



what's in the air?

November 2011 Issue | Clean Air Partnership E-Newsletter

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Message from the Executive Director

I wish you the best for the Holiday Season on behalf of everyone at the Clean Air Partnership (CAP). We have had a great year working with partners to help make our towns and cities cleaner and more sustainable urban environments. It's a privilege for all of us at CAP to work closely with local partners with a shared common goal of healthy communities, and to be able to employ a range of tools to achieve results including research, mapping, policy initiatives, and training events.

Since the beginning of 2011, CAP has been busy delivering a series of 5 expert-led Community Adaptation Initiative workshops in a variety of locations across the province. The proceedings from these workshops will be available on our website shortly. We have also completed a series of adaptation training workshops for staff and political representatives from a range of Ontario municipalities in southern, northern, south western and south eastern parts of the province, as part of the Ontario Regional Adaptation Collaborative. We are starting now to track and document the actions that communities are taking to reduce the worst impacts of changing climate.

Our active transportation program has changed its name to the Toronto Centre for Active Transportation and is currently engaged in establishing a province-wide Complete Streets information hub. My goal is to continue to build programs, policies and practices that facilitate urban communities making the transition to a clean, healthy air quality and a low carbon future. At CAP, we all strive to expand our joint vision through community-based research and strategies for: healthy communities, clean air; climate adapted, resilient cities; a sustainable built environment that reflects livable, sustainable urban planning, with convenient, accessible, public transit and active forms of transportation.

For more information about our clean air and climate change initiatives, please visit our website: www.cleanairpartnership.org.

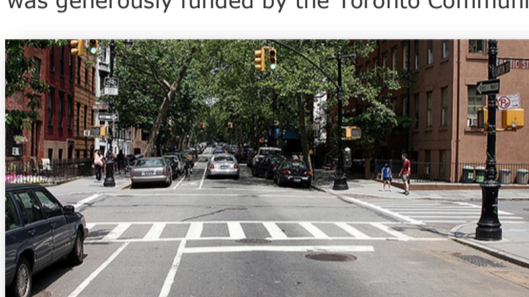
All the best in the New Year.

Eva Ligeti, Executive Director, Clean Air Partnership



TCAT at Walk21 Conference

October 2011 - Nancy Smith Lea had the privilege of attending the excellent [Walk21 conference](#) in Vancouver and presented TCAT's [Active Transportation Benchmarking in Canada study](#). This trip was generously funded by the Toronto Community Foundation.



For more information, contact TCAT Director, Nancy Smith Lea at 416.392.0290 or [info @ tcat.ca](mailto:info@tcat.ca).

[Read more](#)

Photo Source: Dan Burden, www.flickr.com/photos/completestreets

TCAT Turns Five and Gets a New Name

TCAT is pleased to announce that it has changed its name to TCAT! That's right, the Toronto *Coalition* for Active Transportation is now the Toronto *Centre* for Active Transportation. Read on to find out more about the reasons behind this change. Download the full press release [here](#).

The Toronto Coalition for Active Transportation was formed in 2006 to give a unified voice to the many groups working for a better cycling and pedestrian environment in Toronto. For five years, we have worked toward our vision of cities and communities that are safe, convenient, and enjoyable to walk and bike in.

Since becoming a project of Clean Air Partnership, a registered charitable organization, TCAT has evolved from a grassroots advocacy group into a research and education organization. As a result, we are celebrating our fifth birthday by changing our name to the Toronto Centre for Active Transportation. [Read more](#)

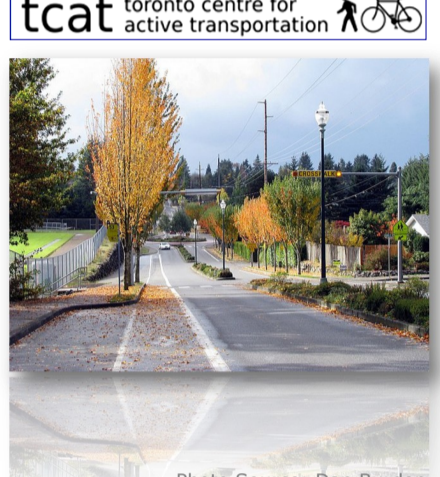


Photo Source: Dan Burden, www.flickr.com/photos/completestreets

Adaptation Case Studies in Ontario Communities

Over the past six months, CAP delivered adaptation training workshops to staff and political representatives from a broad range of Ontario municipalities as part of the Ontario Regional Adaptation Collaborative. Through these workshops, and our other work on climate change adaptation, we have connected with municipal representatives across Canada and identified a number of key recurring gaps relating to climate change adaptation in Canadian municipalities:

- ◆ There are very few publicized examples of ongoing municipal adaptation practices across the country.
- ◆ Actions to protect municipal infrastructure and health are, in fact, already taking place, often in response to significant incidents and events that result in damage to persons or property. However, these actions are not being documented nor are they being identified as climate change adaptation activities.
- ◆ Municipalities are not learning from each others' experiences; challenges and lessons learned are not shared, and actions are not being monitored and evaluated to determine their outcomes.
- ◆ Motivation for local adaptation tends to be reactive rather than preventative and the business case for cost savings from prevention has not been adequately communicated.

To close these gaps, CAP has secured funding through Natural Resources Canada's Regional Adaptation Collaborative to deliver a project that will: review and update the understanding of the current state of climate change adaptation in Canadian municipalities; describe the experiences of municipalities that have begun adaptation actions; and motivate more municipalities to undertake actions through a webinar series and inspirational case studies. To aid in the delivery of this project, CAP is forming an Expert Advisory Committee with representation from key industry sectors as well as municipal practitioners and academia.

We would love to hear of examples of adaptation in practice in your community that could serve as case studies for this project. If you have such an example, please contact Kevin Behan at 416.392.0268 or email Kevin at kbehan@cleanairpartnership.org.

Reports Published by the Clean Air Partnership (CAP)

[Climate Change Adaptation and Health Equity Summary Report](#), October 2011

[Building Strategic Partnerships to Create Adaptive Capacity in the Urban Forest Proceedings](#), October 2011

[Benchmarking Active Transportation in Canadian Cities: Report Highlights](#), September 2011

[Read more](#)



CAP Presented with a Plaque from the Trillium Foundation



Clean Air Partnership is pleased to announce that they were presented with a prestigious plaque from the Foundation. The Ontario Trillium Foundation is proud to support the building of healthy and vibrant communities across the province.

The Honourable Premier of Ontario, Dalton McGuinty, the Minister of Tourism and Cultures, Michael Chan and Acting Chair, Board of Directors, Janet Passmore authorized the plaque on behalf of the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Seeking Examples of Complete Streets in Your Community

The [Toronto Centre for Active Transportation](#) (TCAT), previous known as the Toronto Coalition for Active Transportation, a project of the Clean Air Partnership (CAP), is working towards centralizing the Complete Streets movement in Ontario and Canada. Complete Streets policies help ensure that our streets are routinely designed for all road users, including pedestrians, cyclists, transit users, and drivers of all ages and abilities. Please support this groundbreaking effort by providing leads and contacts in any of the following three areas to:

Ryan Whitney

Complete Streets Researcher and Project Manager at TCAT
Email: ryan.whitney@tcat.ca | Telephone: (416) 392-0260.

1) Any leads on Complete Streets policies, or Master Streets-like language, in your community's Complete Plan, Transportation Master Plan, Strategic Plan, Urban Design Guidelines etc. Or, more generally, any preliminary plans and/or community campaigns that have been occurring in your community around Complete Streets.

2) "Before and After" photos of streets in your community that have been designed, or redesigned, using a 'Complete Streets' lens. This does not necessarily mean that the change was achieved under a Complete Streets policy, but rather that the change reflects a Complete Streets perspective (i.e., considers the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, transit users and drivers of all ages and abilities).

3) Contact information for any planners, engineers, or advocates in your community who would be willing to speak further about the opportunities and barriers around implementing Complete Streets.

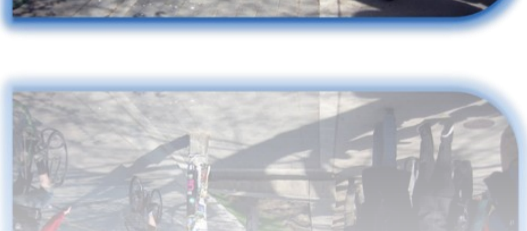
Deadline for Submission – December 10, 2011

Background:

The Toronto Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT) will complete two outcomes between now and October 2012 to centralize Complete Streets in Canada.

The first outcome will be the completion of a gap analysis report designed to better understand the current context of Complete Streets in Ontario (draft due mid-January, 2012).

The second outcome will be an online resource designed as a 'go to' for community members that are looking for more information on Complete Streets (due April, 2012).



Contact Us

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Make a Donation



[Click here](#) to make a secure donation.

We invite you to forward this newsletter to anyone who might be interested.

Note: [e-mail addresses above](#) (if any) have been masked to reduce spam. To form the correct e-mail, rejoin the two portions, separated with @.

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Our mission is to transform cities into sustainable, vibrant, resilient communities, where the air is clean to breathe and greenhouse gas emissions are minimized. Over the past ten years, CAP has fulfilled its mission to work with partners to achieve clean air, facilitate the exchange of ideas, advance change and promote and coordinate implementation of actions that improve local air quality.

What's in the air? keeps you connected to the Clean Air Partnership community and informed about the latest news, events, reports and developments at Clean Air Partnership.

If you would like to learn more about our clean air and climate change initiatives, visit www.cleanairpartnership.org.

About what's in the air? e-newsletter

We apologize for any cross-postings. You have received **what's in the air?** because you signed up for Clean Air Partnership's electronic newsletter or because you received it from a colleague or friend. If you have received this error and do not wish to receive our electronic newsletter, simply click [unsubscribe](#).

Clean Air Partnership (CAP) is a registered charity that works in partnership to promote and coordinate actions to improve local air quality and reduce greenhouse gases for healthy communities.

Charitable registration number: 890469562RR0001