

# CPTED Ontario Newsletter

Volume 16, Number 3

Fall 2017

## President's Letter to the Membership

### What happened to the summer?

Perhaps it was because the summer newsletter was so late this year, but I would like to know what happened to summer this year or perhaps I should more accurately refer to it as 'sum'where. In any event, fall is just around the corner which means that our next **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** is due.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, we have scheduled a joint meeting (including an AGM) with the Central Ontario Crime Prevention Association (**cocpa**) on Friday September 29th at the Peel Regional Police Association building located at 10675 Mississauga Rd., Brampton.

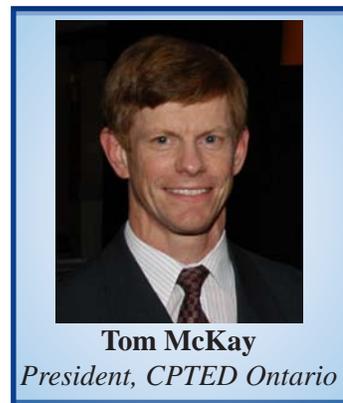
**cocpa** is a wonderful organization co-chaired by long-time CPTED Ontario Secretary, Cyndy Skillins, that, similar to CPTED Ontario, organizes regular educational and networking opportunities across a variety of crime prevention topics.

The CPTED component of the meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m. with a much anticipated presentation by former CPTED Ontario Director Mike Fenton from Garda World on security for Places of Worship. If you would like to attend this free presentation and/or the Annual General Meeting (AGM) that follows, please reserve your spot by sending an e-mail to [info@cptedontario.ca](mailto:info@cptedontario.ca).

In addition to elections, this year's AGM will feature an update on CPTED certification and

a proposal to provide for the establishment of an Executive Committee.

If you are interested in joining the Board of Directors, please submit your resume to [info@cptedontario.ca](mailto:info@cptedontario.ca) prior to the meeting.



### NEW ADDRESS!

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or [info@cpteontario.ca](mailto:info@cpteontario.ca).

### New Vision Statement update

Our new "Promoting Safer Community Design" Vision Statement was developed and adopted at our July 25th board meeting and will soon be appearing on our web-site and written material. Our vision statement conveys a succinct message which serves to guide our organization.

## Reflecting on CPTED for Places of Worship

In a world where hate crimes are on the increase, it is not surprising that there is a growing and commensurate concern for security at Places of Worship. This is reflected in both requests for audits and growing interest in what was previously a topic that was rarely addressed.

Yet despite the realization that more security is needed, overt signs of security can be an anathema to institutions that are welcoming and generous by their nature. This is particularly true of places of worship which retain open door policies even today.

It is for this very reason that CPTED can play a major role in helping to safeguard places of worship. CPTED's unique ability to decrease crime opportunity while striving to keep intruders under observation represents a formidable combination of factors that can help to discourage criminal activity while maintaining a semblance of order.

So how should places of worship protect themselves without resorting to obtrusive signs of security? Well, places of worship should always strive to protect and maintain the integrity of their property through the strategic combination of signage, clearly defined and proven boundaries, and the implementation of transitional zones.

With respect to signage, places

of worship should not shrink from posting some form of rudimentary signage that speaks to property rights. In this somewhat



wordy example, an assertion as to the nature of the property has been made as well as prohibitions with respect to parking ("authorized church parking only") and a number of specific activities including skateboarding, bicycle riding and ball games. Unfortunately, the wording of the sign only satisfies the requirements of the Trespass to Property Act for Ontario as it relates to anyone found engaging in any of

the listed (prohibited) activities. In order for it to be more broadly applicable, a general entry prohibition must be present. I would further recommend the strategic posting of prohibition signs where prohibited activities are most likely to occur. The posting of these signs can be expected to eliminate excuses while encouraging normal users of the property to increase their challenging behaviour.

With respect to the development of transitional zones and the establishment of clear border definition, it has been my experience that problems typically develop in places that are not well visible or otherwise observed. This can include alcoves, courtyards, or even parking areas that cannot be viewed from the street.

In circumstances such as these, it is generally best to limit access and/or develop a perception of risk for would-be offenders by taking measures to improve natural surveillance. This can be achieved through the development of a fence and gate or, in the case of smaller spaces, by installing motion-activated lights. It is also critical to regularly inspect the integrity of fence-lines to ensure that a trespass route/desire line has not had the opportunity to develop. In circumstances where a breach is discovered, it is critical to take whatever steps are necessary in order to reinforce the line. This may include the strategic selection of plant material and the

posting of strategically placed “No Trespassing. Trespassers Will be Prosecuted” signs.

By discouraging common or “everyday” trespassing occurrences, you can expect to reduce the likelihood of complacency should a less “innocent”/criminally motivated act of trespass occur. This can often make the difference between a would-be criminal accomplishing his/her real purpose or potentially being discovered and caught. The same strategies must also be considered for the interior of the space in order to influence desired behaviour. This includes limiting

access and/or otherwise controlling movement to areas that are well observed. This is particularly true for locations where donation boxes are present as these are frequently targeted by thieves. The safeguarding of Places of Worship cannot be left to chance. The criminal element, some of whom are motivated by hate, see Places of Worship as a fair and typically soft target. If you would be interested in learning more about this topic, I urge you to come out to the joint Central Ontario Crime Prevention Association/CPTED Ontario zone meeting and annual

general meeting at the Peel Regional Police Association building on Friday Sept. 29th at 10:45 a.m. Mike Fenton of Garda World will share his experience on this very important topic.

*By Tom McKay*



## Knee Wall Ergonomics

**O**n a recent visit to Niagara-on-the-Lake, I took the opportunity to sit on a shallow planter which effectively broke my centre of gravity. I found the experience interesting as I wouldn't choose to do it again given the extra effort that it required to stand up from a deep seated position.

This caused me to wonder whether similarly sized walls might tend to discourage loitering notwithstanding that most teenagers tend to be more nimble. I recall that Tim Crowe said that McDonald's manipulated the height of their seats to discourage people from feeling comfortable and presumably limiting their stay. All I can say for certain is that the McDonald's connection to seating offers some “food for thought”.

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

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

Credit Issuer: \_\_\_\_\_      Expiry: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_      Credit Card Holder: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_      Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto:info@cptedontario.ca)

CPTED Ontario is a Division of the CPTED Institute