

CPTED Ontario Newsletter

Volume 9, Number 1

Winter, 2010

www.cptedontario.ca

Chair's Letter to the Membership

The tenth anniversary of the first CPTED Ontario meeting will occur in 2010. In honour of this event, a soon-to-be-unveiled new web site will feature a history section that will include a list of all past directors. If you were one of the seventeen people that took part in that meeting or are curious about our beginnings, I urge you to check out the history section which can be found in this edition.



Tom McKay
Chair, CPTED Ontario

I also urge you to check out some of the photos from the highly successful Youth, Crime and Design workshop held in Guelph on November 4th, 2009 at the Holiday Inn. Over 70 registrants heard a variety of speakers including Dr. Patrick Parnaby, our keynote speaker and Jessie MacDonald, a CPTED-trained "youth animator" whose fresh and youthful perspective gave instant credibility to the success of a highly innovative practice developed by Gurmeet Singh of Toronto Community Housing whereby resident youth were trained in CPTED principles for the purpose of conducting audits and re-designing their playground.

Finally, I would like to remind anyone who received a membership renewal to take a few minutes to complete their renewal form. Your continued membership will ensure that you continue to receive this newsletter and other services of value including a discount on future workshops or conferences.



Comings ...

John Gwozdowski, OAA, RAIC, Principal of STILE ARCHITECT, **Danette Dalton** of the City of Brantford's Planning Department and **Gurmeet Singh** of Toronto Community Housing are the newest members of the CPTED Ontario Board. John, Danette and Gurmeet bring a wealth of diverse experience which is increasingly reflective of the make-up of the general membership. All three individuals are welcome additions to the Board.

Terrence Glover from the City of Brantford's Planning Department has tendered his resignation effective the November 4th Annual General Meeting and **Sgt. Mark Lawrence** of York Regional Police term has left the Board as his term has expired. Terrence was instrumental in elevating CPTED Ontario's profile through the Ontario Professional Planner's Institute (OPPI). Mark played a key role in organizing the 2007 CPTED Ontario conference held in York Region. We wish to thank them for their efforts.



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CPTED Ontario Past Directors

Cst. Laurel Barnett
Halton Regional Police

Cst. Gregg Davidson,
Halton Regional Police Service

Cst. Dave Dawson
Niagara Regional Police

Terrence Glover, CPT, MCIP, RPP
City of Brantford Planning

Cst. Caroline Kennedy
Ontario Provincial Police

Sgt. Ted Kitto
Owen Sound Police

Sgt. Mark Lawrence
York Regional Police

Cst. Jim Lawson
Toronto Police Service

Ruth Marland, *Planning Director*
City of Mississauga

D/ Sgt. Donnie MacDonald
Ontario Provincial Police

Anne McIlroy, Principal
Brook, McIlroy Architects

Inspector John Periversoff,
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Ottawa Police Service

Demetrios Skillaris
Ministry of the Solicitor General
Province of Ontario

Cst. Janet Small
Ontario Provincial Police

Cst. Art Wong
Ottawa Police Service

Terry Wright, *First Vice-Chair*
York University Security Service

Our History

The inaugural meeting of the Ontario CPTED Association, now known as CPTED Ontario, was held at Sir Sanford Fleming College on April 25th, 2000. The meeting, organized by Cst. Tom McKay of Peel Regional Police, gathered 17 individuals from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of establishing a CPTED Association modeled after the Florida CPTED Network.

A positive response was followed by a series of meetings which culminated in the establishment of the first and, to this day, only provincial CPTED organization in Canada and the second such organization of its kind in all of North America. The fledgling organization quickly went about the business of organizing its first one-day conference in partnership with the Mississauga CPTED Advisory Committee, Peel CPTED Advisory Committee and Peel Regional Police. The workshop, held on Monday November 5th, 2001 at the City of Mississauga's Noel Ryan Theatre in the Central Library, featured renowned CPTED trainer and author, Timothy D. Crowe. The workshop was a resounding success having attracted 189 registrants.

In 2005, the organization developed a mission and vision statement along with a Code of Ethics. CPTED Ontario continues to organize a workshop/conference on an annual basis. In 2009 the organization took a major step towards developing a standard for basic CPTED training by establishing a core curriculum.

The Durham Courthouse Benches



The new Durham Courthouse features some very unusual architecture. This visually distinctive, bench barrier combination serves a dual purpose while discouraging skateboarders.

Photo by Mike Fenton

Youth, Crime and Design Workshop Guelph, November 4th, 2009



*Dr Patrick Parnaby
engages the audience*



*CPTED Ontario Treasurer
Wayne Nishihama mans
the registration desk*



*Dragan Spasojevic
addresses the
audience*



*CPTED Ontario Director Mike Fenton
shares his vast wealth of knowledge.*

Jessie MacDonald and Gurmeet Singh speak on behalf of Toronto Community Housing



Weeding out crime with the help of an urban garden -- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design takes root at the Ernest Majury Learn. Play. Care. Child Care Centre

In November of 2006, a Capital Project Manager for the Commercial Property Management Unit of the Region of Peel asked me to assist with a security review of a problem-plagued Child Care Centre located in the heart of a Mississauga residential community. This is the transformational story about that CPTED application.



Original design of the problem area

The Ernest Majury Learn. Play. Care. Child Care Centre is bounded by Williamsport Dr. on the south, a park to the east, two schools to the north and a townhouse development to the west, the latter being hidden by a row of trees. The Centre is situated on sloped piece of land with the majority of the grade occurring on the neighbouring school properties just beyond the Centre's property line.

The design of the building and slope of the land has necessitated the development of a large, concrete, retaining wall in the north-east corner of the property. The retaining wall was intended to serve two main functions. First, it carves out the space needed to accommodate two fire exits found at the rear of the property while providing room for snow storage. Second, it serves as its own safety barrier by acting as a knee wall for people using the path above.

Unfortunately, the wall serves a third unintended function. It is used for cover by trespassers, loiterers and other abnormal users who are attracted to the dry and sunken nature of the space defined by the wall. This, along with a variety of other factors, has made this a favourite hang-out for area teens who use it as sort of a staging area prior to engaging in a range of illegal or undesired activities that include graffiti, access to the roof and damage to the vents, break-ins, drug and alcohol use and sexual activity.

A list of the factors that compounded this problem included the placement of the doors relative to the main source of natural surveillance; the development of a landscape screen in front of the neighbouring townhomes; the limited hours of activity associated with the recreational and institutional use of the neighbouring properties and the substantial grade change behind the building which limits natural surveillance to the edge of the school property.

With these factors in place, it is not surprising that an earlier attempt to double the lighting did little to improve the problem. A proper resolution would require a change in the basic nature of this space, and for that I conducted a space assessment.

A basic space assessment

As previously stated, it is critically important to recognize that the area served little purpose other than as egress from the fire exits and a place to store snow. Given its limited role and utilitarian nature, it is not surprising that staff had very limited reasons for using it or developing a sense of proprietorship about the space. This lack of ownership was especially obvious during operating hours when area youth felt comfortable enough to gather in the space, despite the presence of windows and visible kitchen staff.

In order to correct this problem, it was critical to assign the space a function that better related to the users of the space. For inspiration, I thought of ways to exploit the CPTED's three main concepts of surveillance, access control and territoriality by deploying the standard CPTED strategy of placing a safe activity in a vulnerable area.



A new fence defines the territory



A healthy vegetable garden

My first choice of a safe activity was an 'urban' garden. Urban gardens the world over typically transform small, lifeless, confined areas into garden oases. Their hands-on activity and obvious benefits are ideally suited to develop and release people's 'latent sense of ownership', a concept Oscar Newman first identified as a critical element in the development of *Defensible Space*.

The suggestion for an urban garden was enthusiastically received by Filomena LoRusso, the Supervisor for the Child Care Centre, and her staff. Filomena saw, and immediately expanded upon, the benefits of the idea including the on-site growth of vegetables, composting and related programmed activities and the use by staff as a recreational space.

With the critical step of buy-in established, design could now begin. The ultimate goal of the design process was to assure that the intended activity could function well and directly support the control of behaviour. This, along with the previously mentioned CPTED concepts and strategies, resulted in:

- the development of a large concrete planter,
- a reduction in the height of the retaining wall,
- the development of a black vinyl, chain link fence with an access-controlled gate around the perimeter of the garden and patio area, and
- the installation of a sheet metal baffle around the natural gas pipe found at the rear of the building.

The fence would serve a multiple purpose. It would fundamentally provide a controlled area when the area was to be used as an outdoor classroom for programmed activity. It would also provide for clear border definition and access control of the controlled space.

The recommendations would be supported by a passive Closed Circuit Television system (CCTV) which previously had been planned for the rear of the building. The project would take approximately one year to complete with a total cost of \$14,000.

With construction finished, Filomena took ownership of what she now proudly refers to as 'our backyard'. With the arrival of the warm spring weather in 2008, the first garden of radishes, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, onions, celery, broccoli and flowers was planted. When I contacted Filomena for a progress report in August of that year she stated "You would love it. It's wonderful! We just had a salad from there."

A site visit in August of that year revealed the transformation that took place. Tomatoes were carefully staked, cucumbers grew up the fence, flowers bloomed. A patio set which "would not have lasted a day" according to Filomena sat, undamaged, in the afternoon shade.

Filomena could barely contain her enthusiasm when talking about the garden. It has made a "huge difference. Staff use it during the day. Kids come out here as well saying let's go to the backyard. They love it. They picked cucumbers for a cucumber salad saying we picked it". Filomena also reports that "staff use it all the time". "Before they really didn't sit out here, now it's used 100 times over. The kids do programming. We've got tons of pictures of that".

Filomena's glowing remarks are supported by the crime statistics which show zero acts of vandalism in the two years since the garden was developed. A careful inspection of the fence has revealed that there is very little evidence of trespass or other abnormal activity.

And if that were not enough, Filomena noted that enrollment continues to increase from previous years and a wait list has now developed. The success of the project led Jan Graves, Manager of Directly Operated Centres to say the entire experience "says a lot about partnerships and solving problems".

Tom McKay



Beautiful flowers are a bonus

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2010/11 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:

2010/11 CPTED Ontario Membership Form

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

Corporate Member \$350.00

Individual Member \$40.00

Student Member \$10.00

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

2010/11 memberships are valid to December 31, 2011

Please Print

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Occupation: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____

E-mail: _____

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



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