

ACO City Building Lecture: Designing our Neighbourhoods

The local branch of Architectural Conservancy Ontario (ACO) will once again host a series of three educational lectures open to the public. The **City Building lectures series** will examine the role played by planning, urban design and landscape architecture in the 3-dimensional development of our communities while still encouraging the preservation of our built heritage.



The first lecture coincides with [World Town Planning Day](#), an international event celebrating the accomplishments of planners and their contributions to communities.

Waterloo Region has grown from a scattering of small villages to one of Canada's largest and most vibrant urban areas. A strong economy has propelled significant growth, and Kitchener and Waterloo have many neighborhoods built in different eras over the past 150 years.

On Thursday, November 9, Glenn Scheels, Principal Planner with [GSP Group](#), will present **Designing our Neighborhoods: Trends and Influences over 150 Years**, a look at some of those representative periods and the type of development that occurred during that time.

"Kitchener was at the forefront of municipal planning in the 1920s," explains Scheels, "and produced two major city plans which were followed by the first zoning by-law in the province to regulate land development. The twin cities grew modestly through the 1920s and '30s, and then began a rapid pace of growth like much of southern Ontario following World War II. Outward expansion occurred and farm fields became new residential neighbourhoods and industrial parks. A new system of major roadways connected the neighbourhoods during this car-oriented period of growth. The form of this urbanization was shaped by various planning and land development trends happening elsewhere in North America, but we also had our own unique approach to city building."

Today, an increasing amount of local growth is through redevelopment as the cities' mature, land prices increase and public policy promotes intensification over outward expansion. Our new rapid transit system and the planning for growth along that transit corridor provides a framework for the reurbanization of our community.

Please join us at 7 p.m., Thursday, November 9, in the Grand River Room, WalterFedy, 675 Queen Street South, Kitchener. Admission is free to ACO members, \$8.50 to non-members. Memberships are available at the door. Reserve your seat through [Eventbrite](#).

Watch for information about two more City Building lectures in winter and spring 2018.

Formed in 1980, [North Waterloo Region branch](#) serves the five municipalities in the northern part of the Region of Waterloo. As part of the larger provincial organization - [Architectural Conservancy Ontario](#) - ACONWR encourages the conservation and re-use of structures, districts and landscapes of architectural, historical and cultural significance through education and advocacy.

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*For more information, please contact Marg Rowell, President,
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