

CPTED Ontario Newsletter

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Winter 2017

President's Letter to the Membership

We are now seven weeks into 2017 and the winter's flying by. We are presently looking for a venue for the 2017 workshop and would invite expressions of interest from anyone who is willing to serve as a liaison in this regard. More specifically, we are looking for a person who can help drive interest in a full or half-day workshop for the benefit of promoting CPTED and its principles in their local community. If you have an interest, or know of someone who does, I urge you to send me your suggestions at info@cptedontario.ca. For your information, a workshop may now be scheduled any time of the year, with spring the preferred time

frame on a going forward basis.

On a personal note, I plan to retire from Peel Regional Police effective May 31st, 2017 after almost 32 years of service, with my last day in the office currently scheduled for March 30th subject to interim holiday plans. I have immensely enjoyed my time as Canada's, and I believe the continent's, longest serving Crime Prevention Officer. Who knew that I would be given the opportunity to specialize in CPTED for over 25 years!

I have taken this opportunity to take a look back, which includes a couple of articles based upon a

thirty-year-old paper that tried to predict the Police role in the Review of Development Plans in Communities by the Year 2000. I would invite you to send in your examples of CPTED then and now. We can run them in a future edition of the newsletter.



Tom McKay
President, CPTED Ontario



NEW ADDRESS!

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Greetings, friends. On the occasion of Tom's impending retirement and this issue which has him look back over some CPTED history, I asked him to send me some pictures from early in his career.

Boy! What a mistake that was!!! Just look at the guy! He hasn't gained a pound or sprouted a grey hair. And I'm sure the lines on his face in the CPTED President's photo are only because his collar is too tight. What's your secret, Tom? Formaldehyde?

Anyway, enjoy your retirement, friend!

*Barbara Spyropoulos
CPLC 12 Division, TPS*

Back to the Future, or so they thought!



I recently came across a report tucked away in a file, which piqued my curiosity. The report entitled *“What Will be the Police Role in the Review of Development Plans in Communities by the Year 2000”* was part of a class project written by a candidate in the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Command College located in California. The crux of the report held that *“by the year 2000, laws will be passed that will require police review of all development plans in communities”*. It went on to say *“Police agencies will be working closely with cities and counties in the design of communities. Designs that reduce or eliminate the opportunity for crime to occur and provide a safer environment will be a major concern throughout the State”*.

So how would we grade the prescience of the premise of this report, were we to grade it today? Well it is fair to say that CPTED has made great strides in the thirty years since the paper was written. CPTED has been embraced around the world

by a diverse group of professions. This includes police, planners, politicians, designers and security professionals as is evidenced by the membership in a handful of CPTED organizations that have been developed since that time. It has also found itself incorporated into many Official Plans with talk of amendments to the

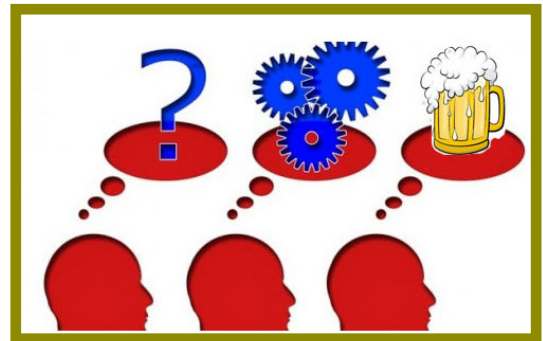


provincial Planning Act for the purpose of mandating CPTED assessments as part of the development application process. While this (potentially) represents a significant stride in CPTED’s institutionalization, it is worth noting that the impetus for this development has come from the planning side with less

overarching leadership coming from the Police profession.

So what can be said for the power of predictions? Well, if we measured our progress against such yardsticks as 2001: A Space Odyssey, Y2K, Back to the Future and several other iconic versions of screen art, we didn’t fair so badly. However, it is clear that their remains a lot to do, as its adoption is best described as spotty. While I believe that a lot has been accomplished in the past 30 years and the future is promising, the institutionalizing of CPTED principles as envisioned by that report remains an elusive goal.

By
Tom McKay



They Got That Right!

Tom McKay commenting on an article from June 1987 . . .

While optimistic about the time line with respect to when the State of California will enact legislation requiring a police review of all development plans, the author of *“What Will be the Police Role in the Review of Development Plans in Communities by the Year 2000”* was spot on with respect to the characterization of what that role would be.

In this regard, the author of the article stated that *“frequently, police review of development plans will recognize certain problems with a project not normally noticed by the other reviewers”*. Brown went on to say that *“common problems police identify for planners are: inadequate vehicular circulation around buildings, traffic conflicts, areas of hiding and seclusion, inadequate light-*

ing and neighbourhood problems generated by the development”.

This has certainly been my experience as the two most recent site plans I happened to review involved the potential for vehicular conflict.

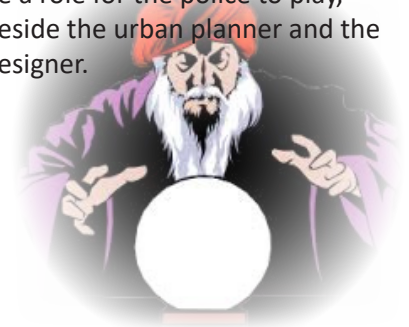
So why is this as true today as three decades ago? I would offer the following comments.

The grounds and in particular the parking lot have been a significant source of comment over the years for a variety of reasons. First, the CPTED practitioner is trained through Crowe’s Space Assessment process to ask is there conflict or confusion, two issues often found in parking lots.

Next, I recall once being told by an architect that the junior member of

the firm would often be relegated to the parking lot’s design. And finally, the police officer will be exceptionally inclined to spot a traffic problem before a shovel hits the ground given their considerable amount of experience responding to calls for service involving traffic chaos such as those generated by the plethora of parents who insist upon driving their children to school.

I would therefore agree with the author that there will always be a role for the police to play, beside the urban planner and the designer.



What’s in a Name?

Tom McKay continues his journey through the archives . . .

While looking at another early paper I came across while reviewing my files, I came across a couple of terms that didn’t stand the test of time. These included “boundedness” and “lurk lines”. What is boundedness and lurk lines, you may ask?

Well boundedness is a term that the authors of the paper *“Design for Vulnerability: Cues and Reactions to Fear of Crime”* use to describe features of the environment which can provoke fear. Specifically they quote an excerpt from E. Goffman’s 1971 paper on

Micro Studies of the Public Order which notes that while *“boundedness protectively cuts off those in physical frames from the outside, it ... sometimes will be turned against the individual”*.¹ In this regard boundedness sounds awfully similar to the concept of entrapment spots, which we use today.

And what advice did the author give with respect to dealing with boundedness? They suggested that *“designs which provide an open area for escape will be less fearful than those which have bounded areas or dead ends that block escape.”*²

As for lurk lines, Goffman was again

credited for introducing the concept in 1971. They are described as lines that *“demarcate zones that lie beyond or behind the individual’s line of sight”*³ which helps to explain why *“humans dislike lurk lines or blind spots”*⁴ and, more recently, *“ambush spots”*.

¹ Naser, Jack L., and Fisher, Bonnie 1992. *Design for Vulnerability: Cues and Reactions to Fear of Crime*, Pg. 50

² Ibid.

³ Ibid, Pg. 49

⁴ Ibid

Fear Reduction Through Environmental Design

I recently read a paper on the “Prevention of crime-Urban planning and design (Part 2)” written by the Comité Européen de Normalisation (CEN) in November 2002, also known as the European Committee for Standardization, which included an interesting section on fear. The section unpacked the three main factors which may characterise an “unsafe location”, effectively breaking new ground in the process while providing some sorely needed insight into an understudied area.

This got me thinking about the implications of focusing on fear as the driver for environmental design as opposed to crime as suggested by its name. This quickly led me to think about the apparent role that gender has played as it relates to the development of CPTED. In this regard, one need not look further than CPTED founder C. Ray Jeffery, to recognize that men have had an inordinate influence on CPTED, one that continues to this day due in part to a succession of predominantly male authors.

As for the role that gender plays in how we perceive our environment, one need not look further than how males or females view underground parking garages to get a sense of how profoundly different the genders can be. According to a study, “83% of women are worried when walking alone to their car in an underground parking lot”¹ while men identify the threat

of “break-ins” to their cars as their primary concern. It is therefore, little wonder that crime holds such a dominant place in a male-centric CPTED world.

Further evidence of this bias can be found in the writings of the Metro Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children (METRAC) who note that “the threat of sexual assault is pervasive in women’s daily lives, limiting their free-



dom of movement and freedom of participation in city life”². The full impact of this comment can be seen in their follow-up statement that being “since men do not have this experience, initiatives focusing more generally on “safety from crime for everyone” often fail to deal with the unique threat”³. This can certainly be said of Tim Crowe’s definitive Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design text book which, with the exception of the word fear being mentioned in the CPTED definition, fails to mention or discuss the topic.

Perhaps this explains my strong reaction to

fear-based content in the CEN paper, notwithstanding that it remains an obscure development despite being published almost fifteen years ago. So what was the development and why do I think it is important?

The paper identified three main factors which are attributable to “unsafe locations”. They are:

- locations characterized by fear-generating features such as “zones of prostitution, drug abuse and certain types of entertainment”,
- neglected or badly maintained locations, and
- locations suffering from problematic urban design features such as lack of surveillance, visibility or orientation.

An appreciation for the factors which serve to stoke and illicit people’s fear is a very large step towards acknowledging the very large and significant role that fear plays in many people’s lives which can be exacerbated by how we design,



Cover page of *Better Homes and Gardens*

use, and maintain the built environment. With a better and broader understanding of this important issue and its causal links, we can, hopefully, use this knowledge for the benefit of others who might otherwise be left behind. This will ultimately translate into better use and enjoyment of our properties which is critical for the success

of CPTED and how we apply its principles regardless of the different ways that you or I may view the world.

By
Tom McKay

^{1.} *Statistics Canada; The Violence Against Women Survey, 1993*

^{2.} *Designing a Safe Urban Environment for Women, METRAC, Oct. 1991, Pg. 6.*

^{3.} *Ibid.*

Another Blast from the Past

While cleaning up my desk, I came across a copy of Barry Poyner's *'Design Against Crime: Beyond Defensible Space'* text book which was published in 1983. The book cited four general CPTED principles found in another now obscure CPTED textbook publication entitled *'Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design: An Operational Handbook'* by Wallis and Ford (1980).

What was interesting were the names of the principles that were being used by the authors, those being:

- Surveillance
- Movement control
- Activity support, and
- Motivational reinforcement.

The description of the first two principles was consistent with natural surveillance and access control, the word 'movement' being used in its place. Activity support was consistent with the teachings of the RCMP's seven principle model of CPTED which

was popular around that time, the author having described it as *"increasing human use of areas by making them more attractive or by rearranging facilities: this in turn enhances surveillance"*.

What I found was particularly interesting was the use of the term 'motivational' and the description that was attributed to it. Poyner wrote that motivation reinforcement was *"necessary alongside the physical changes to enhance the desire of people to engage in crime prevention activity"*. This definition went well beyond Crowe's definition of territorial reinforcement which only spoke of how *"physical design can create or extend a sphere of influence so that users develop a sense of proprietorship"*.

Clearly the difference lay in the outcomes between the two approaches, the former being much more outcome oriented. Examples of the outcomes envisioned by this approach

included *"encouragement of personalised environments, better maintained public areas, co-operation between business men, community development programmes, improved police/citizen relations and the involvement of citizens in setting police priorities"*.

Given that territorial reinforcement is firmly entrenched in CPTED teachings and literature, the term and concept of motivational reinforcement is merely food for thought. There is certainly something to be said for motivating people, given that most people are not inclined to act.

By
Tom McKay

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**CPTED
Ontario**

Crime Prevention Through
Environmental Design

2017/18 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
- ✓ \$25.00 off registration costs for the annual CPTED Ontario Conference .

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

2017/18 CPTED Ontario Membership Form

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

Corporate Member \$450.00

Individual Member \$60.00

Student Member \$10.00

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



2017/18 memberships are valid to December 31, 2018

Please Print

Name: _____

Organization: _____




Occupation: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ **Cell:** _____

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Send your cheque or money order to CPTED Ontario, c/o 225 The East Mall, Suite 1263, Toronto, Ontario M9B 0A9 Canada or fax 905-456-5910. For further information, contact Tom McKay at 905-453-2121, ext. 4025, or email info@cptedontario.ca

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