

Future uses for Toronto's Old City Hall, greening
Toronto's economy, e-bikes, and more!
November/December 2016

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News from Ryerson's city building community



Researchers **Sam Carter-Shamai** (left) and **Claire Nelischer** (right) examined eight case studies demonstrating how Toronto's Old City Hall could be creatively adapted for contemporary use.

Research

New CBI report suggests ways to repurpose Toronto's Old City Hall for the future

The [Ryerson City Building Institute \(CBI\)](#) recently launched [A New Life for Old City Hall](#) , a report featuring eight case studies of innovative city museums and repurposed historic buildings. The report was released on the same day the City of Toronto held a public consultation to hear from Torontonians about possible uses for Old City Hall on Queen Street West. Authored by researchers **Claire Nelischer** and **Sam Carter-Shamai**, the report explores potential ways the structure could be creatively adapted for contemporary mixed use. "This is an opportunity to invite the public back inside a landmark that has been closed to Torontonians in its current form," says Carter-Shamai. "Old City Hall is a well-loved Toronto landmark, and we can creatively adapt it into a new form that reflects the city's past while looking forward to the future." The report received extensive media coverage in [Metro Toronto](#), [UrbanToronto](#), [BlogTO](#), [The Toronto Star](#), CBC Radio's Metro Morning, [Novae Res Urbis](#), and [Talk Radio AM640](#).

Ensuring all communities benefit from the green economy

Under-employment, precarious employment, and discrimination can prevent many of Toronto's disadvantaged communities from benefiting from the city's growth and renewal. But this could change with insights from Ryerson sociology professor **Cheryl Teelucksingh** and researcher **Laura Zeglen**. They prepared a policy brief for the Metcalf Foundation, [Building Toronto: Achieving Social Inclusion in Toronto's Emerging Green Economy](#), demonstrating how a green economy could improve all Toronto communities while strengthening environmental sustainability. The policy brief outlines how employment equity, community benefits agreements, and social enterprises can be used to help create a more socially inclusive green economy.

Events

StudentMoveTO: Riding the train to better student mobility in the GTA (Dec. 2)

Join a discussion about student mobility in the GTA with transit experts from several universities including professor **Raktim Mitra** and researcher **Sean Nash** from Ryerson's urban and regional planning school. [Details here.](#)

Ryerson students set a 'Course' for Autonomous Vehicles (Dec. 5)

The **Ryerson City Building Institute** and Ryerson's **TransForm** are hosting an event to showcase the work of urban planning graduate students charting a course into the future of driverless vehicles in the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Students will examine four potential scenarios in front of an expert transportation panel including **Matthias Sweet** (Professor, Ryerson University School of Urban and Regional Planning), **Ryan Lanyon** (Chair Automated Vehicles Working Group, Transportation Services, City of Toronto), **Lisa Orchard** (Senior Advisor of Regional Planning, Metrolinx), and **Bern Grush** (Principal, Grush Niles Strategic). [Details here.](#)


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CBI executive director **Cherise Buda** (at podium) recently participated in a panel discussion at the University of Toronto's Innis College that explored the Toronto Foundation's Vital Signs Report 2016. Panellists included (from left to right) U of T professor **Shauna Brail**, Toronto Foundation President and

CEO **Sharon Avery**, Martin Prosperity Institute Associate Director of Cities **Vass Bednar**, and Inspirit Foundation Director of Stakeholder Engagement **Jay Pitter**.

Checking Toronto's Vital Signs

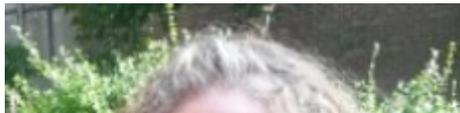
The Ryerson City Building Institute's executive director **Cherise Burda** joined a panel discussion on November 21 organized by the University of Toronto's Urban Studies Student Union at Innis College. The panellists, all city builders from different sectors, discussed the recently released [Toronto's Vital Signs Report 2016](#). Produced by the Toronto Foundation, the annual report compiles the most up-to-date statistics and studies to provide a snapshot of the trends and issues affecting the quality of life in the city.

Ryerson professor participates in UN Habitat III conference

David Amborski, professor with Ryerson's School of Urban and Planning and Academic Director of the City Building Institute, participated in last month's UN Habitat III conference in Quito, Ecuador. During the conference, the [New Urban Agenda](#) was approved by delegates. Amborski participated on panels about value capture practices and the role of universities in the New Urban Agenda.

City Builder Spotlight: Sara Edge

Ryerson prof explores how e-bikes could change cities



[Sara Edge](#), assistant professor with Ryerson's geography and

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electric bikes. Along with Master's candidate **Joshua Goodfield**, she's examining how e-bikes could make urban transportation more sustainable.

What are you investigating?

In this study we are focusing on the emerging technology of e-bikes, and their potential for facilitating societal transition towards more sustainable urban

transportation systems. Specifically, we are examining different governance stakeholders that have influence over how transportation behaviour and infrastructure is changing in the city and documenting perceived risks, benefits, and challenges of integrating e-bikes into Toronto's crowded transportation system.

What's the significance of this study?

The adverse impacts of automobiles are well documented. And the transportation sector is Canada's second largest source of greenhouse gases. E-bikes, propelled by human muscle and fitted with an electric motor, are particularly promising in encouraging a shift away from cars. In China and parts of Europe, e-bikes are revolutionizing personal transportation. However, little is known about their usage patterns and impacts within Canadian cities. E-bikes hold great potential in addressing Toronto's biggest challenges, such as congestion, auto-related pollution, and mobility across the city. Based on their use and growth globally, e-bikes are important to study given their potential as a viable transportation alternative that can assist in making cities healthier and more sustainable places.

What do you hope this study will lead to?

Right now there is a dearth of knowledge on the potential social and environmental impacts of emerging e-bike technology, especially in Canadian cities. We're hoping our results inform transportation reform, infrastructure planning, and resource investment decision-making processes. This pilot study will be finished by the summer of 2017.

Thanks for reading the City Building Bulletin

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city building community to share with our readers. Contact editor Dominic Ali domali@ryerson.ca.



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