



SCARP

School of Community
And Regional Planning

NEWSLETTER - FALL 2008

This issue of Newsbytes has been built around the topic of **climate change** and how we at SCARP are anticipating and responding to the on-going demands on urban and rural communities. In addition there are articles about developments beyond the walls of SCARP and information that details career opportunities for furthering one's Planning education. As well you will find updates regarding SCARP Faculty, Staff, and courses for the upcoming semester. We look forward to hearing your feedback and invite you to contribute ideas and suggestions for articles (scarpnews@gmail.com). Thank you and enjoy!

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PhD Candidate Ren Thomas & SCARP's Director Penny Gurstein

SCARP's 1st Biannual Graduation/Alumni Reception

SCARP had its first biannual Graduation/Alumni Reception on Thursday, November 20th, 2008. This event was designed to celebrate the achievements of this year's graduates after their ceremony at the Chan Center. Led by Ren Thomas, SCARP PhD Student, SCARP students were involved in painting banners, ordering delicious food from AMS Catering, putting together music, and setting up the room for the event. We had about 40 graduates, family members, and faculty this year and we would like this to become a biannual event for spring and fall graduations. Each year, we hope that more and more alumni attend, so that we can continue to give back something to them. Thanks to our Director, Penny Gurstein, as well as representatives from CFIS for their support and advertising for this reception.

AFFORDABLE EcoDENSITY: SCARP AFFECTING POLICY

In June 2008, a brief was submitted to Vancouver City Council, *Affordable EcoDensity: Making Affordable Housing a Core Principle of Vancouver's EcoDensity Charter* that addresses the city's EcoDensity Initiative by Marc Lee (Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives), Erick Villagomez (Metis Design-Build), Penny Gurstein (SCARP, UBC), David Eby (Pivot Legal Society) and Elvin Wyly (Geography, UBC).

The submission argues that affordable housing must be a central plank of EcoDensity on both equity and environmental grounds. We question the central premise of EcoDensity that increasing density is tantamount to greater affordability. Without a deliberate, city-wide policy to ensure affordability, existing trends will worsen, leading to adverse impacts on livability and sustainability that undermine the core objectives of EcoDensity.

Policy recommendations that would greatly enhance the social sustainability of EcoDensity include making extensive use of City-owned land and the Property Endowment Fund, and using a variety of financial incentives and alternative tenure arrangements to secure affordable housing for the long term.

Bill Rees (SCARP, UBC) submitted his own brief that emphasized many of the same recommendations but with a different emphasis: the need to set standards and affordability targets. He emphasized that EcoDensity planning should include guideline ratios and specific targets for housing units that reflect the full range of market demand for floor-space and affordability. By increasing the supply of housing units and guaranteeing that a certain proportion of dwellings is available for smaller families and families of limited means, average housing costs under the EcoDensity approach should be lower than would be the case in a business-as-usual scenario.

Further policy work of SCARP faculty and students to address climate change and equity issues is being planned through The Climate Justice Project, a joint project with the Canadian Centre for Policy Al-

ternatives and SCARP. With Co-Directors, Marc Lee (CCPA) and Penny Gurstein (SCARP), and researchers from UBC, SFU, and UNBC, as well as researchers in community organizations, the project seeks to identify and develop economic and social policy options that lead to aggressive action on climate change with broad-based public support. The overarching aim is to develop policy strategies that see the province of BC meeting its climate change obligations while simultaneously building in principles of social justice, with a focus on the needs of vulnerable populations, as well as improved well-being of BC communities more broadly. Research findings will have national and international relevance.

For more information - see link on the CCPA site: www.policyalternatives.ca/Reports/2008/06/ecodensity_brief

CIP & CLIMATE CHANGE: WHAT IS THE INSTITUTE DOING?

Adam Cooper

CIP's work in climate change started several years ago with a discussion with Natural Resources Canada (NRCan). There are now 5 partners working on 3 inter-related projects jointly involving the CIP and NRCan, with specific emphasis on the North.

Project Overviews:

- ◇ NRCan Climate Change Adaptation Project
- ◇ Nunavut Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- ◇ INAC Project: "Addressing Climate Change Adaptation: a Collaborative Approach in Supporting the Nunavut Climate Change Adaptation Plan"

These three inter-related projects or initiatives form the CIP climate change portfolio. The selection of projects and CIP's engagement in them are based on CIP's strategic plan. The development of these significant new partnerships has helped to achieve CIP's strategic goals and is creating exciting opportunities for members to participate in numerous aspects, from policy development to community planning, in the rapidly evolving field of climate change planning.

THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON URBAN SUSTAINABILITY (ICRUS)

As our world is increasingly becoming urban, most of the energy and material flows through the global economy (i.e., resource use and pollution) can be attributed to cities. It follows that cities are an appropriate and essential focus for research into ecologically necessary, socially acceptable and politically feasible ways of reducing the overall human load on the world's ecosystems and increasing sustainability.

Vision: In the spring of 2009, SCARP will launch the International Centre for Research on Urban Sustainability (ICRUS) with a focus on the ecological sustainability of human settlements, its interactions with, and implications for, the social, economic, and cultural dimensions of sustainability. This first Canadian urban oriented research centre will function as a dynamic hub of research and collaboration for students and faculty and will communicate with policy makers and the broader community. This research centre will:

Conduct ongoing research and applied projects on sustainability of urban areas. Build capacity to undertake large scale research projects. Provide research opportunities, guidance, and the technical means to students and researchers who are interested in ecological sustainability issues. Provide research continuity through archive of past student projects, theses and other sustainability research. Attract funding to support student research. Offer workshops and seminars to students and the broader community.

Mission: To explore conditions, scenarios and policies aimed at achieving sustainability with specific focus on implications for urban areas. The research centre will lead and support research and applied projects on the role of urban areas in un-sustainability and their potential contribution to sustainability. Key research objectives of the centre include:

- ◇ To identify and highlight urban activities points of interactions with ecological systems.
- ◇ To investigate and implement indicators and assessment tools for the urban sustainability.
- ◇ To connect local and global scales of sustainability.
- ◇ To investigate the social implications of ecological sustainability.
- ◇ To build an urban metabolism data bank.
- ◇ To support planners and decision makers with data on sustainable cities.
- ◇ To examine existing urban sustainability policy and introduce innovative policies.
- ◇ To develop and examine scenarios for sustainability.
- ◇ To create an archive of sustainability research from around the world.

ICRUS will bring together the theory and practice of planning for sustainability in an urban world. It will draw upon the experience of SCARP faculty and the broader UBC community. Several relevant research projects are already in process, including SSHRC funded studies of the Greater Vancouver metabolism, ecological footprint and policies for one planet living of this region; an examination of required policies and limitations to green building; and BC Housing funded study on GHG emissions related to different types of neighbourhoods.

Welcome to the New PSA of 2009:

Director: Lindsay Clark
Assistant Director: Asrai Ord
Treasurer: Nancy Pepper
Administrator: Stacy Passmore
Social Events Coordinator: Ellen Larcombe
Facilities Coordinator: Lauren Dawson

SCARP Orientation Coordinator: Silas Archambault
Communications & Outreach Coordinator: Jack Tse
Sustainability Officer: Joanna Clark
Co-Student Professional Skills Development Officer:
Laura Castrejon-Violante & Paris Marshall Smith
PIBC Representative: Heather Fehr
GSS Representative: Omer Aijazi
PlanTalk Representative: Vanessa Kay
Planning Associations Officer: Daniella Ferguson



Plan 548L: Urban Design Students with their model of Marine Drive Station Area

DESIGNING MARPOLE – 3 SCENARIOS: AN INTERVIEW WITH MAGED SENBEL

Under the direction of Maged Senbel, the SCARP's design lab is currently engaged in 3 exciting new projects:

1. Marpole Neighborhood Project – Station Area Planning: A multi-layered visioning process
2. In conjunction with Smart Growth, the lab is working to further understand the relationship between the impact of urban form on greenhouse gas emissions by synthesizing planning tools such as density, land use, proximity to CBD, and transportation.
3. A 3-point neighbourhood analysis: False Creek North, East Clayton and Coquitlam Town Centre in partnership with BC Housing.

This following is an outline of the Marpole project. For more information on the other two projects, please contact Maged Senbel directly.

Purpose of study:

To improve the discourse on density responding to questions surrounding City of Vancouver's EcoDensity Planning Initiative (www.vancouver-ecodensity.ca),

To develop and more nuanced understanding of climate change and the anticipated impact on urban areas.

To establish a framework on diversity that is more inclusive.

To create mechanisms to respond to people's concerns while creating space for learning.

3-Scenarios:

◇ Physical Modeling: During the fall Semester, Urban Design students constructed a model of the Marpole community. On December 2, students presented their work to the public.

◇ Filming: Jonathan Franz (Ear to the Ground) and Johanna Mazur (2nd year SCARP student) will lead the production of 4 films about the community a) teaching and learning, b) community process, c) expert voices with climate change drivers (community expressed interest in seeing this one) d) animation of urban form

◇ Digital Modeling: An architecture student will design 3 models – a) uber green, b) climate change adaptation, c) current standard of densification

Community Process: On November 26th, organizers convened a local workshop in Marpole to increase the understanding of the hopes and aspiration of the community.

UBC CLIMATE ACTION SYMPOSIUM: PLANNING CONNECTIONS

Vanessa Kay

As part of UBC's Celebrate Learning Week, the Sustainability Office and the Provost co-hosted a Climate Action Symposium on October 2, representing academic and operational commitments to sustainability. This one-day event brought together over 200 professors, researchers, staff, students and community members. Through opening and closing talks, as well as several panel discussions, speakers and participants shared adaptation and mitigation solutions for climate change that are currently being generated, tested, studied and applied through research at UBC and around the world.

Research with immediate applications for planning was presented as part of the "Accelerating Solutions to Climate Change," panel. Dr. Stephen Sheppard, a UBC professor jointly appointed in Forestry and Landscape Architecture, presented research on computer modeling and public involvement from the Collaborative for Advanced Landscape Planning (CALP). CALP is an interdisciplinary group of UBC researchers who are finding new ways to engage the public in visioning and sustainability planning processes using graphical modelling of scientifically based information. Powerful images that CALP researchers have generated to support public involvement processes are available on their website at www.calp.forestry.ubc.ca. (Hint: refresh the CALP home page to see different images.)

It should come as no surprise that one of the people who worked very hard to plan this sustainability-focused event is a SCARP student! Jeca Glor-Bell, a 3rd year masters student, is currently working on a professional project with the UBC Sustainability Office on the subject of public participation in UBC's Climate Action Framework process. She graciously agreed to an interview for this article. Jeca spent much of the three months leading up to the Symposium working for the UBC Sustainability Office as a Planner for Climate Events and Special Projects. In this capacity, she coordinated a small army of speakers and volunteers and arranged logistical details to ensure the event's environmental responsibility in form as well as content; real plates and cups were

used for refreshments, and speakers were delighted to receive local produce from the UBC farm as gifts.

Planning this interdisciplinary public involvement event did present its challenges, not the least of which were related to inclusivity, such as presenting a diversity of speakers and including all aspects of the UBC Community in outreach. For Jeca as a planner, one of the most challenging aspects was setting a limited scope for the event and communicating these realistic expectations to all participants. The primary purpose of the Climate Action Symposium was to educate and inform; while it did set the groundwork for future forums for engagement, the event itself was not primarily participatory in nature. All participants did have opportunities to ask questions and share insights as part of each panel discussion; their contributions are captured in the official notes from the panels.

For anyone who missed out on attending UBC's Climate Action Symposium, please visit www.sustain.ubc.ca/climate.html. This collection of knowledge that was generated at the Climate Action Symposium will hopefully give rise to new connections between members of the UBC community as well as ongoing discussions about adaptation and mitigation solutions to climate change.

Jeca Glor-Bell, SCARP student and Climate Events Planner with the UBC Sustainability Office presenting at the Climate Action Symposium on October 2



UBC/PIBC 2008 Career Fair

Iona To

On September 25, 2008, UBC SCARP and the Planning Institute of BC (PIBC) co-hosted our inaugural 2008 Career Fair: Planting the Seeds of Tomorrow. Held in the heart of Metro Vancouver at Simon Fraser University (SFU) Harbour Centre, this unique networking and professional development event attracted over 250 attendees throughout the evening!



Exhibitors busy chatting with attendees

24 exhibitor booths representing municipal governments, consulting firms, non-profit organizations, and academic programs, as well as students and alumni from various UBC and SFU programs all made their way to the event. Alumni from several planning-related programs were also present at the Career Resource Corner booth to answer questions and provide career advice to current and potential students.

The event began with welcoming remarks from Iona To, the UBC representative on the PIBC Council and the coordinator of the event, Penny Gurstein, the Director of SCARP, and Lindsay Chase, the President-Elect of PIBC. Throughout the evening, exhibitors provided valuable information about their organizations, as well as about current and potential employment and volunteer opportunities. This event not only allowed students to connect with practitioners, it also reunited many alumni SCARPIes.



Iona To and Penny Gurstein at the SCARP booth

And thanks to the generous sponsorship from SFU Community Trust, the City of Vancouver, City of Surrey, District of North Vancouver, and TransLink, attendees were also able to enjoy delicious healthy food and refreshments. When asked about what they thought of the event, both attendees and exhibitors are in agreement that it was a success. In fact, there are already discussions about holding it again in the future!

Re-Designing SCARP Through Strategic Planning

Tony Dorsey Chair, Strategic Planning Working Group

Students, faculty, alumni and employers agree that there is a need to strengthen SCARP's Masters Degree so as to better prepare graduates for a lifetime career in planning. However, views about how to do this vary and careful thought is needed on how best to act.

At the time of writing people are still completing the online SWOT survey undertaken as part of the School's strategic planning but it is already evident that enhancing the Masters Degree is just one of many things that the School should consider addressing if it is to build on its strengths, capitalize on opportunities, remedy weaknesses and avoid threats. Other key examples where there are potentials for innovation are the PhD program and the School's Centre for Human Settlements.

We cannot address all the issues immediately given constraints on time and resources available. Therefore the next step during November is to set priorities for tackling the lengthy list and to shape a strategy for acting on items in the short, medium and long term. Here is how we envisage proceeding using the Masters Program as an example.

Short Term – This Year

In this time period changes can be made that benefit current students before they graduate next year. The focus would be on items that are relatively easy to address, quickly implemented and produce substantial payoffs. A good example that has been proposed by students and employers during early SWOT feedback is to better prepare graduating students for applying and interviewing for jobs. Employers have offered to help with short training courses. Within this time window changes can also be made in the program offerings for students entering next fall. For example, a new course on land use planning will be offered with the arrival of Dr. Mark Stevens, the new SCARP faculty hire.

Medium Term – Within Two Years

By the fall of 2010 it is possible to make changes in the degree program that require University approvals. The PAB and CIP accreditation reviews will be completed early in 2010 and can provide the opportunity to review proposed changes. An example of the kind of changes to be considered in this time frame would be revisions to the content and number of required core courses. This would be one way of responding to concerns from accreditors and employers that all graduating students should demonstrably have covered more of what is considered fundamental to a masters planning curriculum than is presently the case with the relatively limited coverage of SCARP's core curriculum.

Longer Term – Within Five Years

The upcoming retirements of senior faculty provide the School with an unprecedented opportunity to make fundamental changes in its capacity in ways that could support new directions for SCARP. Included in this could be much more significant innovations in the focus and structure of the masters degree. For example, key questions addressed could include: Should sustainability continue to be SCARP's distinctive

focus? If yes, then how can that focus be sharpened to put the School on the cutting edge in its research, teaching, capacity building and service programs?

In the coming month the Working Group will be analyzing the SWOT feedback and assessing potential priorities and how to address them in preparation for making recommendations on a work plan to the faculty. Please register on the web site if you want to be informed about next steps and opportunities to participate in the strategic planning process. <http://sites.google.com/site/scarpsstrategicplanning/>

Taking Advantage of Student Internships at the City of Vancouver

Nancy Hofer

Last summer, I had the pleasure of working along side Vancouver City planning staff for one of the most insightful and rewarding experiences of my planning education. The staff were friendly and helpful and eager to integrate me into the workplace culture. The nature of my project allowed me to consult with people from a wide range of departments within the City, aside from Planning. The work that I produced was practical and is being used today. Through this experience I gained confidence, a stronger network and exposure to job prospects among other things.

My own internship involved researching sustainability indicators that will be used to monitor the environmental, social and economic performance of the Southeast False Creek development. The project scope was negotiated between myself and the planners I was working with on the project who were more than willing to accommodate my schedule and internship requirements.

When I mentioned this experience to other students, some seemed surprised at my 'good fortune' to land an internship at the City of Vancouver and wondered how they could go about initiating such an arrangement. Well it is easier than you might think.

The City of Vancouver has a Student Intern-

ship Coordinator, Kira Girwing, who solicits manageable student projects from City staff throughout the fall and winter and posts them as the summer approaches.

Other past internship projects at the following departments include:

- ◇ **Housing Centre** - Developing a tool kit of information on the City's website to inform letter writing or lobbying for Council recommendations to other levels of government.
- ◇ **Rezoning Centre** - Researching the development permit and rezoning processes of other municipalities.
- ◇ **Greenways** - Developing an evaluation tool for greenways on the ecological or "green" values of these spaces and places.
- ◇ **Social Planning** - Updating a report on the methods for calculating childcare provisions in communities.

If you can see yourself pursuing a career in the public sector, or just want to know more about planning practice, feel free to contact me about my own experience or contact Kira Girwing: kira.girwing@vancouver.ca / 604-871-6168.

Where's the Square? The competition in brief

Lisa Moffatt

The Urban Design Working Group of the Vancouver Public Space Network is running a design competition to create a public square for Vancouver. Public squares form the heart of many great cities around the world. When well-designed, they provide a central location for accessible, year-round activity – whether these be as straightforward as eating a bite of lunch, catching some sun, or playing a game of chess, or as elaborate as community celebrations, concerts and political rallies. Public squares are engines of cultural and local economy, as well as the spatial realization of democratic principles.

Starting in 2008, the Vancouver Public Space will be launching a public ideas competition that will aim to generate ideas about where such a square might

be located in the city, and what it might look like. The competition will be supported by a variety of public events that will aim to engage residents of Vancouver in thinking about the role and value that a public square could play in the city. The ideas competition will be open to any individual, school and organization in the city that wishes to participate. This will be a competition for the best ideas, not necessarily the best drawings. The main objective of the Where's the Square Design Competition is to raise public awareness about the importance of public squares and the significance they hold for the creation and fostering of public interaction. A series of events led up to the competition launch. Our first event was a panel discussion featuring a selection of three of Canada's most prominent urbanists, architects and designers to help explore the importance of public gathering places, and benefits that a grand gathering space – like Times Square in New York, Trafalgar Square in London, or Piazza Navona in Rome – might have for Vancouver.

Our guests for the evening were:

Lance Berelowitz

Principal, Urban Forum Associates and author of *Dream City: Vancouver and the Global Imagination*

Cornelia Hahn Oberlander

Canada's preeminent landscape architect and one of the creative forces behind Expo 67, Robson Square and the National Gallery of Canada

Bing Thom,

Principal, Bing Thom Architects, and recipient of the Order of Canada

The next events will focus more on the design competition.

On November 15 – the Design Brief was released followed by 2 speaker series on November 27th & December 11th.

For more information about upcoming dates: www.vancouverpublicspace.ca and to follow the discussion on public spaces stay tuned for the Winter Issue of Newsbytes.

SCARP Announcements

FALL 2008 SCARP GRADUATES - Congratulations!

Masters

MAP: Robert Bateman, Jeff Chase, Keltie Craig, Megan Faulkner, Jana Fox, Celene Fung, Max Goldstein, David Hawkins, Jay Lancaster & Haley Mousseau

MScP: Kaitlin Kazmierowski

PhD: Meidad Kissinger

ONE CREDIT COURSES BEING OFFERED IN JANUARY

- PLAN 548J-Mobility Management Concepts & Practices, with Todd Litman
- PLAN 548N-Comprehensive Transportation Evaluation, with Todd Litman
- PLAN 548Y-Environmental & Aboriginal Law Issues, with Wally Braul
- PLAN 548D-Affordable Housing Policy & Planning, with Margaret Eberle
- Bill Buholzer will offer a one credit course in Sept. 2009-PLAN 548I-Land Use Law
- All of contact information can be found on the SCARP web site @ www.scarp.ubc.ca/adjfac.

FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENTS

◇ **Penny Gurstein** was named Director of SCARP on July 1, 2008 - see story: www.cfis.ubc.ca/page485.htm

◇ **Bill Rees** is on Sabbatical from July 1, 2008 til June 30, 2009.

◇ **Larry frank** is on Sabbatical from Sept. 1, 2008 til August 31, 2009.

◇ **Tim McDaniels** will be on Administrative leave from January 1 til June 30, 2009.

◇ **Tom Hutton** is Associate Director of SCARP for CHS

◇ **Michael Leaf** is Chair of the Masters Program

◇ **Leonie Sandercock** is Chair of the PhD Program

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Qualitative Research Methods in Planning:

Have a research experience that you are excited about or that you think others might learn from? Or

a frustration you hope others can avoid? Students in PLAN 515 consistently call for more methods-related readings in planning.

I am looking for two short articles on the uses of qualitative methods. This will complete a monograph featuring four qualitative methods useful for planning practice (on-line publication).

To participate, send a 200 word abstract briefly describing the project (purpose and application), methods, year of the project and outcome. The abstract should also describe the innovation or qualities which make the method of interest to planners and those studying planning (including recruitment, analysis, methodology or sampling technique or any other unique features). Author(s) would be asked to produce a short article (7500 words). This could be written in the first person. Anticipated publication date is summer 2009; intended audience is the SCARP and PIBC communities (practicing planners).

Deadline for submission is January 6th 2009.

Send to svilches@interchange.ubc.ca subject: "Qual Methods abstracts".

UPCOMING EVENTS

SCARP Symposium on Sustainability – March 13 & 14th 2009 The 2 days will include panel discussions, walking tours, student presentations, evening wine and cheese and a keynote address by scholar-in-residence, Thomas Campanella. Please check the website for more information.

NEW BABIES

Congratulations to SCARP PhD student Lily Yumagulova on the birth of her beautiful new boy - Alexander Timur Reynolds - born October 16th, 2008.

