

CPTED Ontario Newsletter

Volume 12, Number 1

Spring, 2013

President's Letter to the Membership

I am pleased to announce that CPTED Ontario's 2013 conference will be held at the Technology Enhanced Learning Centre at the York University Keele campus located at 4700 Keele St., Toronto from Wednesday October 30th to Thursday October 31st, 2013. The theme for this year's conference is Creating Safe "Cities" Within the City. The conference will feature sessions

on housing, parking garages, lighting, campus safety and will include guided walking tours of the campus scheduled for Thursday afternoon.

On another note, I wish to thank everyone who took time to renew their memberships. Your membership is very important to us as we strive to provide education and networking opportunities.



Tom McKay
President, CPTED Ontario



CPTED at work

This mural at Kane Road is untouched by graffiti



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Crime Prevention Through
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“CPTED didn’t work”

I recently had the opportunity to attend a marvellous presentation by Csts. Mark Ambrosio and Steve Panella, two young Peel Regional Police officers, who were detailing their involvement in Project “Tagger”, an anti-graffiti initiative they developed in response to over 300 incidents of graffiti in the Lakeshore area of Mississauga that resulted in 17 arrests and netted 55 charges.

The presentation was fascinating for its scope, complexity, focus and tenacity in which real insight was developed into the complex graffiti sub-culture. This included the fact that a hierarchy was detected whereby newbie graffiti vandals, referred to by Ambrosio and Panella as the ‘farm club’, were being mentored by more seasoned vandals.

It was a good way through the presentation when Cst. Ambrosio noted that the graffiti continued to occur despite the use of CPTED, as “CPTED didn’t work”. He specifically referred to the use of lighting and fencing strategies as failing to stop the graffiti. While the comment was fair in its characterization, I took some issue with the use of fencing and what was undoubtedly a static lighting strategy as a means of curtailing graffiti.

Graffiti vandals/artists are much more than your run-of-the-mill

opportunistic vandal. They are a highly motivated, tight-knit group of individuals who are known to use what closely resembles guerilla warfare tactics in pursuit of their art form. In this regard, Ambrosio and Panella noted the use of look-outs and cell phones/smart phone devices (communications) for sounding an alarm. These types of tactics used during quiet periods all but eliminate the risks associated with most static lighting strategies in favour of rendering them little more than hanging a picture light for the purpose of better displaying their art. It should therefore not be

to take notice of prior to invoking standard CPTED responses. To a graffiti vandal, a blank wall in the city is worse than what any graffiti on it could be, blank walls are “ugly and repressive”. Given this philosophy and the graffiti “artist’s” desire for “fame” (respect amongst their peer group), CPTED practitioners must recognize that the need for effective change starts with changing the nature of the “blank walls” which is more than just attempting to deny access to it or hanging a light.

Real change means adding a mural or using a planting strategy or design initiative to remove or reduce what I describe as the “blank chalkboard” effect. It can also mean strategically placed, wire-screened motion activated lights to protect walls abutting commercial roof-tops. And what of Ambrosio and Panella? They were jointly awarded the title of Police Officers of the Year by the Mississauga News and the Mississauga Real Estate Board.

Congratulations on your award!

Tom McKay



Patterned, textured concrete wall. Notice where the graffiti is!

surprising to find that static lighting can have little, if any, real deterrent value and may even serve to attract some of the more “gutsy” artists who are not adverse to taking a risk to maximize their arts exposure and therefore gain respect within the graffiti subculture.

It is this latter point that CPTED practitioners would be well advised

Don't fence me in

I recently had the opportunity to attend a park that was essentially set in a “bowl” shielded on three sides by dense vegetation and a former elementary school that was now being used as a rec centre. The park was used by Brampton Parks and Recreation as a “yard” and also featured a number of playing fields. The

The north side of the property abutted a retirement home that features a densely planted forest. My principal concern with clearing the fence line which, by the way, was put in two years earlier to limit access between the properties, was that it exposed the fence. Upon a careful examination of the fence, it was noted that the tines of the fence were in pristine condition where

there was vegetation against it. The same could not be said where the fence had been exposed as can be seen from a comparison of the two pictures below.

It is important for CPTED practitioners to recognize that the true purpose of a fence is to keep people in, such as is the case in a day care, school yard or other supervised and controlled place, and that they generally are much less effective as a means of access control. In the case of our park fence, the vegetation provides a much needed third dimension which not only supported the integrity of the fence line but reduced the funnel effect where the fence would be otherwise exposed. CPTED practitioners should always take into account what problems they might create before taking any action.

Tom McKay



problem resulted from a complete lack of overlook opportunities given the topography and vegetation.

While the principal recommendation was to punch some view corridors through the vegetation on the east side of the park that was next to a public road, a further recommendation to open up the vegetation to the fence line on the north side of the property was also made. This recommendation, while holding some merit, resulted in some discussion.



Mississauga Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Principles

On March 6, 2013, the City of Mississauga's Council approved the Mississauga Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Principles document. The goal of the Mississauga CPTED Principles document is to provide City of Mississauga staff, landowners and developers with CPTED principles and strategies to create a safer and more liveable city. The document will also enhance the awareness of safety and provide a better understanding of urban well-being amongst the citizens of Mississauga.

CPTED principles are intended to deal with preventative strategies and urban design solutions for safer communities. To be successful, CPTED principles should be incorporated into all aspects of community planning to make them responsive to the relationship between the fear of crime and built form design. These principles provide design strategies that reduce exposure to crime and property loss by utilizing design techniques for the built environment. In this regard, the Mississauga's Planning and Building Department's landscape architects and urban designers have had CPTED training and CPTED principles are incorporated as part

of their review and commenting on development applications.

Fear of crime results from public open spaces which are often empty of activities at particular times of the day and evening. It has been found that in areas where proprietary interest in public open spaces and social interaction increases

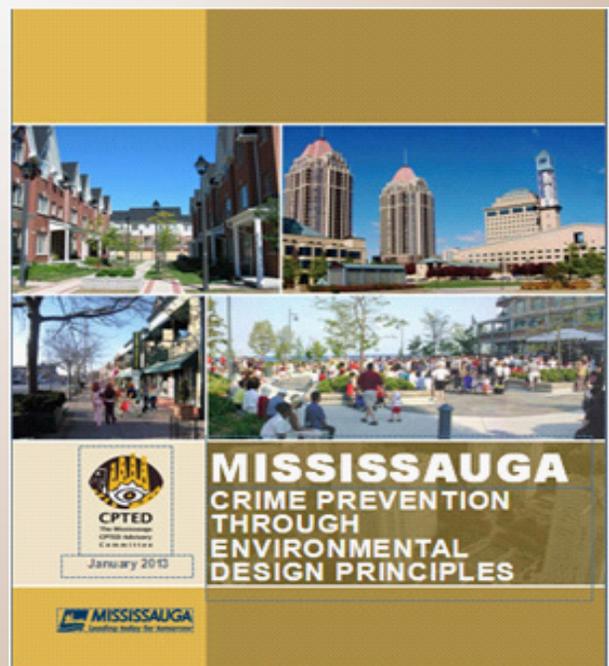
fear of crime and violence tends to diminish. In this sense, the implementation of CPTED principles helps to support vibrant, attractive and pleasant public open spaces in urban life. The possibilities of gaining access and committing crimes are less likely when the design of the built environment is able to support and sustain positive human interaction. Landscape architects within the Mississauga's Community Services Department have had CPTED training and have incorporated CPTED principles as part of their review and design of public open spaces.

Dealing with the perception of fear is an important aspect of providing a sense of safety for the public in City facilities and the creation of a healthier

working environment for City employees. CPTED ensures that the physical environment is designed to be safer by reducing criminal opportunities in and around City facilities. Project managers and security staff within the Mississauga's Corporate Services Department have also had CPTED training and have incorporated CPTED principles as part of their design of new and renovated facilities.

Copies of the Mississauga Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Principles document can be found at <http://www.mississauga.ca/portal/residents/urbandesign>

Wayne Nishihama





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CPTED ONTARIO 2013 CONFERENCE

“Creating Safe Cities within the City”

York University
Keele Campus
4700 Keele Street,
Toronto, Ontario

October 30 and 31, 2013

Today’s city has evolved from a relatively simplistic collection of neighbourhoods to a much larger and more complex built form that more closely resembles a collection of “cities” within the city. One such example is York University, the site of this year’s CPTED Ontario conference. Learn how safety has become the watchword for large, complex urban environments and how Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design has and can play a definitive role in “Creating Safe Cities within the City”

Join us for the 2013 “Creating Safe *Cities* within the City” Conference.

Registration forms will be available on July 30, 2013 on our website: www.cptedontario.ca

For further information, contact Tom McKay at (905) 453-2121 ext. 4025 or email at: info@cptedontario.ca



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2013/14 CPTED Ontario Membership Application/Renewal Form

CPTED Ontario is dedicated to reducing the fear and incidence 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 planning and design professions, the security industry and the academic world.

Benefits of becoming a CPTED Ontario member included:

- ✓ access to our web site and password protection to internal directory of practitioners,
- ✓ regular zone meetings,
- ✓ quarterly newsletters,
- ✓ networking with other professions that share common needs and concerns, and
- ✓ bi-annual Conference where you can learn about the latest CPTED developments and reduced registration costs for taking an introductory session.

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

2013/14 CPTED Ontario Membership Form

I/We wish to become a: (Choose one) New Application Renewal

Corporate Member \$400.00

Individual Member \$50.00

Student Member \$10.00

Do you wish your information posted on the web site? Yes No



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2013/14 memberships are valid to December 31, 2014

Please Print

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Occupation: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____

E-mail: _____

Credit Issuer:   

Expiry: _____

Credit Card #: _____ Credit Card Holder: _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Send your cheque or money order 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 info@cptedontario.ca

CPTED Ontario is a division of the CPTED Institute