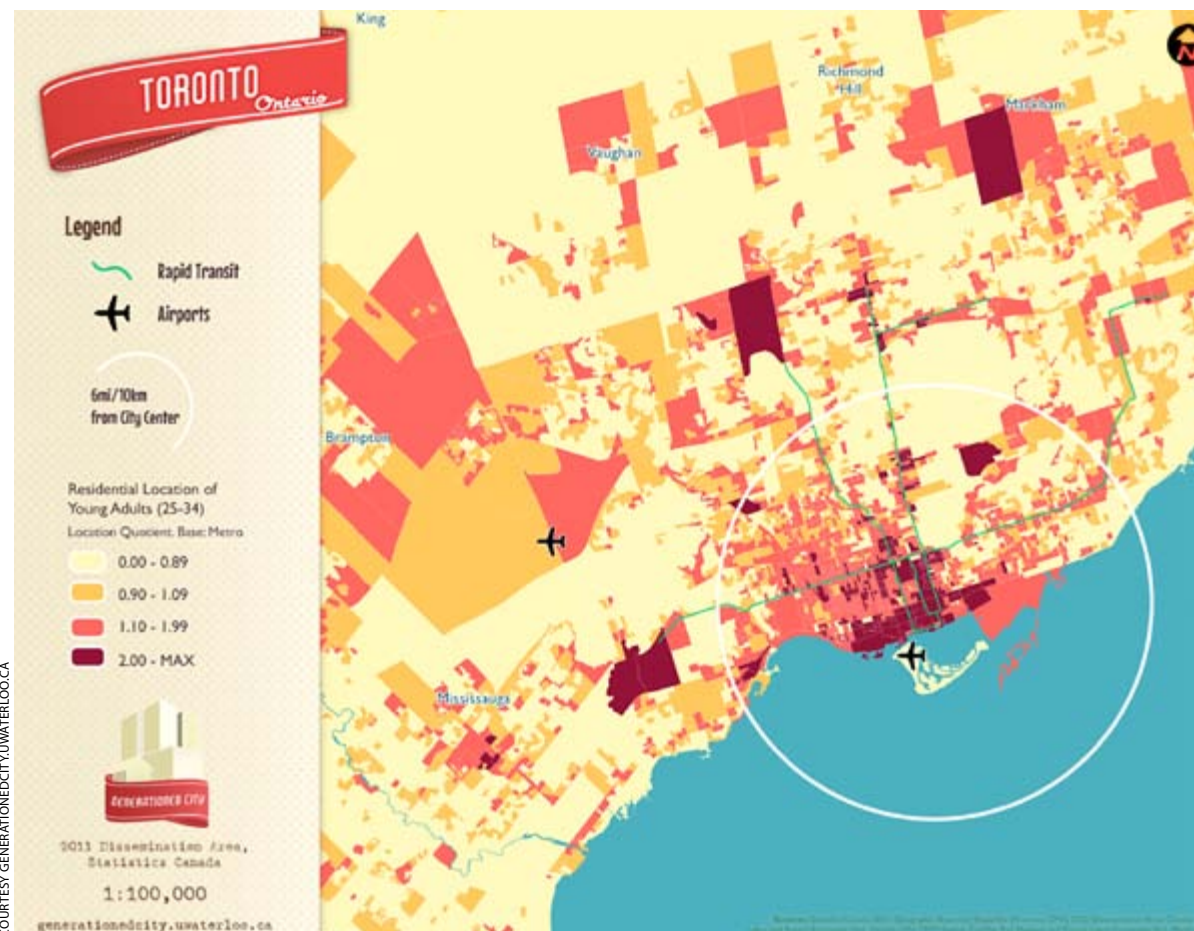
A report by the Conference Board of Canada (2014) found that “[t]hree decades of progress in reducing income inequality between men and women has been accompanied by a growing earnings gap between younger and older workers that could threaten future economic growth and social stability.” In my research I have also found that our cities have become increasingly “generationed.” That is to say that our neighbourhoods are becoming more divided by age; in that more young people live with other young people (what I called “youthification”), and more older people live with other older people.

Part of this growing generational separation is likely demand driven—an outcome of people seeking others like themselves to engage in social activities. Part of it is also an outcome of supply side decisions: our planning policies often facilitate the corporate marketing of communities and housing by developers to specific lifestyle (and thus age) groups.

While different age groups, and generations, have long been somewhat segregated in terms of their residential

locations, the trend of increasing segregation is worrisome from a social cohesion perspective. (See the accompanying map for clear evidence of clustering by age in the Toronto region.) There are many scholars that have argued that increasing exposure to people with characteristics other than our own will ultimately help build greater understanding and compassion for those differences. Growing generational segregation in our communities could be contributing to “ageism” and other friction between different generations. While this has always been a challenge it seems to have gotten worse, as exemplified in the ways millennials and boomers are often pitted against each other in the popular press.

What are planners to do? One planning response that has existed for some time is that of deliberately planning for social mix, particularly through a mix of housing forms and affordability thresholds. Planning for social mix, although admirable in its goals, is also wrought with subjective interpretations of what constitutes a good level of mix and



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diversity. This can often result in paternalistic, and classist, assumptions about how exposure of the poor (or young) to the rich (or older) is for the betterment of the socially disadvantaged group.

Instead we ought to approach social mix as something of value to all of us. In terms of planning for generational diversity it would mean specifically designing the kinds of spaces that facilitate intergenerational contact. This could be as simple as designing public spaces to include a diversity of activities that are attractive to a broad spectrum of ages. It could include jointly planning for playgrounds, daycare centres, seniors housing, and post-secondary institutions to facilitate spatial proximity and increase chances of intergenerational encounters. It could include even more deliberate development strategies that plan for a diversity of housing in a neighbourhood targeted at different age groups.

I recently discovered the walking/running track at my local community centre to be a good place for intergenerational interaction. The track has lanes for people exercising at various speeds. It is used, often simultaneously, by competitive university track teams, young adults of working age, as well as middle-aged adults and seniors. The track could be an inspiration for our planning toward more generationally diverse communities—everyone participates but each at their own comfort level and speed.

Markus Moos, PhD, MCIP, RPP, is associate professor and associate director, Graduate Studies, in the School of Planning at the University of Waterloo. He studies the implications of changing urban economies, housing markets and social structures for planning.

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The Future of Planning Education

By Kanishka Goonewardena

Changer la vie, changer la ville!

~ Anatole Kopp

The starting point for any serious discussion on the future of planning must involve a critical acknowledgement of the interplay between urbanization and the fundamental dilemmas or possibilities of our time.

Climate change, social disintegration, political alienation and economic crises are not merely manifest in cities, regions and countries. The global process of urbanization, or what French philosopher Henri Lefebvre called the “production of space,” is very much constitutive of these urgent issues. Whatever responses we might muster in the face of such overwhelming challenges before humanity, they cannot but have a pivotal urban-spatial element, in addition to social, political and economic aspects.

Indeed, from the global perspective presented in Mike Davis’s *Planet of Slums* (2006), the future of planning would seem to hang, rather precariously, on our collective and collaborative political capacity to envision and actualize alternative habitats for humanity, as well as for other organic and inorganic beings—because the actually existing ones have proven to be more aligned with our problems, and less with solutions.

In the face of such acute problems, confronting not only our cities but also the world in general, how should planners educate themselves? This would be a difficult question on any day, but it is a particularly mind-bending one today.

The education of planners cannot avoid the most basic and strategic question: how are the prospects of cities and the most powerful political, economic and ecological dynamics of the world connected? To put it this way is not simply to argue for the privileged role of planning vis-à-vis other professional or social practices. The point is to make sense of how “production of space” matters for our wellbeing and even survival. Following Lefebvre’s legendary work on space and politics, we can now ask: how does the process of urbanization mediate between the deep forces of politics (state) and economics (capitalism) on the one hand, and our everyday lives on the other hand?

In *Good City Form* (1981), the renowned city planner Kevin Lynch wisely noted that our work always revolves around three essential questions. First, how did the city get to be the way it is? Second, what is a good city? Third, how do we go from the city we have to the city we love?

These are related questions that cannot be broached in isolation from each other, and together they

encompass nearly the full range of the sciences (social and natural) and the humanities within the prevailing academic division of labour. A planner’s education must therefore be wide-ranging, trans-disciplinary and critical-theoretical, instead of being circumscribed by forms of technocratic and instrumental rationality. To speak in Kantian language, we deal with not only truth, but also goodness and beauty. These latter domains of inquiry, including aesthetics and politics, become especially important with respect to the question that comes after, or along with, any realistic reckoning with the current state of cities and the world: what is to be done?

This last question calls for an accurate understanding of who and what is responsible for the current state of our cities, regions and the world. Let’s face it: planners too have played no small a role in the production of our present problems, and only by way of an honest critique of our own problematic history can we sincerely hope to be enthusiastic about planning for the future. And let’s not forget, please, the biggest elephant in our room: the devastating economic system called capitalism, which drives planning and planners like an irresistible force of nature, even though it is ultimately one of our own making, however unintentionally or irrationally. To be sure, the still unfolding histories of colonialism, imperialism and other forms of social and ecological domination are all tethered to the law of value and the uneven development of capitalism. The struggle against the latter—and its nefarious agents—is then a precondition for the future of planning and the education of planners.

But, as Karl Marx once aptly asked, “who is going to educate the educators?” That won’t be so much professors, or even professors of professors. It will be our allies in the fight against political-economic irrationality and for human-natural rationality—the water protectors of Standing Rock, the activists of Black Lives Matter, the Idle No More Movement in Canada and many others who know from intimate experience that planning is not a purely technical expertise but above all a contested political practice concerning the very house of our being.

Kanishka Goonewardena, Gen X, is associate professor in the Department of Geography and Planning, University of Toronto, and a former director of the Program in Planning. His teaching focuses on urban design and planning thought and his research deals with urbanization and critical theory.



Conflicting Planning Paradigms

By Justin Wiebe

Planning is not something new to Indigenous peoples. It's not merely a western concept created, introduced, and recreated by the likes of Ebenezer Howard, Le Corbusier or Jane Jacobs. Indigenous¹ nations and communities across Turtle Island² have always planned for our families, our communities, our lands, and our collective futures. Our approach to planning has always been based on our unique worldviews, and social and political systems.

When settlers first arrived on our territories, they relied almost entirely on Indigenous peoples and knowledge to survive. Over time this reliance weakened, and it was replaced with an intention to subjugate and assimilate Indigenous peoples. City planning has always played an integral role in colonization, as cities were initially designed to exclude Indigenous peoples. The reality though, is that every city in Canada sits on Indigenous lands.

Indigenous peoples live in every corner of Canada. Many of our communities exist within and on the periphery of cities. The Province of Ontario has the largest Indigenous population of any province in Canada. Today Indigenous peoples are urban, with over 50 per cent of us living off-reserve.³

In this post Truth and Reconciliation Commission era, the dialogue has shifted, and we are starting to see some incredibly positive initiatives being lead in collaboration between Indigenous peoples and cities. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities Pathways to Reconciliation report outlines some of the important work cities have begun to embark on.⁴ The City of Vancouver declared itself a City of Reconciliation and developed a framework to guide its reconciliation work.⁵ In 2015, the City of Winnipeg established the Mayor's Indigenous Advisory Circle to strengthen and enhance Winnipeg's

relationship with Indigenous peoples.⁶ As part of the City of Toronto's year-long proclamation on Truth and Reconciliation, Toronto adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.⁷ These initiatives, along with many others, are critical first steps on the path towards reconciliation. They are however, just that... first steps.

The reality is still that Indigenous people are eight times more likely to experience homelessness than non-Indigenous people, which equates to one in 15 Indigenous people experiencing homelessness in comparison to one in 128 for the general population.⁸ Our people are still followed in stores, profiled by law enforcement, and overrepresented in the criminal justice system.⁹ Indigenous youth continue to be taken from their homes and communities, and placed in care.¹⁰ We still struggle to access and secure lands in cities for traditional, entrepreneurial, and other purposes. Our sacred sites, hunting grounds, and villages are still being encroached on, occupied, and destroyed.

We have a long way to go in this country, but we've started. Indigenous peoples are calling on all levels of government to do things differently. Many cities across Canada have looked closely at the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, and identified ways in which they can begin to actualize them. These too, are important first steps. Municipal planning professionals should utilize the tools at their disposal to foster reconciliation, build reciprocal relationships, support Indigenous peoples and communities, and return lands to our peoples. There must be opportunities for Indigenous peoples to remain connected to our lands within and outside of the municipal boundaries.

Reconciliation has no end date. Instead it is an ongoing process that is critical to the creation of a more equitable society. In this professional planners have an important role to play.

As we move forward on this path of urban reconciliation,



Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt from Museum of Ontario Archaeology 1812 exhibit



Concrete Indians by Nadya Kwandibens

(LEFT) ARCHAEOLOGY.MUSEUM.ONTARIO/AMPMU/; (RIGHT) WWW.REDFWORKS.CA/ PORTFOLIO-CATEGORY/CONCRETE-INDIANS/#/GROUP/4



Art: Reconciliation: Lead by Sonny Assu

my hope is that the perspectives, needs, and laws of Indigenous peoples are taken into account at every level of decision-making within cities. That Indigenous peoples hold positions of power and influence, where our laws, governing systems, and decision-making processes are (at least) on equal footing to those of Canada and the cities across these lands.

Justin Wiebe is a planner, millennial, and a michif man from Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. He currently lives as an uninvited guest on territory that is subject to the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant in Toronto. Justin holds a Master's Degree in Planning from SCARP at UBC. He is passionate about Indigenous planning, decolonization in the city, and supporting youth leadership.

Footnotes

- 1 Refers to First Nations (status and non-status), Métis, and Inuit peoples in Canada
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Not a Homogenous Future

By Jen Robertson

Planning is at a crossroads of inclusion for LGBTQ people. There is no all-encompassing perspective on what planning for diverse LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning)

communities can look like, because queer and trans communities are not uniform. This presents a challenge to city builders looking for a one-stop shop for planning interventions that are inclusive of all genders and sexual orientations.

Looking into the future, we do have research on how to start actively including queer and trans voices in planning practice. Inclusivity of LGBTQ people can look like gender inclusive bathrooms, workplace positive space campaigns, culturally specific urban design, and considering queer and trans experiences in planning for public safety.

Vancouver has pushed the conversation on gender inclusive bathrooms and change rooms forward by investing in infrastructure benefitting transgender and gender non-binary individuals who want to access recreation centres. Montreal's gay village is adorned in iconic "Pink Balls" strung across its main thoroughfare in

the summer, an installation that defines queer space in the city, on top of winning 74 recognitions for its unique use of landscape architecture and art for placemaking.

Despite these achievements, queer and trans

inclusivity remain fraught. They do not have the luxury of assumed public safety, and this often goes hand in hand with other forms of discrimination. The negative reaction to Black Lives Matter blocking the Toronto Pride parade to reclaim community space and denounce anti-black racism reflects the messiness of discrimination even within queer communities.

There is no all-encompassing perspective on what the planning landscape for LGBTQ-inclusive

communities can look like. This presents a challenge to city builders. Planners must ask: how can we actively include LGBTQ people in our cities and regions?

Jen Robertson, MAP, millennial, is a smart commute program specialist for the City of Toronto. Her thesis is on planning for LGBTQ inclusive public safety.

IMAGE COURTESY OF DAVID LA RIVIERE, 24 HOURS



Gender inclusive bathroom signage used by the Vancouver Park Board



A view to the North

By Victoria Prouse

“Things are different up north.”¹ A view to the future includes a view to the north.

As a young planner starting my career in Sault Ste. Marie, I have identified five unique challenges facing Northern Ontario planners and six opportunities to harness these challenges and facilitate prosperity in Northern communities.

Planning challenges in the North

Scarcity of planners. Approximately 80 of the over 4,000 registered planners in Ontario work in the North—a challenge particularly for young planners lacking experience. Consequently, municipal planners heavily on consultants, often paying premiums for smaller projects,



which discourages municipalities to broaden planners' mandates. Young planners may be the only planning professionals working in a small municipality and can be disadvantaged by a lack of mentorship opportunities and professional oversight.

Lack of understanding of planning. Northern Ontario residents are less familiar with the planning profession, due in part to the scarcity of planners. Frequently people misinterpret planners as being engineers. This misunderstanding results from insufficient resources in more proactive and strategic planning initiatives with minimal resources focused on current planning matters. In Sault Ste. Marie, conversations at engagement events often require persuading individuals of the value of the

planning profession prior to discussions about the proposed projects themselves.

Isolated geography. Northern communities are scattered, reducing the likelihood of residents travelling regionally or further afield. My grandparents in Bruce County travel frequently to Waterloo and Guelph. Though they live in a rural community they are receptive to concepts like bike lanes and public realm investment because they have experienced how investment in these projects has increased quality of life and generated development. In the north, the lack of mobility creates a challenge in promoting new ideas and alternative solutions to local issues, consolidating insular attitudes.

Demographics and economic instability. Sault Ste. Marie is a microcosm for shifting global patterns in industry and demographics. It is facing high rates of unemployment and youth outmigration and an aging population. Its precarious economic situation creates a difficult political context for planners to advocate provincial policy directions including density, infill and brownfield rehabilitation. Local politicians are rightly concerned about unemployment and bringing investment to our community.

Furthermore, youth outmigration and the simultaneous increase of seniors produces a significant planning challenge. To stop the brain drain and encourage newcomers, planners must focus on enhancing quality of life attributes in our communities. However, it is politically difficult to implement these objectives as they are often considered frills to be pursued only in favourable economic climates rather than a critical investment in future prosperity. Furthermore, planners in struggling cities may face a dilemma: being pressured to be open for business even if prospective investments do not demonstrate sustainable development.

Mixed feelings towards the GTA. Anecdotally, Northern Ontario residents simultaneously lament youth outmigration to southern Ontario while maintaining a subconscious belief that life there is more worthwhile—you haven't made it unless you've succeeded in the GTA. This paradox resonates with planning issues in Sault Ste. Marie—residents simultaneously dismiss ideas successfully implemented in the GTA while complaining Sault Ste. Marie is old-fashioned.

Planning priorities for a prosperous future

These challenges are formidable and necessitate a significant cultural shift to be fully resolved. Planners in



Queenstown Commons. Our pilot parking lot patio helped to change perceptions on overlooked downtown spaces

Ontario residents are less familiar with the planning profession, due in part to the scarcity of planners. Frequently people misinterpret planners as being engineers. This misunderstanding results from insufficient resources in more proactive and strategic planning initiatives with minimal resources focused on current planning matters. In Sault Ste. Marie, conversations at engagement events often require persuading individuals of the value of the

Northern Ontario need to leverage these challenges to help build strong northern communities.

Raise the profile of the planning profession. Pursuing the regulation of the planning profession and launching public information campaigns, will significantly increase public confidence and trust in planning goals. A broader societal understanding of planning would significantly contribute to achieving community buy-in and meeting provincial policy directives, as well as encouraging northern youth to consider planning as a career.

Promote right-sizing planning approaches and resources for professionals. The planning profession is often synonymous with growing communities, a relationship embedded in provincial policy. However, the reality facing many northern communities is population decline. There is a lack of policy and professional development resources for planners to deal proactively with this issue.

Right-sizing is a planning paradigm gaining momentum in the rustbelt states. It formally vetoes the one-size-fits-all narrative of growth through market-driven planning approaches for one focusing on more effective utilization of existing infrastructure and enhanced quality of life for residents. This approach offers significant merits for Northern Ontario municipalities: when population decline occurs organically, political responses tend to be reactionary and non-strategic.² Pursuing a proactive, planned approach to right sizing will help ingrain planning concepts during this transition period. It will also help to cultivate positive feelings towards this community change and focus efforts on enhancing quality of life for existing citizens, which creates a more sustainable model for growing a population in the future.

Promote placemaking as a framework for municipal budget decisions. Smaller municipalities can operate with more flexibility than their larger counterparts. An excellent example of this is the Town of Innisfil's



IMAGE COURTESY OF SOOTODAY.COM

Car Free Sunday, a great example of collaboration across organizations to promote planning objectives

decision to raise the prominence of its official plan, Our Place, from a legislative land use document to an organizational tool for the municipal corporation.³ Innisfil's official plan positions placemaking as its fundamental objective: to make people love where they live and build social and community connections.⁴ This contrasts with traditional approaches that consider factors such as economic and social development as separate entities. Innisfil's approach has enabled it to adopt a more holistic decision-making framework, with placemaking at the core of all initiatives.

Promote pilot projects. Promoting pilot projects that embody the "lighter, quicker, cheaper" approach is critical to achieving planning objectives in Northern Ontario. In lieu of citizens visiting other communities, pilot projects allow individuals to experience changes without a perceived risk of permanence. This summer Sault Ste. Marie converted six parking spaces in an underutilized downtown parking lot into a formalized seating area, Queenstown Commons. As a pilot project, most people were receptive to the idea and eager to experience it. Now, we get requests to create additional commons. The province and the OPPI can assist in promoting pilot projects by offering more guidance and professional development opportunities for their implementation.

Work outside the box. Small municipalities can also be



Sense of pride and ownership is evident at the Neighbourhood Resource Centre on the newly reconstructed Gore Street IMAGE COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

more versatile in programming than larger ones, providing an opportunity for planners to transcend traditional roles to achieve desired goals, both at the municipal and provincial policy levels. This past summer, Sault Ste. Marie planners implemented the city's first Car Free Sunday which involved partnerships with community organizations and other municipal divisions. At the policy level, OPPI should continue partnerships with agencies like the Ontario Public Health Association and the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario to identify how planners can collaborate with other professionals to achieve desired goals.

Pursue substantive community engagement. Community engagement is especially valuable for educating citizens on planning concepts. It is a significant opportunity to foster community pride: an essential commodity for Northern communities if they are to achieve future prosperity. For example, Sault Ste. Marie launched a comprehensive engagement program for its new downtown strategy. Many people who participated in this program expressed feelings of hope for Sault Ste. Marie's future and a desire to actively participate in the process of getting there.

Thinking ahead

Planning carries significant importance as a profession with the tools and strategic insight to cultivate sustainable prosperity, social equity and community

pride in northern communities. Though northern planners are confronted with unique challenges, we can help overcome these and reaffirm the north's distinct conditions as assets to community vitality.

Victoria Prouse, MPI, MSc, millennial, is an OPPI Candidate Member. She coordinates Sault Ste. Marie's Downtown Development Initiative and is a proud northerner.

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Placemaking Labs

By Vicki Long

As specialists involved in urban and regional change, how can planners learn from emerging networks of civic actors? Our public library offers some answers. Given today's diverse public and tech-infused world, efforts that marry tech education and design experimentation, with the planning tenets of accessibility and public engagement offer fresh perspectives on city-building. Public spaces are invaluable assets as placemaking labs for such creative practices.



Library as service hub

Swivel through the revolving doors of 917 Yonge Street on any given day, and you will find much more than people with books. From public readings to exhibits, ESL lessons to wellness and personal finance workshops, the Toronto Reference Library and the

wider public library system is an impressive service hub.

Had you stepped into that hub last July, you would have found even more colourful activity. For the past four years, Maker Festival Toronto has transformed the library into an interactive maker space with over 100 exhibits and hands-on workshops. This year's event attracted upwards of 12,000 people over the course of a weekend, enabling patrons to conveniently explore the evolving world of creative technology and DIY craftsmanship.

As an avid participant turned festival team member, I came away from the Maker Festival with renewed curiosity about the value of public programming. How can transformations of public spaces spark new understandings of the city?

Introducing novel shared experiences

Whether you intentionally came to check out the festival or were drawn in by the sight of an R2-D2 droid roaming the street, the festival's free programming provided accessible and novel shared experiences. Test a 3D-printed robot designed to pick up debris? Check. Sit in on a lecture by an 11-year old Raspberry Pi expert? Absolutely. Learn how to forge metal utensils? Why not?

Introducing surprising choices into a public space can not only delight, but encourage us to see the city as an evolving platform. New immersive experiences at a venue that already acts as a community space and study sanctuary expand the use of an existing space. But how does a public place like a library become a lab for mixed use?

Emerging networks

Like many public festivals, Maker Festival Toronto is extraordinary in that the enterprising efforts, talents, and ideas of niche communities of practice have a chance to surface and reveal themselves to new audiences. U of T's engineering and OCAD's industrial design labs showcased their human-powered vehicle and sustainable laundry machine. Specialized groups



An R2-D2 Builders' robot greets a young Torontonion at the 2016 Maker Festival Toronto IMAGE COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

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ranging from wearable tech designers, to origami enthusiasts, and model ship and train makers offered glimpses into old and new maker methods.

Tracking the Maker Festival's partners, sponsors, and exhibitors reveals a thriving network of organizations endeavouring to make technology accessible and purposeful—all while shaping the use of the city's built environment. Festival partners HackLab, SteamLabs, and CSI are membership-based organizations that provide shared co-working spaces in converted buildings across the city. Represented at the festival by Toronto Mesh, CivicTech TO is a self-organizing group of citizens who meet weekly at rotating locations across the city to collaborate on tech solutions to civic challenges. While sponsors such as AutoDesk represented the tech talent at the MaRS Discovery District, yarn spinners from Black Creek Pioneer Village and builders from Newmarket's NewMakeIt Lab showed the geographic range of the maker movement.

In the same way that Whyte, Lynch, Jacobs and Gehl encouraged the study of people's movements and experiences in the city, could we find value in tracing the way evolving creative networks use or add to public and shared spaces across the city?

Inclusive DIY

Through ongoing explorations of creative and social applications of technology, the maker network is ushering an inviting and friendly culture of experimentation into our urban and regional fabric.

Their annual convergence in a public space like a library suggests that placemaking can involve an eclectic network of civic animators. The making of the festival itself involved collaborative efforts across sectors: Toronto Public Library and City of Toronto staff, local businesses, 200+ volunteers, and public space NGOs, such as the Laneway Project and the STEPS Initiative, all contributed thoughts, resources and time to make the festival as accessible and engaging as possible.

By hosting a blend of ongoing services and events like the Maker Festival, the Toronto Public Library continues to add value to the city. In the context of densification and development, the value of public places such as local libraries increases as individuals and families alike seek out third spaces that offer practical services, interesting activities and an inviting change of scenery from the usual work or living spaces.

If there's any city-building inspiration to be drawn from Maker Festival Toronto, it's that public spaces give us room to remain collectively curious and involved in the making of the city and region of which we are all a part.

Vicki Long, millennial, is a city-building facilitator and strategist based in Toronto. She earned her Master of Regional Planning from Cornell University in 2015 and has planning experience in Ontario and New York in both the non-profit and public sectors.



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Suburban Futures

By Anoosha Kargarfard

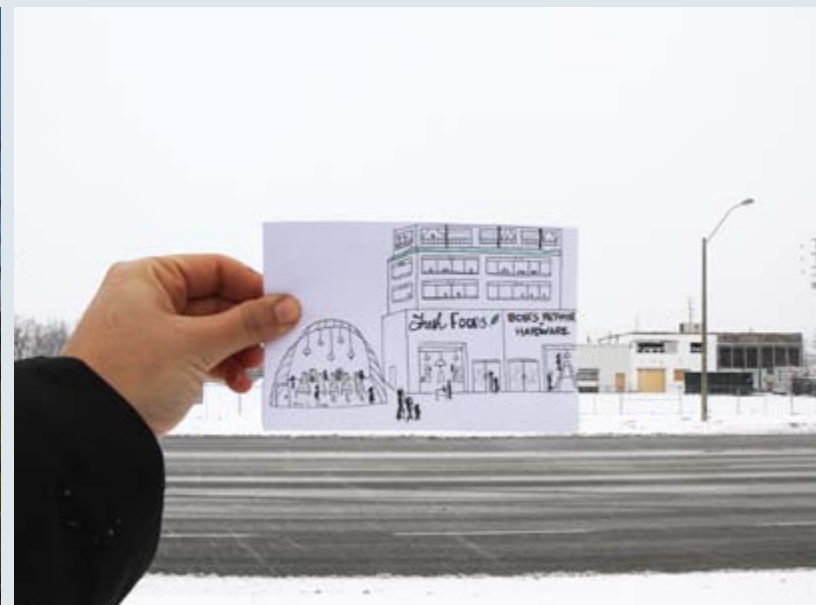
The following photographs challenge suburban design and the way public spaces are used. It imagines how future development could potentially look.

What is the best use of suburban space? How can we provide services and necessities all year round to all communities? How do we build community oriented spaces in a landscape geared towards individualism? Can we create public spaces that promote physical activity, health, and



wellbeing in suburban neighbourhoods? These are some questions the photographs investigate.

Anoosha Kargarfard, millennial, is a student member of OPPI and holds a Master's Degree from University College London's Bartlett School of Planning and is currently the urban design specialist for The Planning Clinic in Toronto. As a passionate traveler she uses photography to understand and analyze spaces all over the world.



Communities for every stage of life

Age-friendly planning tools

By Nadia De Santi, RPP and Emily Sangster, RPP

Faced with the challenge of an aging population, communities across Ontario are taking steps to become more age-friendly. Municipalities are examining their infrastructure, programs and services to assess how well they serve older adults. Communities are also making use of provincial planning tools and networks to develop age-friendly community action plans to guide their investment in hard and social infrastructure.

The importance of age-friendly communities

The World Health Organization has estimated that the global population of adults aged 60 and over will double between 2006 and 2050, from 11 per cent of the world's population to 22 per cent (WHO, 2007). The number of seniors in Canada now exceeds the number of children, and this number could double over the next 25 years (Statistics Canada, 2011; National Seniors Council, 2014). In many rural communities, this demographic shift is even more pronounced, as it has combined with broader urbanization trends with a growing number of young adults relocating to cities.

As people age, their physical, mental and social needs change in ways that play out day-to-day in their local communities. Due to mobility issues or visual limitations, they may no longer be able to drive, walk longer distances, or access public buildings and businesses as they once did. Those no longer in the workforce may find it more difficult to maintain social connections or a sense of belonging in the community. Older adults may also have a greater need for

health and community support services to promote their independence and well-being.

In light of this demographic shift, planners need to change the way we plan and design our communities, infrastructure, and service delivery, as well as how we communicate with and engage seniors. Creating age-friendly communities will help ensure that all people, regardless of age, ability, need or capacity, are not only included in all aspects of community life, but recognized for the valuable contributions they make. Age-friendly communities contribute to improved quality of life, not just for older adults, but for all residents. Understanding the age-friendly dimensions within communities, and viewing programs and services through an age-friendly lens, will help municipalities plan for the future.



Nadia De Santi

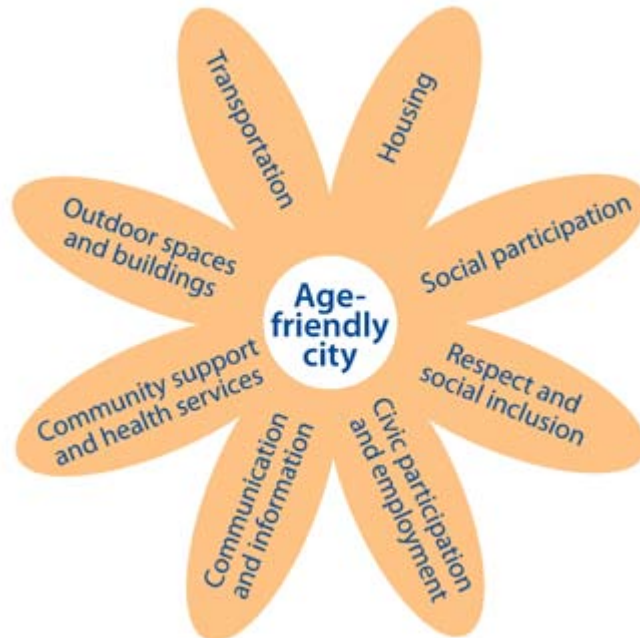


Emily Sangster

The age-friendly planning framework

Recognizing the need for local communities to respond to this demographic shift, the WHO developed the Global Age-Friendly Cities Framework. According to the framework, “an age-friendly community encourages active aging by optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age” (WHO, Global Age-friendly Cities: A Guide, 2007).

The framework identifies eight dimensions of age-friendly communities, which encompass both physical and social factors: outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, communication and information, and community support and health services. Age-friendly planning



The World Health Organization's eight dimensions of age-friendly communities (WHO, 2007)



Finding the Right Fit Age-Friendly Community Planning

ontario.ca/seniors



The Ontario Seniors' Secretariat's age-friendly planning guide (OSS, 2013)

uses a flexible concept of “seniors” or “older adults,” recognizing the broad range of needs and abilities within this demographic.

The Ontario Seniors' Secretariat guide, *Finding the Right Fit: Age-Friendly Community Planning* (2013), builds on the WHO framework to provide more local guidance on age-friendly planning. It sets out a four-step process for identifying a community's needs and priorities, assessing its strengths and weaknesses, developing an action plan, and implementing and evaluating the plan.

Since late 2015, we have worked with five different municipalities across Ontario to develop age-friendly needs assessments and action plans using the provincial guide. The communities have ranged from the City of North Bay (a relatively large urban centre) to the Township of Dubreuilville (a small, bilingual, relatively remote northern community) to Frontenac County (an upper-tier Eastern Ontario municipality comprising several large townships). Each has different contexts and priorities, but all considered it important to identify the needs of their older residents and to develop a strategy through which the local community can help meet them.

Community engagement in age-friendly planning

To identify local priorities and assess age-friendly strengths and opportunities for improvement, the team engaged communities in a variety of ways. We encouraged the development of local age-friendly committees to guide and champion the project, and worked with these committees to develop a vision and goals for each action plan. We completed photo audits of public outdoor spaces and buildings. We conducted community-wide surveys to gather input on residents' perceptions of local age-friendly needs. We also held a Seniors' Expo featuring local organizations and services of interest to seniors.

Through these engagement activities, we have been reminded of the importance of adapting communication methods to the preferences of seniors. For example, promotion strategies focused on word of mouth and a range of printed material, including inserts in bulletins at places of worship and posters on grocery store bulletin boards, generated more interest than online or email notices. Surveys provided in hard copy at local seniors' residences and community centres often resulted in more responses than the online versions.

Diverse needs in diverse communities

What has stood out for us as planners in the development of age-friendly action plans is the diversity of needs and proposed solutions in the communities where we have worked. In small, rural communities, transportation has frequently emerged as a key issue that is deeply linked to access to services and opportunities for social participation, and in turn to seniors' overall well-being. Proposed solutions have included community-based ridesharing networks, and



IMAGE COURTESY OF MMM GROUP, A WSP COMPANY, 2016

Seniors' Expos gave local organizations and older adults opportunities to learn more about programs and services available in their communities

mobile services to bring practitioners, such as dental hygienists, to seniors' homes.

In many communities, another high priority is finding ways to better promote and support the services and opportunities that already exist. For example, social events, transportation programs, home care services, and funding for home retrofits can all contribute to seniors' quality of life in their communities as they age. A wide range of such services are available in many communities, but we found that they are not always widely known or well-funded.

What has emerged as the most important factor, however, has been the interest and commitment of municipal governments, local service providers and community organizations to working together to implement age-friendly actions in their communities. In every municipality where we have worked, the age-friendly committees have played a major role in identifying priority actions and building the momentum and the partnerships needed to carry them out. Each action plan is only the beginning of a process that will continue to be shaped and driven by local communities, working together with service agencies, businesses and volunteer organizations.

What municipalities can do

Preparing an age-friendly action plan can help a municipality take a holistic view of opportunities to improve how it serves its older residents, and to consider how those improvements can be prioritized and coordinated with other municipal initiatives. To help municipalities evaluate their current strengths and opportunities for improvement, the WHO has developed a [checklist](#) for each of the eight community dimensions, available on its website.

Municipalities that have adopted action plans may also benefit from funding to implement specific action

items—such as Ontario Trillium Foundation, the provincial Seniors Community Grant program, and the New Horizons for Seniors grant program supported by Employment and Social Development Canada. They may also apply to join the WHO's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, to gain access to a worldwide network of best practices and be recognized for their commitment to fostering age-friendly communities.

Municipalities which are not developing an action plan can also benefit from an age-friendly perspective in areas such as infrastructure planning, recreation

planning and economic development. For example road reconstruction or streetscaping projects can incorporate wide, level sidewalks and public seating to support users of mobility aids.

The province also supports the Age-Friendly Community Planning Outreach Initiative at agefriendlyontario.ca, which offers a variety of online resources, regular free webinars on age-friendly topics, and a forum for information sharing among communities throughout the province.

Through the commitment of local communities, the

development of age-friendly action plans and the sharing of knowledge and resources, Ontario is becoming better positioned to meet the challenge of an aging population.

Since late 2015, we have worked with five different municipalities across Ontario to develop age-friendly needs assessments and action plans using the provincial guide. What has stood out for us is the diversity of needs and proposed solutions

Nadia De Santi, RPP, MCIP, Gen X, is a member of OPPI and a senior planner and project manager at MMM Group, a WSP company. She has extensive experience in municipal planning and land development in urban, rural and Indigenous communities throughout Ontario. Emily Sangster, RPP, MCIP, millennial, is a member of OPPI and a bilingual project planner at MMM Group, a WSP company. Her work focuses on municipal and community planning, environmental assessment and public engagement.



LAKELAND DISTRICT

Blue Mountain teaser

By Michelle Banfield, RPP, Brandi L. Clement, RPP, and Scott Taylor, RPP

Lakeland District planners were busy over the last quarter of 2016, ending with an event focused on planning for the public-private realm at Blue Mountain Resorts. The event served as a teaser for the coming 2017 OPPI



Michelle Banfield

Conference at Blue Mountains, while building off the themes of the 2016 Symposium.



Brandi Clement

Presentations by Colin Travis, Eha Naylor, Lindsay Ayers and Andrew Siegart detailed the planning and design history of the Village at Blue



Scott Taylor

Mountains, as well as the current operations and programming of the public-private spaces in the resort.

Colin made it clear that the now successful village was no accident. It results from a strong policy vision dating back to the 1970s and adapted through subsequent policy and planning processes. Eha stressed that design is not a linear process, but evolves from lots discussion and circling back. Lindsay and Andrew spoke about *The Blue Mountain Village Association Act*, which

creates the conditions and funding model for the village to prosper. They also outlined the balance of paid and free programming in the village's public spaces, many of which are privately owned and operated.

The Lakeland District Book Club met for the first time to discuss *Happy City* by Charles Montgomery. There were no shortage of topics for discussion. Members found the book to be quite inspirational and thought provoking. A second book will be selected in the first quarter of 2017.

The district hosted a World Town Planning Day event in Owen Sound where participants were given a primer on planning and then asked to express their vision using LEGO®.

Lakeland District thanks all the attendees of these events and looks forward to a busy 2017.

Scott Taylor, RPP, MCIP, is a member of OPPI and is the vice-chair of OPPI Lakelands District and a senior planner with the County of Grey. He assists with Lakeland District programming. Brandi L. Clement, RPP, AICP, MCIP, is a member of OPPI and is a partner at Jones Consulting Group Ltd. in the City of Barrie and chair of the district program committee. Michelle Banfield, RPP, is a member of OPPI and is a policy planner with the Town of Innisfil and a member of the district planning committee.



Lakeland District Group, November 4th IMAGE COURTESY ANDREW SIEGWART

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Book Review

Cycling Cities: The European Experience

Reviewed By George Liu

“Fietsfile” is the Dutch word for a bicycle (fiets) traffic jam (file).

In most cities around the world, this would be indicative of a wildly successful sustainable transport policy. Yet for the Dutch, bicycle traffic jams are a problem that is gaining the attention of the media and the frustration of the public. Even when it comes to bicycles, too much of a good thing leads to its own set of problems.

Published in 2016, *Cycling Cities* brings together an international team of researchers to tell the story of cycling in Europe over the past century. Does infrastructure matter? Did automobiles doom cycling? How do bikes fit with public transport? These are the same questions tackled by planners across Ontario and North America today.

“For urban Europe,” the book begins, “bicycle policy expertise has become big business. Cities seeking new businesses, tourists, and expats, now consider a vibrant cycling culture an index of health and prosperity.”

Through a comprehensive survey of 14 European cities, large and small, the book finds that physical infrastructure and distances alone do not fully explain the renaissance in urban cycling. Other factors stem from social movements and cultural change. In recent decades, one can clearly see the rise of cycling’s cultural status in North American cities like San Francisco, Portland, Toronto and Montreal.

What is perhaps most surprising is that the top cycling cities in Europe are not exclusive to large metropolises. The book shows that cycling dominates in quite a few medium and small-sized cities. With a population of under 200,000, Enschede, Netherlands, boasts a cycling mode share of over 30 per cent, yet only 3 per cent for public transport. This bodes well for many of Ontario’s smaller cities wishing to promote cycling as an alternative to the car and as a complement to limited public transit.

The bicycle serves as an example of what an alternative vision of the sustainable transportation paradigm could be. World metropolises such as Paris, New York and Tokyo have

focused on public transportation to take the place of the car, yet Amsterdam and Copenhagen are role models where bicycles serve as the instrument for creating livable cities.

As cycling gains international attention, countries have focused on different approaches to exporting their bicycle expertise. “Since the 1990s, cycling policy expertise has become an export product,” writes co-author Professor Ruth Oldenziel, “Dutch experts focused on infrastructure, planning, and institutions whereas the Danes were more inclined [towards] cycling culture and marketing.”



I would recommend this book for transportation planners, academics, and urbanists seeking to understand the history, culture, and struggles of cycling in Europe. I see value in North American planners sharing their cycling knowledge internationally as well. The growing

popularity of bicycles in cities like Toronto and Ottawa can contribute to our understanding of cycling in cities with much stronger automobile culture than those in Europe.

George Liu, MES (Pl.), millennial, is a Candidate Member of OPPI and a PhD candidate studying bicycle infrastructure and urban design at Eindhoven University of Technology in the Netherlands. Order a copy of *Cycling Cities: The European Experience* at <http://www.cyclingcities.info/>.



Edited by Ruth Oldenziel, Martin Emanuel, Adri Albert de la Bruhèze, Frank Veraart

Published by: Foundation for the History of Technology
256 pages



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

#OPPIFuture

By Andrea Bourrie, RPP

March 7 at 12 p.m. join me for a Twitter chat—#OPPIFuture. Where is the future of professional planning headed? What are the opportunities professional planners have now to improve the future of planning? What are some examples of creative and resilient planning in your own community? What are you doing in your community to help promote the value of RPP?



The future is here. What was envisioned at the conclusion of the Planning for the Future initiative in 2011 is now part of our everyday reality—we have consistent standards across the country. This is a significant accomplishment because we know how unwavering professional standards drive credibility. OPPI is investing to ensure members have access to core services, particularly related to learning, collaborating and professional accountability. We continue efforts to achieve public legislation that protects RPP, while ensuring it remains the nationally recognized designation for the planning profession. This will ensure the future of the planning profession is strong and meaningful; that the work we do to create vibrant, healthy and sustainable communities is valued.

We are making it happen, but we must continue to work together, tackling known and unforeseen variables. It is going to take effort and resources to manage, influence and adapt to these variables and maintain consistent progress. It will also take creativity and resilience as there is no lack of challenges

facing us as professional planners: pressure on the natural environment, significant population distribution changes, transportation gridlock, ever-changing and demanding regulatory regimes, increased public scrutiny and demands for accountability, and, of course, shrinking resources.

As a profession we have set our direction. We are guided by the **INSPIRE OPPI** strategic plan that is focused on achieving a planning profession that is widely regarded as professional, accountable, future-driven, collaborative and progressive.

What will your role be in delivering the future of planning in Ontario?

Five things you can do to help promote and brand RPP

1. Use your RPP seal on all official documents. The seal signifies your professional designation. Don't have an RPP seal? Order one today from the OPPI website.
2. Use RPP in your branding and at events—for example, use RPP as part of your title on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and professional website.
3. Use RPP after your name on signature blocks, business cards, address labels, for example.
4. Use RPP in the media—reference your RPP certification when you are interviewed by the media.
5. Use RPP when introducing yourself at work or outside of the office.



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The Missing Link

By Harold Madi, RPP, contributing editor



The 'missing middle housing' is comprised of a broad range of residential building types that were once common place in neighbourhoods but have gone 'missing' in neighbourhoods built after WWII IMAGE COURTESY OPTICOS DESIGN, INC.

This is the second article in a series of discussions on current, emerging and contemplative urban design topics that underpin and propel 21st century approaches to urbanism. This article is about an emerging movement concerned with what has been coined the “missing middle housing.” Its advocates call for the intensification of typical low-density neighbourhoods by reviving and introducing low-rise, but in more intensive residential building types that are commonplace in pre-automobile neighbourhoods.

While our older established neighbourhoods continue to enjoy the sustained benefits afforded by a broad range of integrated residential building types, elsewhere we are grappling with increasing challenges and tensions. Challenges include stagnating suburban neighbourhoods, lack of family-oriented housing in new high-rise neighbourhoods, gentrification of well serviced, walkable neighbourhoods, and the proliferation of infill projects that are poorly designed or are inappropriate for their site and context.

Reviving middle housing opportunities within neighbourhoods is fundamentally about enabling these places to continue to grow and evolve. For suburban neighbourhoods lacking in amenities and urban life, the missing middle is truly the missing link towards a more

diverse, inclusive, compete and life-long community.

Middle housing defined

Middle housing refers to a range of once commonly built housing types that are sandwiched between the detached single-unit house on one end of the spectrum, and the mid-rise multi-unit building—typically taller than five storeys—on the other. In Ontario’s vernacular, the range of middle housing types would typically include:

- Semi-detached—two attached side-by-side units
- Duplex, triplex & fourplex—two to four units generally in a stacked formation
- Rowhouse & townhouse—three or more attached side-by-side units
- Stacked townhouse & back-to-back stacked townhouse—three or more attached side-by-side units, as well as stacked units
- Walk-up, garden & courtyard apartments—eight to 40 units in stacked formation, with a common building entry
- Main street & live-work apartments—units stacked above grade-level commercial functions
- Accessory unit, granny flat & coach house—a secondary unit contained or external to the main building



This example (above left) of Cabbagetown in Toronto illustrates not only a tremendous variety of house types, but also a wide range of styles, scales, siting arrangement and hard and soft services. In contrast, Dean Park, (above right) at the intersection of Meadowvale and Sheppard, illustrates how contemporary community design has completely segregated uses and housing types. The discontinuous curvilinear road network makes infilling virtually impossible to do in a seamless way with minimal impact IMAGES COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR; GOOGLE EARTH

Middle Housing Types



Duplex, Triplex, Fouxplex & Multiplex

Rowhouse, Townhouse & Stacked Townhouse



Walk-Up Apartment

Garden & Courtyard Apartment



Main Street, Live/Work & Mixed-Use Apartment

Accessory Unit, Coach House, Granny Flat

IMAGE2 COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

Rise & fall of middle housing

Alongside single-detached houses, the integration of middle housing types is a hallmark of most central neighbourhoods that evolved prior to the middle of the last century. These neighbourhoods are also compact, walkable, well-serviced and have become, in many cases, the most desirable places to live. Middle housing not only contributes to the eclectic spirit and charm of these places, it also adds to their inclusivity and population diversity.

However, middle housing types are, for the most part, missing in Ontario's urban areas that developed over the last six decades. Initially, their loss was an outcome of a market and culture fixated on the dream of owning a single-detached house. The advent of the automobile unlocked vast low-cost lands on the peripheries of town and cities. Eventually, their fate was sealed by zoning by-laws that are as zealous about segregating building types as uses.

As a consequence, the rich variety of low-rise residential building types diminished to mostly detached units, the occasional semi-detached unit, a sprinkling of townhouses and the rare duplex—all segregated in their own enclaves. Synonymous with suburban sprawl, these enclaves are challenging to intensify and intrusive to alter. Also, the segregation of housing types reinforces a homogeneity that tends to instil fear and intolerance of change among residents. This in turn challenges planning process aimed at changing these unsustainable urban patterns.

Coming full circle

The benefits of a proactive infill strategy for established low-rise neighbourhoods that reintroduces middle housing are numerous. The strategy helps to retain controlled management of growth by being proactive in defining and delivering a consistent message

on standards and expectations ahead of pressures that can be anticipated in the near future.

Introducing middle housing through infill can serve as a transition between areas of differing intensities, while accommodating growth and change in an incremental way. In most instances change may be invisible to homeowners. As the local population increases, it generates a critical mass of residents needed to support local amenities, shops and services that are essential to complete communities.

Increasing the variety of housing types and tenures strengthens the life-long attributes of a community. This variety invariably includes more affordable housing options. For families, the revenues that can be generated by an accessory unit could enable them to finance a more suitably scaled property, perhaps without having to leave the neighbourhood.

Adopting an infill strategy for middle housing should consider the following complementary initiatives. Protect your existing stock of middle housing—some of which has historic significance—and streamline your application processes. Pass enabling policies with supporting guidelines, such as a form-based regulatory approach to permit an adequate degree of flexibility. Build understanding among residents of the benefits of intensifying neighbourhoods, as well as the design traditions and best practices associated with middle housing types.

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



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Summaries don't replace code

Dear Dilemma,

I recently did something in my professional planning practice, and a colleague told me it was improper. So I checked the summary of the Professional Code of Practice that was recently printed in the journal. I don't see that I've broken any of the rules spelled out there.

So I'm okay, right?

—*Ignorance of the Law, RPP*

Dear Ignorance of the Law,

Your conduct may or may not have been improper, but you haven't yet consulted the correct document to properly figure that out.

The summary that you refer to says in the last point that "Registered Professional Planners... must meet and exceed the requirements of the OPPI Professional Code of Practice..." The OPPI by-law that governs your membership also states that "All Full and Candidate Members are obligated to adhere to and be bound by the Professional Code of Practice of the Institute attached hereto ..." (section 2.2.3). So it's pretty clear that you must abide by the Professional Code of Practice, as found in the OPPI by-law and on the Institute's website.

Summaries or explanations of the code may be helpful, but they are not definitive. It is your professional and ethical responsibility to comply with the full Professional Code of Practice. So go online and find out what it says. After all ignorance of the law is no excuse for improper conduct.

Yours in the public interest,

—*Dilemma*

A planner by any other name, is not an RPP

By Brian Brophy

Are you handling your post-nominals correctly? I don't mean to be rude...

I'm talking about the letters and acronyms that come after your name on your business card or signature block.

As you know, in Ontario there are certain conditions on the use of the designation RPP: the governing provincial legislation reserves the title for Full Members of OPPI, and the OPPI by-law further restricts it to practicing Full Members who are fulfilling the requirements of Full Membership (including meeting the annual CPL requirement).



There is no official designation associated with being a Candidate Member of OPPI. If you are a Candidate, you are of course entitled to claim this status on your resume or curriculum vitae, or in a letter or conversation, where you can explain it clearly. However, claiming a non-existent designation such as "RPP (Candidate)" on a business card, etc., could potentially confuse other people. In a worst case scenario, it could lead to a complaint to OPPI's Discipline Committee that you are being intentionally misleading about your status. Therefore, we strongly advise against the use of such manufactured titles.

There is some flexibility as to which post-nominals to use and in what sequence. But the general rule seems to be that you cite academic degrees, followed by professional licences, followed by professional certifications (such as RPP), followed by professional associations and affiliations (such as MCIP, if applicable). Typically, you only list the most relevant 3-4 post-nominals, otherwise you risk looking like a spilled bowl of alphabet soup.

And of course you should use the acronyms that will be best recognized and most relevant in the circumstances. Perhaps you play a mean oboe on the weekends—but your heritage planning clients probably don't care that you have an MFA in music, and belong to the Canadian Federation of Musicians, Local 149.

Now that we've straightened this out, let's meet for a postprandial drink...

Brian Brophy is OPPI Registrar & Director, Member Relations.

3D Printing the Future

By Robert Voigt, RPP, contributing editor

At the close of 2016, the Ontario Professional Planners Institute issued its latest Call to Action: Healthy Communities and Planning for the Public Realm. Among the directions it provided to professional planners was a need to work collaboratively and effectively with the citizens that will be affected by the public realm. It encourages "members and all stakeholders to continue discussions on topics related to the public realm, and how they can help to create healthy communities."

This highlights the intersection of two of the most common challenges for planners: having meaningful dialogue with stakeholders, and improving understanding of complex issues associated with urban design and the built environment. I feel that there is one particularly interesting and potentially powerful technological advancement that can assist with both these challenges, one that will become commonplace in the near future—3D printing.

Most of us have only seen or heard of 3D printing as part of a group of technologies that is leading edge, and can make



for motivating TED Talk presentations. It may be viewed as a fringe technology today; however, 3D printing is already in use in some areas of planning and urban design. It holds many advantages, and could be easily adapted to improve current practices and methods.

3D printing is exactly what it sounds like. Also known as additive manufacturing, it is generally a process by which a computer controlled machine uses a combination of resins to create a three-dimensional object by placing successive layers of materials on top of each other. The digital models, or designs, that are printed can be created through computer-aided design (CAD), through 3D scanners, or photogrammetry (such as Lidar surveying, that uses lasers to take highly accurate measurements of the environment).

The first 3D printers required extensive mechanical and technical skill, and were very costly. Their use has expanded significantly in the past few years into a wide variety of manufacturing industries ranging from custom automobile parts, to prosthesis prototyping and production. The evolution of maker and hacker culture has also pushed advances in creating 3D printing equipment that is within the reach of average citizens. 3D printers are becoming common and will soon be mainstream. They are easy to operate and relatively inexpensive. You can now buy one for under \$2,000 from online office supply retailers.

Generally new technology is not completely disruptive of an existing system. Typically, it involves being integrated with existing tools and tactics. It's really about an evolution, as opposed to superseding current technology. In fact, sometimes new technology creates renewed awareness and ability to reinvent past traditional methods with greater efficiency or effectiveness. 3D printing of scale models for developments and the built environment could do just that.

The use of scale models to depict urban design scenarios through the planning process is quite rare now. Virtual digital

simulations have replaced physical models because of their many advantages, including: portability through digital communication and social networks and ease of editing or altering to show alternative design arrangements. And, better yet, they are inexpensive.

However, as professionals we often forget that drawings, illustrations, aerial photos and digital graphics require a skill set to understand. Not everyone has these skills or is comfortable working with images. However, there is a real advantage to using scale models to express the built environment over drawings and digital visual simulations. Models allow the viewers to choose their own perspective to get a better sense of scale and the relationship to neighbouring conditions and forms of developments. They do not require specialized knowledge and help eliminate language and age barriers, and there is generally less confusion about what is being depicted. Details about things such as grade changes, circulation routes, potential shadows, and so on, are almost inherently evident when looking at a model.

“The level of comfort and ease for exploring and analyzing the features presented by a large group, which can be having several non-expert users, can be a comparative advantage over the 3D digital visualization. Also it eliminates the need to have a digital display system every time, which could be a hindrance in some cases.” (T. Ghawana, S. Zlatanova in “3D printing for urban planning: A physical enhancement of spatial perspective,” Delft University of Technology, GIS Technology Section, Delft, Netherlands July 31, 2016.)

Fortunately, 3D printing now provides contemporary planners with a method of crafting these easily understood representations of our built environment, with many of the same cost, time, and adaptability advantages of digital simulations. What's old is new again: in Oslo Norway a 1:1000 scale 3D printed model of the city is being used by the Agency for Planning and

Congratulations!

Full members who became certified as Registered Professional Planners

Congratulations to our 47 Full members who successfully completed their Full membership certification in summer 2016 and became certified as 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.

Lina Al-Dajani
Kimberley Baldwin
Jonathan Benczkowski
Erika Brown
Melissa Campbell
Joyce Chen
Ann Marie Chung
Stephen Corr
Alisha Cull
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For questions regarding membership, please email
membership@ontarioplanners.ca or call 416.483.1873 ext. 222.

Building Services. In this case the model was generated using Lidar data. It is a valuable tool for fostering planning-related dialogue and increasing understanding of the built environment.

And it doesn't just stop with people coming together to view and discuss a proposed design represented to scale with 3D printed coloured resin. Open source design processes can allow people to submit their own design ideas for 3D printing. This way, we could see processes where various individuals and stakeholder groups put forth many different scenarios for discussion. This approach facilitates their participation in crafting the public realm and being key actors in the valuable placemaking exercises we need to make our communities healthy. In these ways 3D printing can also be democratizing in the communication and creative processes of community planning.

3D printing has a great future in planning and community design, helping professional planners work more collaboratively and effectively with citizens. It will do this by becoming one of those special technologies that simultaneously opens new horizons while reconnecting us with past traditional skills.

Robert Voigt MCIP, RPP is a professional planner, artist and writer, recognized as an innovator in community engagement and healthy community design. He is a member of OPPI and the chair of the OPPI Planning Issues Strategy Group, member of PPS' Placemaking Leadership Council and publishes Civiblogger.com. Contact: @robvoigt, rob@robvoigt.com.

Hire a Summer Student!

BELIEVE IT OR NOT summer is fast approaching, and it's time to start thinking about employing a summer student or intern. Support student planners along their professional journey. Contribute to the future of the planning profession.



...and be involved

Member-led events, online groups, District-level activities and partner collaborations are just some of the ways you can get involved. 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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