

CELEBRATING

**25**  
YEARS



Counting:

CALL FOR PROPOSALS



Tackling  
**THE Biggest**  
Challenges  
TO Planning  
AND THE  
**Profession**

ONTARIO PROFESSIONAL PLANNERS INSTITUTE  
Conference



October 12 - 14, 2011 *Ottawa* CONVENTION CENTRE

[www.ontarioplanners.on.ca](http://www.ontarioplanners.on.ca)

**ONTARIO PLANNERS: VISION • LEADERSHIP • GREAT COMMUNITIES**



In 2011, the Ontario Professional Planners Institute turns 25 — an excellent time for looking back and looking forward. It's a chance to re-examine assumptions, take stock, and build awareness about our profession and its relevance to the world around us.

The Institute represents a diverse group of professional planners who have made important contributions to the quality of life in all types of communities, but we cannot rest on our past accomplishments.

**There is still much we need to do.**

Does our history provide sufficient assurance of the continued relevance of planning and the profession? Can we assume that our place and identity as a distinct profession in a changing world will continue? Is the status quo for our profession appropriate for the emerging challenges we face? Are we doing enough to prepare ourselves to be key agents in the management and growth of healthy and sustainable communities?

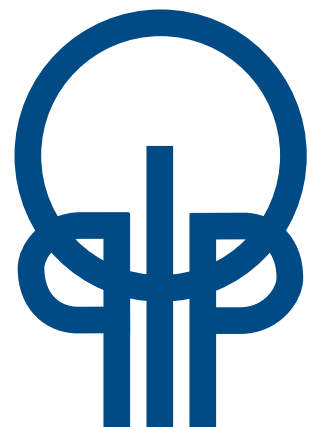
## Interesting questions.

If the answer to all of them is no — *and some would say it is* — then now is the time to glance back, consider the present, and look forward into the future of:

- the planning **profession**,
- our **practices**, and
- the **projects** that define us.

We encourage you to submit session proposals that address some of the challenging and complex issues we face as practicing planners.

This is an excellent opportunity to engage and share information with fellow planners, colleagues in related fields, academics and students.



OPPI's **2011** Conference Organizing Committee is looking for inspired reflection, astute theory, and assertions of bold purpose about the following subthemes:



## our profession



1

- How planners are trained and how they keep their skills current,
- How planners can develop the necessary leadership skills and approaches,
- How planners handle the growing diversity of planning practice, and areas of specialization,
- How planners fit into their roles in government and the community.

## our practices

2

- How planners can learn from policies and practices elsewhere,
- How planners can work to improve the structure of Ontario planning processes, from official plans and zoning to approvals and consents,
- What planners need to know about demographic, economic, and technological trends,
- How planners can use new tools and information management systems,
- How planners can engage the public and consult with communities.

## our projects

3

- What has worked — processes, policies, and implementation,
- What has not worked — lessons learned,
- How planners can work in partnership with other professions and groups and across jurisdictions,
- What planners can learn from non-traditional planning processes and initiatives.

# New Planners AND Students – The Alternative Media Café IS BACK!



We will once again feature **The Alternative Media Café** offering an opportunity for you to showcase your work — posters, videos, podcasts, on-line communities, interactive mapping, blogs, innovative communication tools ... you name it!

Friday, October 14th is designated **Student Day** when there will be several opportunities to share your work.

You are also invited to submit proposals for conference sessions for any of the conference themes.

The Alternative Media Café is for students and newly graduated planners to showcase their work. Students and newly graduated planners will have **until March 14, 2011 to submit** their proposals for the Alternative Media Café only. You will be notified prior to April 21, 2011 if your submission has been accepted.

The Conference Committee encourages you to consider the use of alternative media in the 2010-2011 academic year so that this new and recently finished work can be **showcased** at the 2011 conference.



Subtheme 1:

# Professional Planners – Development Leadership AND Diversity

Planners have been at the forefront of growth management planning, transit-oriented development, agricultural lands preservation, protection of natural resources, and sustainable community development. This subtheme will include a focus on the areas of planning in the last 25 years in which the work of our practitioners has shaped vibrant livable communities. How has planning evolved as a profession? How have the demographic changes in our own profession affected the way we work and how has this affected the diversity of roles and practices?



# Our profession

At the same time, we need to acknowledge the current economic climate. How can planning be resilient in troubled economic and social times? How does our profession respond to the challenges posed by globalization, economic restructuring, and limited public resources? What is the balance between regulation and facilitating economic recovery? How can planning address the no-growth or declining community?

Finally, we are looking for papers, panels, or workshops focusing on what it takes to be a future leader. How do we educate and mentor planners to become leaders and not just advisors? What ethical issues influence leadership? What do today's managers need to do to build solid teams of planners for the future and what project management and human resources skills do planners need to know? How are we perceived compared to other professions? We also want to explore how we can improve our work environments, and how we can ensure work-life balance in our careers.

Subtheme 2:

# Professional Practices – Beyond THE Status Quo



This subtheme will draw on leading-edge planning practices from around the world, including sessions that illustrate the role that Ontario planners are playing in other parts of the world. Sessions will also address what planners from other places can teach us. For example, is traditional zoning meeting current and future needs? How has it changed in the last 25 years, and what further changes can we contemplate, such as form-based zoning?

Computers, CAD and GIS have also changed the way we work. What are the emerging technologies and practices that will affect the way we will work in the future? How is social media changing the way we communicate with stakeholders? How can we use these new techniques to improve the quality of public engagement? How do we address social diversity in our techniques for stakeholder consultation? How can we use visual tools to communicate ideas? What will replace PowerPoint?



Subtheme 3:

# Projects – Lessons FROM THE Present AND THE Past



The world has changed enormously in the last 25 years and some of our efforts have not had the intended or desired result. For example, we know now that auto-dominated communities are not as healthy and sustainable as communities that offer active transportation choices. Also, approaches to dealing with housing affordability are changing. What lessons can we learn from our past advice and direction? What lessons can we learn from what lies beneath today's cities?

This subtheme explores projects of today and yesterday that can teach us important lessons. Where are the leading trends in sustainable community design and active transportation? Are current practices really meeting the tests of balancing social, economic, and environmental objectives?



How do we prepare our communities for the effects of climate change? How have recently instituted greenbelts, intensification requirements, and transportation and infrastructure systems affected our urban footprint, and how will they affect it in the future? How are heritage features integrated into our 21st century communities? What is the future of rural communities, and what makes rural sustainability different from urban sustainability?

What are the changing land economics trends that are affecting commercial and industrial development? What affects the feasibility of different forms of residential development — and do our plans reflect market realities? How are demographic trends changing what we build?

What projects are catalysts for community change? How do large institutional and recreational/sports projects influence communities? Is brownfield redevelopment achieving the desired results?



# Our projects

# How TO **Submit** Your Proposal



All proposals must be submitted online  
by visiting the [call for proposals website](#).

Fax or hardcopy versions will not be accepted.

For **technical support**, please call 416-595-1414 x236  
or email: **[oppi@absolutevents.com](mailto:oppi@absolutevents.com)**.

## Submissions must contain the following information:

- the title of the presentation, which should clearly indicate the topic.
- the name(s) of all presenter(s), job title, academic background, institutional or corporate affiliation, and contact information, including email address, telephone and fax.
- the speakers' previous speaking experience including relevant speaking engagements.
- the proposed presentation format. **Please note that the Program Committee encourages innovative approaches to presentations.**
- a clear and concise description or abstract of the session **no more than 300 words in length.**
- specialized equipment requirements.



# Presentation Formats

Your proposal should be designed to fit the Conference Program's overall structure, as follows.

The Conference Program will include a mix of plenary and concurrent sessions that are designed to appeal to a variety of learning styles. Concurrent sessions may include: panel discussions, workshops, mobile tours and workshops, training sessions and other media (including alternative media such as posters, blogs, videos).

Your **creative** proposals for **new** presentation approaches will be appreciated and **considered!**



Detailed requirements for specific kinds of sessions are as follows:

- **Intensive Training Workshops**  
on a particular topic (2 or more hours in length, 1-2 speakers). *Please note if the workshop has a limited capacity.*
- **Concurrent Sessions**  
including presentations, panel discussions, and workshops to be conducted within the conference venue (1.5 hour in length, 1-3 speakers) *Allow at least 20 minutes for Q&A.*
- **Mobile Tours and Workshops**  
to local venues and attractions. These may be walking workshops or involve transportation and/or refreshments. (2 or more hours in length, 1-2 leaders each) *Please indicate your requirements.*

Media Café submissions are as follows:

- The posters should be printed in colour on heavy 22"x 34" stock and may be mounted on boards up to 4 feet high and 8 feet wide. They should be clearly readable from a distance of 2 metres. The posters may be in vertical or horizontal format. Posters are to be on display throughout the day.
- Presenters must be available to explain and discuss their posters during times in the program to be specified by the Program Committee.
- **Other Formats:** videos, podcasts, on-line communities, interactive mapping, blogs, innovative communication tools ...

# Selection Criteria



The Program Committee will review all proposals and selection will be based on the following criteria:



- the topic's relevance to planning and to the conference theme(s), and its capacity to engage and challenge the conference
- the submission's consistency with the minimum information and format requirements listed on the previous page
- the presenters' expertise, knowledge and ability to engage and challenge delegates
- the proposed session's fit within the conference structure.



**Please Note:**

Proposals which are intended to solicit business or sell services will not be considered.



# Key Dates



Proposals due:

**January 10, 2011**

Submissions must be received no later than  
5 pm EST on the day of the deadline.

**Submissions will not be accepted after that time.**

Notification by  
Program Committee:

**February 28, 2011**

## Students and New Planner Proposals

for The Alternative Media Café

**Only** are due:

**March 14, 2011**

Submissions must be received no later than  
5 pm EST on the day of the deadline.

**Submissions will not be accepted after that time.**

The Alternative Media Café  
notifications will be provided by

**April 21, 2011**



# Review Process

- All submissions will be reviewed and refereed by the Program Committee, which is composed of Institute volunteers from practice and academia.
- The Program Committee may determine that a proposal could or should be presented in a format, or conference theme, other than that proposed by the submitter. The submitter will be consulted regarding this option.
- The decision of the Program Committee on the inclusion or rejection of a proposal, and the presentation format, is final.
- The Program Committee will notify those who have submitted proposals of its decision by email.
- The Program Committee will not respond to requests for comment regarding rejection of any proposal.

CELEBRATING  
**25**  
YEARS  
& Counting



# Presenters'

## RESPONSIBILITIES

- Presenters must have their presentations to the session moderator **by June 17, 2011**
- Presenters must be ready to rehearse their full presentation with the session moderator (in person or by conference call) **by September 9, 2011**
- Presenters must indicate an intent to attend and register for the conference.
- Presenters will be responsible for all expenses including travel, conference registration, non-sponsored meals and miscellaneous charges.
- If a presenter(s) is unable to attend the conference, the conference will provide either breakfast or lunch, whichever is closest to the presentation time.



If you have any **questions** about the above, please contact us by email at [oppi@absolutevents.com](mailto:oppi@absolutevents.com)

Visit the conference website at

[www.ontarioplanners.on.ca](http://www.ontarioplanners.on.ca)

for more information on the conference.