

What'SUP? Fall 2012

News of the School of Urban Planning at McGill University

Chers amis et amies / Dear friends,

I hope this newsletter reaches you as you are taking a good break for the holidays. The year that is coming to a close had a beautiful end in November-December. On November 8, the School celebrated the 65th anniversary of planning education at McGill University and in Canada, as well as the 40th anniversary of the School itself. A few weeks later, we received news that the School could hire a new professor. A very nice birthday present, I'd say.

THE JUDGE, THE MISSING MAYOR AND THE TWO DAVIDS

The November 8 event was a great success. It brought people together from Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver and other places, gave the School good visibility in the university and the city, and enabled us to honour **David Farley**, the school's founding director (see below). The day went smoothly, in large part thanks to the excellent work of coordinator **Dea van Lierop** (a 2nd-year MUP student, recent winner of a CIRRELT excellence award) and other student volunteers. May they be thanked for the next 65 years!

In the morning, we put Urban Planners on trial for all their past and current sins against the public. Under the watchful but benevolent eye of "Judge" and Adjunct Professor **Marc-André LeChasseur**—a fake judge but a real lawyer—, Adjunct Professor (and Canada Lands Corporation VP) **Cameron Charlebois** acted as our stern and yet funny prosecutor; Prof. **Lisa Bornstein** was our effective and ironic defense lawyer; and Prof. **David Brown**, CMHC program manager **Josée Dion**, Montréal senior planner **Sylvain Ducas**, UQAM professor **Florence Junca-Adenot**, SUP alumnus **Eric Peissel** and director of the Institut d'urbanisme **Franck Scherrer** brought eloquent testimony (in French and in English) in defense of planning. The witnesses admitted that planners had made mistakes but claimed that they had learned from them and were now generally doing good and doing it well. The jury (i.e., the audience), found the planning profession innocent, though not blameless.

The luncheon was supposed to have **Gérald Tremblay**, mayor of Montréal, as keynote speaker, with Provost **Anthony Masi** and Vice-Principal (Research and International Relations) **Rose Goldstein** as his McGill counterparts. Unfortunately, the mayor could not make it. He had a good excuse: he had resigned just three days earlier. (I invite you to consult news websites to know more about the political storm in Montréal.) Instead of the mayor, our guest of honour was **Alain Tassé**, city councilor of Verdun, who is now the member of Montréal Executive Committee in charge of urban planning. Acting Dean of Engineering Andrew Kirk welcomed everyone; Dr. Masi introduced M. Tassé with words about the importance of urban planning; the latter presented the mayor's speech; and Dr. Goldstein spoke about the relationship between McGill and Montréal as it will be embodied in a new project, the **Quartier de l'innovation** (see below).

The afternoon of November 8 was devoted to a public forum on the draft **Plan de développement de Montréal**, an integrated plan for the long-term physical, economic and social development of the city. First-year MUP stu-

Call for submissions to the
**ALUMNI PAGE ON THE SCHOOL
OF URBAN PLANNING WEBSITE**
(PAGE DES ANCIENS ÉTUDIANTS SUR
LE SITE WEB DE L'ÉCOLE)

In the last What'SUP (Summer 2012), you learned about the new alumni network, whose website is at www.mcgillurbanplanningalumni.ca.

Another way of being part of the SUP family is to tell your story since graduation on the School's website. If you are interested in doing that, please send the following information to anand.sood@mcgill.ca:

1. year of graduation
2. brief description of career trajectory since graduation, fields of specialisation, special achievements, awards (in English ou *en français*)
3. recent photograph (high-res. JPG)

Please note that your text may be shortened and edited before being posted.

Thanks in advance for your submissions! *Merci d'avance pour vos soumissions (en français) !*

Finally introducing the new School logo, created in 2010 by then-MUP-student Etienne Faucher



Our Favourite Planning Things

(on the melody of "My Favourite Things," from The Sound of Music)

Sidewalks and plazas of pervious pavers
Woonerfs and laneways you share with your neighbours
Eyes on the street and the safety it brings
These are a few of our favourite things

History, theory, from planners now long dead
Jacobs and Moses and Fred'rick Law Olmsted
Hours of readings from fall until spring
These are a few of our favourite things

Ethics in Yonkers; finding missing traces
Planning Complete Streets and Whyte's public spaces
New Urbanist Towns and mixed-income housing
These are a few of our favourite things

G-I-S shapefiles and writ of mandamus,
Community meetings; free crackers and hummus!
Closed streets in summer, pedestrians are king
These are a few of our favourite things

When we're up late
Missing due dates
Scram-bl-ing like mad
We simply remember our favourite things, and then we don't feel so bad.

Roundabout ro-ads and transit financin',
Smart cards and Shoup-dog and '59 Hansen
Taking the bus, pull the cord and it dings,
These are a few of our favourite things.

Engineers, architects, it takes a village
Huge bribes, corruption, developers pillage!
But planners are nice, we're team players and gents
If you wanna bribe us, we will take 10 percent!

Responsibly requesting expropriation
Property taking requires compensation
In-ter-im control, bylaws, down-zon-ing
These are a few of our favourite things

Late nights in studio working on graphics
Lunch conversations on how to calm traffic
Drinks and good cheer with a planner who sings
These are a few of our favourite things

When we part ways
After grad days
And good times we haddddddd,
... we'll simply remember our favourite things,
and then we won't feel so bad!

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dents **Simon Chauvette**, **Alana Felt** and **Daniella Guerrero** presented an analysis of the draft plan and raised questions for the audience to discuss in small groups. Responses to these questions will be included in a report that the School will submit to the planning department of Montréal as it revises the plan. In the late afternoon, everyone walked to our building, for a **Brenda and Samuel Gewurz Lecture in Urban Design** by noted Toronto urban designer **Ken Greenberg**. His talk was a magisterial overview of urban planning and design over the past 65 years, with an emphasis on the shift from a car-centric paradigm to a pedestrian-centric one.



The evening was spent at Thomson House, where about one hundred friends, alumni, faculty, students and colleagues gathered to honour **David Farley** (see photo of David addressing us), who founded the School 40 years ago and was its director for the next 17 years. Before we raised our glasses to "DF," we did so in memory of **Jeanne Wolfe** (director from 1989 to 1999), whose daughter Elizabeth had come to Montréal for the celebration. We also toasted "Young David," i.e., David Brown (director from 1999 to 2010), who has recently been made a Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Planners and a Membre émérite of the Ordre des urbanistes du Québec. Bravo David!

QUARTIER DE L'INNOVATION

Students and faculty at the School will have the opportunity to participate in a real-life project in Montréal, the development of a creative district in Griffintown and surroundings. The Quartier de l'innovation designates this area but also a partnership between McGill and the École de technologie supérieure (located in Griffintown) whose mission is to create a milieu of innovation in urban, social, economic and cultural terms. Stay tuned for news.

OTHER NEWS

On December 3, Jeanne Wolfe Day, a small group met at Pizzeria McGill, Jeanne's favourite "greasy spoon," just outside Milton Gates. We happily ate artery-clogging and tension-raising food in her memory.

On December 7, David Brown and Ginette Lamontagne once again hosted a great end-of-year party at their home. We followed our tradition of wishing each other a happy new year in many different languages. A new tradition may have been started when a number of 2nd-year MUP students, led by Kathleen Day (who organised a very successful field trip to Chicago last May), broke out in song to remember some of the things they've learned in the program. Their lyrics are reproduced in the box to the left. With this, I wish you all a year ahead filled with some of your favourite things! *À tous et à toutes, une très belle année 2013, en bonne santé et en bonne compagnie !*