

# CPTED Ontario Newsletter

Volume 3, Number 1

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[www:cptedontario.ca](http://www:cptedontario.ca)

## CHAIR'S MEMBERSHIP LETTER

Dear Members:

Another three months has passed since our conference. Your Board has met twice since that time and plans are well underway for this year's conference to be held in Oakville, October 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to thank Insp. John Periversoff, the conference organizing committee and session speakers for their hard work and tremendous dedication. I would also like to thank those who took time out of their busy schedules to be part of the conference. This included speakers and attendees from Vancouver, Illinois, Indiana and Florida with special thanks going to Dorinda Howe, past Chair of the Florida CPTED Network and Jonathan Lusher, Chair of the International CPTED Association. To them and the over 130 people in attendance: a big vote of thanks!

I would now like to update you about changes to our Board.

Leaving the Board are Terry Wright from York University and Demetrios Skillaris from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Dave Dawson of Niagara Regional Police. We will be posting resumes and photos on the web site in the coming weeks.



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and Housing. Their efforts and contributions are greatly appreciated.

New to the Board are Patrick Parnaby, Cst. Monica Lees of York Regional Police and Cst.

Now a little housekeeping. We recently sent out the 2004 membership renewal notices. To those who have renewed their membership, thank you very much. You will be receiving a confirmation letter with a password in early February. For those who haven't had the opportunity to renew, we urge you to renew your membership now!

We are happy to announce that zone meetings are planned for the Ottawa and Toronto areas. Please check out the upcoming events section of the newsletter for more details about these meetings.

**Tom McKay**  
*Chair*

## DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?: CPTED AND THE PROBLEM OF SHARED MEANING.

One of the underlying assumptions in CPTED is that both the practitioner and the potential offender “see” the physical environment in similar ways. Specifically, in order for *some* environmental modifications to reduce criminal or disorderly behaviour, one must assume that such changes mean the same thing to both the practitioner and the offender. For example, taking particular steps to improve the natural surveillance on a small commercial property is only logical if one can rightly assume that open site lines will be understood by the offender to be a mitigating factor in his or her decision to break into the premises.

Of course, this is all very familiar given that many CPTED practitioners are told they must, at times, “think like a criminal.” While some have argued that asking someone to put him/herself into the shoes of an offender is a fruitless exercise, it actually draws attention to a fundamental principle in CPTED research – the importance of what social scientists call the “inter-subjective” element or, put simply, the importance of “shared meaning.”

In 1989, fascinating research was conducted by researchers, McDonald and Gifford, who set out to determine whether or not convicted burglars interpreted the environment around their intended targets in the same way. Forty-four convicted burglars were shown a series of photographs depicting various

residential targets. Each participant was asked to identify and rate the characteristics which they felt made the properties more or less vulnerable to break and enter. When the study was completed, the burglars agreed strongly that the presence of good natural surveillance (whether from the inside of the home outward or from the road into the home) was the strongest deterrent. In addition, homes of greater value and which had poor signs of territoriality were also thought to be more vulnerable.

But do CPTED practitioners (or crime prevention practitioners in general) and offenders see things the same way? In order to answer this question, Ham-Rowbottom et. al. (1990) set out to compare the interpretations of police officers and convicted offenders. Again, both groups were asked to evaluate a series of photographs of homes taken by the researchers. The two groups evaluated the photos independently and the evaluations were then compiled statistically to see where the two groups agreed most often. According to *both* the police officers and the offenders, windows that were visible from the road, a neighbour’s house that was in close proximity, a backyard separated from a front yard by real or symbolic barriers, and the presence of a solid front door, all served to reduce the suitability of a residential target.

Although this research does not “prove” that these environmental attributes will reduce criminal opportunity in

every instance, it does show some convincing support for each of them. Most importantly, I would argue, the research does shed considerable light on an important crime prevention issue – one that is especially relevant to CPTED practitioners. If CPTED is to be successful, we must constantly ask ourselves whether or not the modifications we recommend will *mean* the same thing to potential offenders. Research into shared meaning is, therefore, essential if CPTED is to remain a relevant and effective crime prevention initiative.

**Patrick Parnaby**  
*Department of Sociology*  
*McMaster University*

### Sources:

Ham-Rowbottom, Kathleen A., Robert Gifford, and Kelly T. Shaw. (1999). Defensible Space Theory and the Police: Assessing the Vulnerability of Residences to Burglary. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*. Vol. 19, 117-29.

McDonald, Julia E. and Robert Gifford. (1989). Territorial Cues and Defensible Space Theory: The Burglar’s Point of View. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*. Vol. 9, 193-205.

## CPTED Ontario DIRECTOR'S PROFILE

In 2000 Patrick Parnaby completed his Masters degree in sociology at Queen's University in Kingston Ontario and is now a PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. With funding from the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Patrick is now conducting research with respect to CPTED in Ontario. Outside of the academic world, Patrick operates his own research-based consulting company that specializes in survey design, data analysis, and general social research. Patrick and his family now reside in Caledon Ontario.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Level I CPTED Course

Peel Regional Police

i) March 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>,

**Filled**

ii) Fridays April 16<sup>th</sup> – May 7<sup>th</sup>

**Filled**

### CPTED Ontario Zone Meeting Eastern Zone

Thursday, March 25, 2004 9 am  
to 12 pm, at Ottawa City Hall,  
Honeywell Room 2nd floor, 110  
Laurier Ave West, Ottawa, ON,  
K1P 1J1.

*Featured speaker:*

**MR. PHIL GABRIEL**

(Light architect) of Gabriel Design  
to speak on the impact of lighting  
and crime prevention.

Contact Art Wong to RSVP at  
(613)-236-1222, ext. 5871

e-mail: wonga@ottawapolice.ca

### CPTED Ontario Zone Meeting Central Zone

Friday, April 16th, 2004

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Frank McKechnie Community  
Centre

310 Bristol Rd. E.,

Contact Tom McKay to RSVP at  
905-453-2121, ext. 4025

e-mail: thomas.mckay@peelpolic  
e.on.ca

### Level I CPTED Course

Centennial College,  
Toronto, Ontario

May 31<sup>st</sup> – June 4th

Contact Ed Judd at 416-438-2216,  
ext. 6009

e-mail: edjudd@centennialcolleg  
e.ca

**Seats available**

### Level II CPTED Course

Centennial College  
Toronto, Ontario

June 7th – 11<sup>th</sup>

Contact Ed Judd at 416-438-2216,  
ext. 6009

e-mail: edjudd@centennialcolleg  
e.ca

**Seats available**



Atrium of the Best Western Lamplighter Inn & Conference Centre - conference venue for the 2003 CPTED Ontario conference.

## **EYES AND FEET ON THE STREET: CPTED Ontario Conference LONDON, ONTARIO 2003**



Dorinda Howe, Past Chair of the Florida CPTED Network, addresses conference participants at her plenary session “Eyes and Feet on the Street. Whose eyes, whose feet, and which streets?.”



Jonathan Lusher,  
Chair of the  
International  
CPTED  
Association,  
delivers his  
presentation on  
applying CPTED  
to shopping  
malls



Conference  
participants  
enjoy a  
lunch prior  
to the  
annual  
general  
meeting.

## CPTED Ontario DIRECTORS - 2004

### EXECUTIVE

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# CPTED Ontario MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM

CPTED Ontario is dedicated to reducing the fear and incidence of crime as well as improving the quality of life by promoting the implementation of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in Canada. CPTED Ontario was conceived and developed to provide a venue for like-minded people to meet, regularly interact and share their CPTED and professional experience. CPTED Ontario members come from a variety of disciplines including law enforcement, government, the design professions, the security industry and the academic world.

Benefits of becoming a CPTED Ontario member include:

- \* access to our web site and internal directory,
- \* regular zone meetings and
- \* an annual Workshop where you can learn about the latest CPTED developments or take in an introductory session.

To become a member of CPTED Ontario simply fill out the membership form below:

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## CPTED Ontario Membership Form

I/We wish to become a: *(Choose one)*

Corporate Member \$250.00/year

Student Member \$10.00/year

New application  Renewal

Individual Member \$25.00/year

**Name** *(please print)*: \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization**: \_\_\_\_\_

**Occupation**: \_\_\_\_\_

**Address**: \_\_\_\_\_

**Postal Code**: \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone**: \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax**: \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail**: \_\_\_\_\_

Send your cheque or money order payable to CPTED Ontario, c/o 7750 Hurontario Street, Brampton, Ontario L6V 3W6 Canada, or for further information contact Tom McKay at 905-453-2121, ext. 4025, or email [thomas.mckay@peel.police.on.ca](mailto:thomas.mckay@peel.police.on.ca)

CPTED Ontario is a division of the CPTED Institute



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