



Ontarians Walking NOW

Pickpockets, Placemakers, and Planning

Registrations are underway for Ontario's Walking Now, a project to support the creation of walkable communities and encourage everyday walking. A series of regional workshops will be held across the province and a two-part webinar will be conducted in April and May. Green Communities Canada is delighted to announce a stellar line-up of keynote speakers to kick off the OWN regional workshops this spring. These individuals will bring their unique passion for walkable communities to the forefront.

Our keynote speakers are:

SANDRA JAMES
Ottawa, April 23rd



Sandy has been called "the interloper between the right brain and the left brain" and the "pickpocket" of the City of Vancouver. She works between the structural and the creative sides of city hall to ensure walking is the number one transportation priority. Her pickpocket reputation arises from her ability to find public and private funding for innovative projects centred around health, community, and sustainability.

In 2004 the Vancouver Sun newspaper named Sandy to its Honour Roll as Neighbourhood Planner of the Year. Sandy developed the Blooming Boulevards policy, has worked with the Country Lane concept, and continues to explore with residents how to make communities greener, healthier, and more walkable.

Sandy has a master's degree in City Planning, and is a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects. She holds a Mediation and Conflict Resolution Certificate from the British Columbia Justice Institute, and is a Master Gardener. Sandy has worked for the past eight years exclusively in greenway development and public process to encourage walkability. Sandy walks, talks, gardens and sails in Vancouver with her

partner Bob and their Greater Swiss Mountain Dog, Socrates.

CYNTHIA NIKITIN
Blind River, May 14th



Cynthia Nikitin has earned a reputation as a persuasive advocate for "Placemaking" as an approach to city planning and urban design. As a manager of numerous large-scale and complex projects during her seventeen years with Project for Public Spaces, Inc., where she is Vice President for Public Buildings and Downtowns as well as the director of the Civic Centers Program, she has striven to serve as a compelling voice in support of more sustainable towns and cities nation-wide.

With a portfolio of more than 175 projects, Cynthia's technical expertise stretches from the development of downtown main street master plans and corridor enhancement projects, to the creation of transit station area plans, and public art master plans for major cities.

A warm and humorous speaker, Cynthia has delivered keynote addresses, professional training, and lead workshops across the U.S. and abroad, and facilitates approximately 40 public workshops, planning and visioning sessions, and public meetings annually. She is currently working on a Centre City Parks Plan for Calgary AB, a Walkability Study for

Edmonton AB, and creating the Living Edge and great public spaces around new libraries in Stratford, ON and Antigonish, NS. Every weekend for the past 12 years she has spent in the Ashokan Reservoir watershed Hamlet of Boiceville, Town of Olive, NY population 8000.

GIL PENALOSA
Sarnia, April 6th
Six Nations, April 7th
Webinar, May 20th



Following years of private and public sector senior managerial experience, Gil Penalosa was appointed Commissioner of Parks, Sport and Recreation for the City of Bogotá, Colombia (pop. 7 m). Gil led his team to design and build over 200 parks, of which the best known is the Simon Bolivar (360 hectares/899 acres).

Under Gil's leadership, Bogota was revolutionized through the opening of 91 kilometers of car-free city roads on Sundays. These Sundays are now internationally known as the [Ciclovía](#), where over 1.5 m. people come out weekly to walk, run, skate and bike.

Gil is Executive Director of the Canadian non-profit Walk & Bike for Life as well as a successful international speaker, social marketing strategist, and consultant. Gil also works as Director of Healthy Places Initiatives with NYC's [Project for](#)

[Public Spaces](#) and as Senior Consultant for the renowned Danish firm [Gehl Architects](#). He serves on the Boards of Directors of [American Trails](#), [City Parks Alliance](#), [International Sport and Culture Association](#), as well as on Advisory Committees of [America Walks](#), [Green GTA](#) and [WalkON](#).

Gil lives in Ontario, Canada and enjoys outdoor activities with his wife and their three children.

JODY ROSENBLATT NADERI
Markham, April 2nd



Jody Rosenblatt Naderi teaches and conducts research at the graduate faculty of Texas A&M University's department of landscape architecture and urban planning.

Her current research focuses on the pedestrian environment as a setting for renewal and health, and on the safety effect of street trees. Professor Rosenblatt Naderi has won numerous design and communication awards and has published her work in pedestrian design nationally and internationally.

She holds a master's degree in landscape architecture from Harvard University. Professor Rosenblatt Naderi is currently on sabbatical conducting research in walkability and the design of contemplative walks at the University of Guelph in Ontario.

Locations of the OWN workshops

MARKHAM (Central region)

April 2

Town of Markham
CANADA ROOM
101 Town Centre Blvd.
Markham, ON, L3R 9W3

SARNIA (South West region)

April 6

Clearwater Arena
1400 Wellington St.
Sarnia, ON, N7S 5R5



SIX NATIONS OF THE GRAND RIVER

April 7

Six Nations Community Hall
1738 Fourth Line
Oshweken, ON, N0A 1M0

OTTAWA (East region)

April 23

Richelieu Vanier Community Centre
300 Des Perces-Blancs Ave.
Ottawa, ON, K1L 7L5

BLIND RIVER (North region)

May 14

Blind River Marina
1 Marina Rd.
Blind River, ON, P0R 1B0

REGISTRATION

www.canadawalks.ca/project_own.asp
1-877-533-4098x411
mjohnson@greencommunitiescanada.org

TWO-PART WEBINAR :

May 20 & 27
Live Online

Resources, Brainstorming, Action Planning & More

While the task for the OWN keynote presenters is to inspire participants with their expertise and passion for walkable communities, OWN is much more than listening to presentations. Resources will be introduced, concrete examples given, there will be time for sharing ideas and concerns, there will be activity time, and action planning time.

A key deliverable of the OWN project is the creation of community action plans that will move communities from talking to doing. This will be facilitated by ongoing support from Green Communities Canada throughout 2009 via telephone, email communications, the

www.canadawalks.ca website, and web conferencing. To get the most out of this opportunity, communities are encouraged to send a multi-stakeholder group whose work is connected to transportation, traffic engineering, sustainable community development, economic development, chronic disease prevention, recreation, parks and trails, and community safety.

Space is limited so please sign up now to avoid disappointment.

Registration details are available at:
http://www.canadawalks.ca/project_own.asp.



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