

HEDGELAYING IN ONTARIO'S GREENBELT

A Multi-Criteria Assessment of Socio-Ecological Novelty and Novel Ecosystems

Funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), and hosted by the Waterloo Institute for Social Innovation & Resilience (WISIR), in Canada

The broad purpose of this initiative is to examine landscape planning and management practices, with reference to broader themes such as placemaking, rural economies, common grounds, collective stewardship, social innovation, and complexity. Over the first three years, a diverse group of stakeholders will work together to develop a partnership project, intended to draw out collaborative links and speak to sustainability and resilience mandates. In light of recent changes to global ecosystems, the project considers the challenge of reconciling competing land-use interests within densely settled regions.

Current growth pressures in Ontario's Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH) present ever more reason to explore this challenge. Housing Canada's largest metropolis, as well as protected areas such as the Ontario Greenbelt, the Oak Ridges Moraine, and the Niagara Escarpment, the GGH region is expected to satisfy a confluence of conservation, agricultural, recreational, and development interests. It also represents an unfolding of 'socio-ecological novelty', as the distinctions between urban and rural, natural and cultivated spaces are blurred.

To better understand how we might responsibly nurture socio-ecological novelty within settled regions, the team is looking to a traditional Anglo-Irish landscape management technique for inspiration. Hedgerows are naturalized but managed features, which are recognized for their provision of agro-ecological services, cherished as an emblem of rural identity, and serve as connectivity corridors across wild, pastoral, and developed lands.

Generally, in this initiative we celebrate landscape with all that it has to offer as habitat, heritage, source of livelihood, and connective ground.

Fall 2015

People Inhabiting Landscape

What diverse interests are invested in landscape-based practices today, and how do these contribute to a collective 'sense of place'?

Develop a Multi-Criteria Assessment Framework

Fall 2016

Socio-Ecological Complexity

To what extent do local landscapes (conservation, agricultural, developed, or otherwise) engender multiple social-ecological benefits?

Identify Socio-Ecological Novelty

Fall 2017

Regional Ecosystems Resilience

How might landscape-based programs organize around regional resilience strategies, emphasizing connectivity and shared stewardship?

Plan a Landscape-Oriented Partnership

This project has been reviewed by and received ethics clearance through a University of Waterloo Research Ethics Committee. It is operating under the leadership of Dr Stephen Quilley, (519) 888-4567 x.38335, squilley@uwaterloo.ca; Dr Daniel McCarthy, (519) 888-4567 x.33065, dan.mccarthy@uwaterloo.ca; and, Dr Stephen Murphy, (519) 888-4567 x.35616, stephen.murphy@uwaterloo.ca. uwaterloo.ca/waterloo-institute-for-social-innovation-and-resilience/



UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO

NOVEL URBAN ECOLOGICAL PRACTICES

Web Seminar

Wednesday, September 28th

Balsillie School of International Affairs, Rm 1-42
67 Erb Street West, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 6C2

Please RSVP by September 26th,
to: pruttonsha@uwaterloo.ca



Join us live in Waterloo, or online.

2:30PM-4:00PM EST

Stephen Murphy, Professor, University of Waterloo

Stephen Quilley, Associate Professor, University of Waterloo

Perin Ruttonsha, PhD Candidate, University of Waterloo

Jim Jones, Living Landscapes Project Manager, Surrey Wildlife Trust, United Kingdom

Jef Gielen, Hedgelaying Consultant, The Netherlands

Nigel Adams, Countryside Management Consultant, United Kingdom

We know from novel ecosystems discourse that human activities have long had influence on the character of ecosystems, from meadows to rainforests. In many, if not most parts of the world, 'wild nature' is now giving way to landscapes that are increasingly molded by people. What novel ecosystems thinking also reveals is that even dense urban landscapes can become home to unique and resilient ecological communities. Join leading restoration ecologist, Professor Stephen Murphy, along with European landscape management experts, to examine how we might cultivate 'novel urban landscapes' as part of regional sustainability programs.

In this web seminar, we will consider how, as landscape designers, estates managers, sustainability planners, and urban ecologists, we might apply traditional landscape management techniques to develop urban regions that are diverse, livable, walkable, attractive, green, and resilient. Discuss implications for the design of naturalized spaces, public spaces, school grounds, bike paths, roadways, and green infrastructure; the remediation of brownfield sites; the enhancement of local downtown core(s); and, the nurturing of a culture of environmental stewardship.

Tune in online at:

<http://livestream.com/itmsstudio/events/6310747>