

CPTED Ontario Newsletter

Volume 5, Number 2

Spring, 2006

www.cptedontario.ca

CHAIR'S MEMBERSHIP LETTER

Dear Members:

Quick! What's your password? You heard me - I'm talking about your CPTED Ontario password. If you're like me you would have a hard time remembering it unless you filed it in a place that you can remember. I would like to encourage you to remember your CPTED Ontario password as it provides you access to the member's only section of the website. If you have forgotten your password or would like to change it to something that is easier for you to remember, please feel free to contact me at info@cptedontario.ca and provide me with a unique identifier that you would like to use. The password should include a combination of letters and numbers for security purposes.

Tom McKay
Chair

Comings and Goings

Cst. Laurel Barnett of Halton Regional Police and Ruth Marland-Bryan of the City of Mississauga both departed our Board effective Feb. 24th. Ruth had served two terms as a Board member including a term on the founding Board. Laurel served on the Board for nearly three years and served an integral role in our successful 2004 conference held in Oakville.

Insp. John Periversoff of the Ontario Provincial Police has rejoined the Board after a 2-year absence. John is the Manager of Western Region Community Policing and oversees other programs such as Media and First Nation Liaison. Many members may remember John from his leadership with respect to CPTED Ontario's London conference in 2003.

CPTED Ontario members making a difference

CPTED Ontario member J. P. Chartrand of the Canada Science and Technology Museum Corporation has recently translated the CPTED Ontario Code of Ethics into French. J. P. was previously responsible for the French translation of our home page. Thank-you J.P. for your ongoing service and commitment to the Francophone community!



**CPTED
Ontario**

Crime Prevention Through
Environment Design

A “Dose” of Reality

Recently, I was asked by Dose magazine, a free Toronto daily paper, to comment on an article they were doing on public toilets. While not my favourite topic for a variety of reasons, including the limited applicability of CPTED principles, I was bemused to pick the authors brain with respect to what he had found out as part of his research when speaking with an Architectural Liaison Officer (A.L.O.) in the U.K who was touted as a recognized authority on the subject as he had authored

a book on the topic. It seems the A.L.O. had encountered a problem with intravenous drug users using a washroom facility to shoot up. The A.L.O.’s solution was to substitute regular light with light from a blue source. The blue light was intended to make it impossible for the drug users to find a vein.

Clever?

Only if you happened to be the intravenous drug users as they quickly adapted their behaviour by tracing out their veins prior to entering the room. My point for telling this story is threefold.

1. CPTED is function oriented and is intended to improve the quality of life. How is switching to blue light going to address these two points?
2. CPTED is directed towards opportunity crime. Shooting a hypodermic needle full of drugs into one’s arm does not fall into this category.
3. Never underestimate people’s ability to adapt. The research that supported the development of my concept of Behavioural Based Design helps me recognize when and where CPTED is likely to reach its limits.

An e-mail received from a reporter at the Dundas Star News

Hi Tom,

While I realize you certainly aren’t involved in this particular situation, I’m hoping you could provide some comments about how CPTED might help or apply, or how it applies to parks in general - in your role as chair of CPTED Ontario.

Here in Dundas, Veteran’s Park is a large green space with open fields, baseball diamonds, playground equipment and a washroom/snack bar facility that was never open. Apparently, there was a reputation for this area as a youth “hang-out” where drinking, drug use and vandalism were

common. Few children or families used the park.

This winter, a local resident decided to put a skating rink in. He got permission from the city of Hamilton and used his own money and time to get started. He formed an informal committee but does most of the work himself. He has since organized three community festivals in the park. The man got permission to open the snack bar and sells pop, chips, hot dogs, etc., that he brings at his own expense. His goal is to both increase community use of the park and raise money that will be spent on the park. He wants to add items that will enhance the park for residents, and make it safer while removing the drinking/drug use elements.

He’d like to see more trees planted, lights added, garbage cans, benches and basketball nets.

The nets, trees and lights are his three priorities. His last event, a music festival, unfortunately lost money. He’s a little dejected that his efforts don’t seem to be working. He said the city has been unresponsive to requests (for trees, basketball nets) and he has had very little community assistance. Few other volunteers have stepped forward.

Still, he’s planning other events and continues to bug the city for support. He suggested that if someone donated trees, he’d do all the planting. He’d like to see basketball nets for youth to use.

Local police have given special attention to this park since April. It has been renewed each month since. Police have gone to the park at least five times in the past month to make drug possession arrests, trespass arrests, or issue trespass warnings.

What CPTED aspects can be used to improve this park? How valuable or important is the work of the volunteer to the efforts of the police? What advice or comments do you have, as chair of CPTED Ontario?

I apologize for the length of this message. Any comments you can provide will be appreciated.

Thank you for your help,

Craig

Craig Campbell
Reporter

And the response...

Hi Craig:

This is a sad but interesting story. This gentleman's heart is in the right place but it is clear that his grassroots efforts seem to be in vain. Fundamentally, I would suggest that his efforts have failed because he is not in sync with the community. What I mean by this is that his efforts have failed to generate activity in the park because the activities he has chosen - the music festival for instance - are not reflective of the greater interests of the community. This is not to say that the community is "anti"-music they just wouldn't head to the local park to get what was delivered - I know it wouldn't be my first choice. Furthermore, music is very subjective. Some people like jazz, some people like rock etc., etc., I would be willing to bet that this gentleman has failed to do some basic (CPTED) analysis. What

is the demographic nature of the area? What do the residents and users have to say? What are his observations (particularly as they relate to interest in music in the park)? The answers he gets to these types of questions will be critical to his success.

In one case in the City of Toronto that I know about - Dufferin Grove Park - local residents wanted a bake oven, similar to the ones they had at their disposal in their country of birth while growing up. As the majority of the community was of this same ethnic background, the idea of a bake oven made sense for that community. After cutting through a considerable amount of red tape with the city - there were a myriad of environmental laws that would normally preclude such a thing - the ovens were approved. The ovens are now used to bake bread on Thursdays and pizza on Sundays. This, needless to say, draws lots of people to the park who are often treated to the spoils. The insight for the ovens probably came from the "Friends of Dufferin Grove Park" steering Committee that was formed by Jutta Mason, the local activist who spearheaded the revitalization.

There are other successful attempts at community mobilization that I can think about. Cst. Rob Davis at Waterloo Regional Police developed a community garden in a problematic field next to high rises and public housing in the Victoria Hills section of Kitchener Waterloo. The result was a 66% drop in calls for police service. The key again was delivering something that was desired by the community. In an article entitled "Make the Community Your Partner", Jeff

Kaster, the co-ordinator of Park Development for the (former?) City of Nepean, was quoted as saying "public participation is the key to park development." He went on to say that he saw his role as a member of the Park Planning and Development team as "understanding the recreational and leisure needs of the people." For that he believes that the public needs to be involved.

In the case of a classic failure, he quotes a colleague from a neighbouring municipality who complained "It doesn't make sense. I bought the best play equipment money can buy. I selected something for everybody. I found the perfect location. It looks fantastic. So why is the community opposed to it? Why all the phone calls of complaint?" Sounds like someone didn't do their homework.

My advice to him is that he needs input and buy-in and less reliance on instincts - what he thinks is needed to make a good park. Without this he is likely to continue to fight the good fight with little to show for it in the end. I would be curious to know if my presumptions about why this failed were correct as there are yet other possible explanations such as apathy. There would be less chance of the latter if there was more of the former.

The emphasis should be on analysis (as suggested by Goldstein's Problem Oriented Policing model) as opposed to fast tracking response.

I hope this helps.

Cst. Tom McKay
Peel Regional Police Service

PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN BEHIND CLOSED DOORS: THE CONTRIBUTION OF SECOND GENERATION CPTED

In his foreword to a recent issue of *The CPTED Journal*, Greg Saville, the Editor and former Chair of the International CPTED Association, reminds us that, “There is a persistent belief that CPTED ends at the physical environment; that our responsibility stops by modifying the built environment to reduce crime opportunities.” Of course, architectural tinkering is an effective means of preventing *some* crimes, but 20 years of studying the physical, sexual, and psychological abuse of women in intimate relationships tells me that this approach does little, if anything, to reduce male assaults on women behind closed doors. This is not to say, however, that we should completely reject CPTED. For example, in an article published in a 2004 issue of *The CPTED Journal*, Drs. Shahid Alvi, Claire Renzetti, Martin Schwartz, and I contend that modified versions of the four main strategies that comprise Second Generation CPTED can make a difference (see Vol. 3, Issue 1, pp. 27-34). These initiatives are: community culture; connectivity; community threshold; and social cohesion. All of them focus on reducing woman abuse through community capacity building rather than simply modifying the physical structure of households and communities.

Community Culture

This approach calls for the creation of a shared neighbourhood history through the use of festivals, sporting events, music, and art. Sometimes referred to as “placemaking”, this

initiative should also involve the use of plays, concerts and paintings that send out strong messages to communities about the many harms caused by violence against women. Such cultural work, including designing T-shirts to memorialize women’s victimization, could be done in parks or community centers with the assistance of shelter workers, police officers, politicians and the general public. Other elements of placemaking, including plays and art displays, should also be situated in nearby shopping centres.

Graffiti offends many people. Still, it can be constructive and contribute to placemaking. For example, Ohio University in Athens, Ohio maintains a concrete wall where students are permitted to paint pictures and murals and write political messages aimed at promoting social justice and civility. There, you will often see statements such as “Stop Rape” and Let’s Take Back the Night.” Such artwork could be done on Canadian walls designated by neighbourhood leaders and residents, and it would increase the visibility of young and old artistic members of the community.

Connectivity

Many abused women, especially those living in rural communities, suffer from social and geographic isolation. Thus, it is necessary to build easily accessible women’s centres. These safe places should be created with the support of the private and public sectors, and they do not have to focus only on abuse-related issues. For example,

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women’s centres could offer educational programs aimed at training unemployed women for jobs contributing to their economic independence. Artistic events and other social activities should also be organized there, as well as offering childcare, which gives women time to seek jobs or to get some rest from the pressures of child rearing.

Obviously, most men do not abuse their intimate partners and many men want to stop woman abuse. However, many men intent on improving women’s quality of life and safety do not or cannot socialize with other like-minded men. Thus, progressive men’s organizations such as the National Organization of Men Against Sexism (NOMAS) should be invited to hold town hall meetings in community centres where men can get together and develop strategies to reduce woman abuse, such as supporting and participating in violence-against-women awareness programs. Men’s groups can also discuss how and where male members can make other valuable contributions to the social and economic well-being of their communities, including serving as positive role models for

male youths at risk of coming into conflict with the law.

Community Threshold

Research shows that fear of crime motivates many women to stay indoors, which restricts them from gaining information about services available to abused women and from developing social bonds with neighbours who might be willing to informally confront the men who assault their partners behind closed doors. My colleagues and I routinely find that vandalism, garbage on the streets, noise and other examples of neighbourhood disorder are powerful determinants of women's fear of crime and do not always have to be dealt with by a massive police presence or target hardening. In fact, a growing number of criminologists now find that community threshold can be improved and violent crimes can be reduced in poor neighborhoods when these communities join together for informal social control and to pool their collective power to extract such resources as garbage collection and housing code enforcement. For example, high-tech security devices not only fail to reduce crime in public housing, but they also provide one more expensive item to vandalize. However, as is the case in Melbourne, Australia, provisions for tenant empowerment had a major effect on both crime and fear. When a responsive management system is developed (including tenant management) and combined with tenant decision-making in security measures, sharp reductions in women's fear of public places are possible.

Social Cohesion

Second Generation CPTED studies conducted by Greg Saville and others show that teaching positive communication skills and conflict resolution enhances neighbourhood cohesiveness. Thus, to reduce violence against women behind closed doors, schools should build empathy into the curriculum through constant attention to the importance of gender, race, and class, and they should require students to adopt the role or point of view of others. Further, workshops should be given in local schools or community centres designed specifically to train people what to do when confronted with the abuse of women on the street and in private places. Participants should also be taught how to support abuse survivors, to seek help in appropriate ways, and to help violent men become peaceful. For example, prisons across North America are now using violent offenders to train guard dogs, under the theory that providing a dependent animal that gives love and attention will help offenders empathize with others. Our own communities might consider such imaginative ideas.

Conclusions

Before any of the proposals suggested by my colleagues and me can be put into practice, communities and their leaders must first publicly announce that private violence against women is a major problem and that a holistic, integrated community approach is necessary to curb it. This, of course, requires considerable political will and public education. Once this goal is obtained, then the strategies briefly outlined here

have the potential to promote the development of "domestic violence-free homes" similar to those found in some subsidized housing projects located in Jackson's Point, Ontario.

Although it is important to consider the value of community-based informal prevention initiatives guided by Second Generation CPTED, these approaches should not be viewed as substitutes for economic strategies and public spending. To nourish peaceful communities or their capacity to sustain themselves, stable, quality jobs and effective social programs are necessary. Some readers may be skeptical about the above proposals and are likely to demand more "hard" evidence that they work. Indeed, at present, the results of modifying Second Generation CPTED to address the concerns of abused women are uncertain. Still, to continue the current path of simply changing physical space is to give the wrong answer to famous question asked by Dr. Martin Luther King: "Where do we go from here – chaos or community?" Hopefully, policy makers and the general public will choose the latter.

More information on Second Generation CPTED is provided in Volume 3, Issue 1 of the *CPTED Journal* and at the International CPTED Association website (www.CPTED.net).

Upcoming Events

CPTED Ontario Board of Directors meeting

Thursday Apr. 20th, 2006

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: TBA.

CPTED Ontario Zone 3 (southwest) meeting

Friday, May 19th, 2006

Presenter: Sgt. Bill Van Ryswyk, Ottawa Police Service, Vice Chair CPTED Ontario O.P.P. Western Region Headquarters

6355 Westminster Dr. London

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Contact Cst. Caroline Kennedy to RSVP

e-mail: caroline.kennedy@jus.gov.on.ca

CPTED Ontario Zone 1 (central) meeting

Friday, June, 30th, 2006

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: TBA

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

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

Canadian Association of Certified Planning Technicians

Annual General Meeting

Friday October 20th, 2006

CPTED introduction

www.cacpt.org

CPTED Ontario 2006 conference

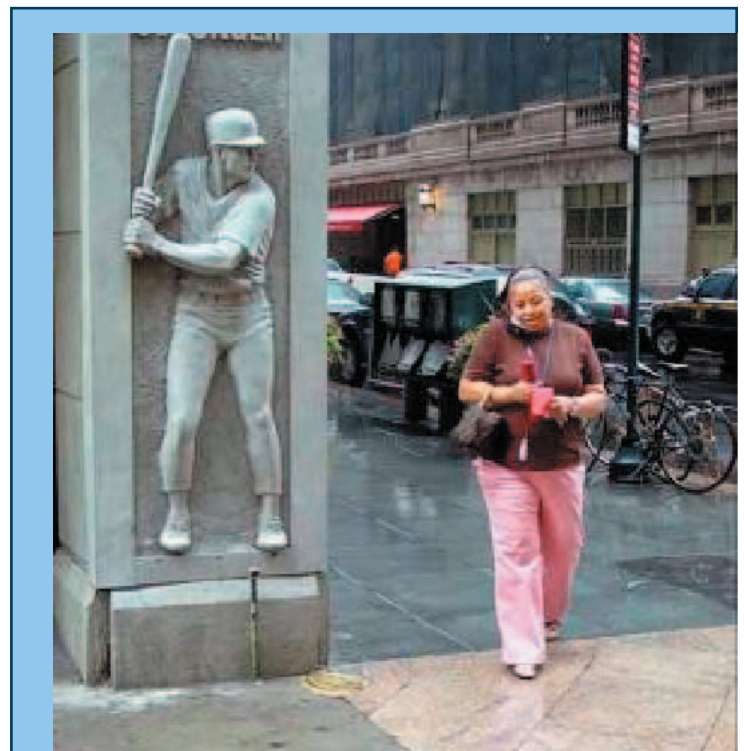
Monday Oct. 23rd-24th, 2006

Holiday Inn

Harmony & 401



CPTED Ontario members take a tour of a recently renovated Community Centre at a Zone 1 meeting.



A perceived concealment opportunity . . .

CPTED Ontario DIRECTORS: 2004 - 2006

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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 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 with reduced registration costs for taking an introductory session.

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

2006 - 2007 CPTED Ontario Membership Form

I/We wish to become a: (*Choose one*) New application Renewal
Corporate Member \$350.00/2 years
Individual Member \$40.00/2 years
Student Member \$10.00/2 years

DO YOU WISH YOUR INFORMATION POSTED ON THE WEB? yes no

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 info@cptedontario.ca

CPTED Ontario is a division of the CPTED Institute



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