

The #YongeLove Meet-Up, Ryerson's new Centre for Urban Innovation, and more!
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News from Ryerson's city building community



News

Ryerson CBI's Yonge Love Meet-Up



CBI hosted a sold-out Yonge Love Meet-Up at the Student Learning Centre to discuss what a redesigned downtown Yonge Street might look like in the future. The event featured leading city builders including Ryerson president **Mohamed Lachemi**, Toronto's chief planner **Jennifer Keesmaat**, and city councillor **Kristyn Wong-Tam**.

The City of Toronto is looking at redesigning downtown Yonge Street, including options to make it more pedestrian friendly and improve its public realm. To explore what this might mean to residents, the Ryerson City Building Institute brought together eight leading city builders and the public for a sold-out [Meet-Up](#) at the Student Learning Centre.

"Yonge Street is evolving. Although we're still in this project's early days, it's important to get the discussion started now on how we want the street to develop so it can accommodate our needs now and in the future," says Cherise

alike."

The sold-out event was moderated by **Steve Paikin**, host of TVO's *The Agenda*, and featured several expert "unpanellists" including **Jennifer Keesmaat** (Chief Planner, City of Toronto), **Mohamed Lachemi** (President and Vice-Chancellor, Ryerson University), **Kristyn Wong-Tam** (City Councillor, City of Toronto), **Mark Garner**, (Executive Director, Downtown Yonge BIA), **Gary Switzer** (Chief Executive Officer, MOD Developments), **John Archer** (Chief Development Officer, 360 Collective), **Derek Lee** (Partner, PWL Landscape Architects), and **Anjali Mishra** (Project Manager: Infrastructure, Roads and Transport Services, City of Montreal).

The Meet-Up is a signature event format created by the City Building Institute. Instead of panel presentations, CBI produces and screens a [short video trailer](#) that presents the issues and sets the stage, and the expert "unpanel" launches into a lively moderated discussion, which includes the audience as well. Previous Meet-Ups include [Diverless Cars and City Building](#) and [Solving the Last Mile](#).

CBI's Yonge Love Meet-Up was inspired by a [2015 report](#) by the Downtown Yonge Business Improvement Area and the City of Toronto's upcoming [environmental assessment](#) project exploring different options for the street. The event was featured in [Metro](#), [Torontoist](#), [Ryerson Today](#), as well as [CP24](#), [CBC](#), and [CTV](#).

Ryerson's Public Realm Plan and Yonge Street



Leading city builders spoke at the recent CBI Yonge Love Meet-Up, including (L to R) **Gary Switzer** (MOD Developments), **Derek Lee** (PWL Partnership Landscape Architects), and **Mohamed Lachemi** (Ryerson University).

Big changes are coming to Yonge Street and Ryerson University. The school recently released its [public realm plan](#), which will alter how the public interacts with the university campus in the future. The plan calls for improved street furniture and lighting, integrated laneways into the public realm, and better transit access for the Ryerson community.

President Lachemi, one of the Meet-Up's "unpanellists," pointed out his vision for Ryerson during the Meet-Up, telling the audience that the Ryerson community of 50,000 people brings energy to Yonge Street, and most of them are commuters. He also emphasized that the Ryerson students, faculty, and

[Up.](#)

Love 4 Yonge Case competition



The winning Love 4 Yonge design was created by urban planning students (L to R): **Arleigh Hack**, **Bria Aird**, **Evan Wittmann**, and **Alexander Gaio**.

Students from a range of Ryerson faculties also celebrated Yonge Love by taking part in an all-day competition to redesign a stretch of downtown Yonge Street. The students presented their designs to a panel of experts at the Student Learning Centre and the competition was capped with a talk by urban designer **Harold Madi** who discussed the importance of 21st century public spaces. “The design competition produced some great ideas that I believe will help shape the framework for future designs that may come as part of the Environmental Assessment,” said event organizer **Joseph Liberatore**, a third year urban and regional planning student.

Walking Tour with Mark Garner (Downtown Yonge BIA)



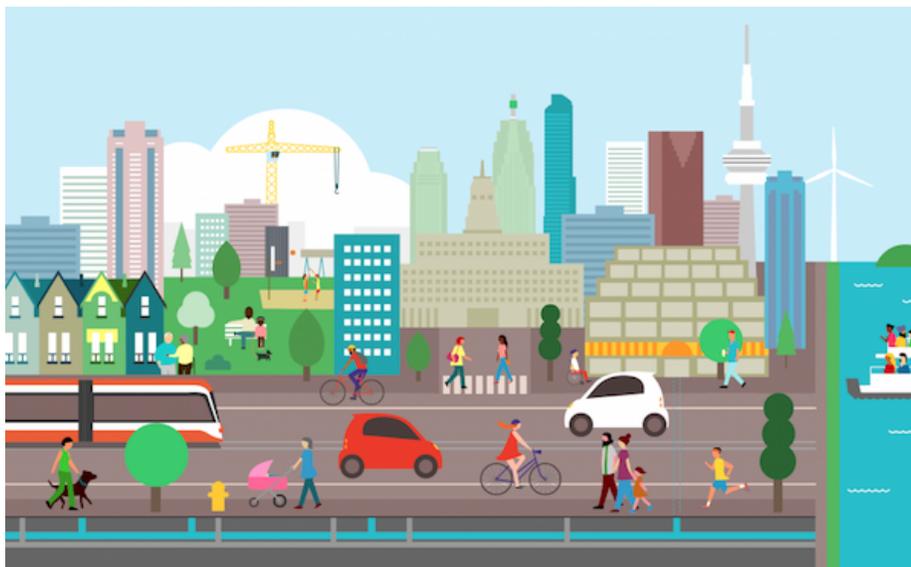
To prepare for the Yonge Love Meet-Up, CBI's executive director went on a walking tour with **Mark Garner**, executive director and chief operating officer of the Downtown Yonge Business Improvement Area. [In this video](#), Garner points out several things you might not know about this unique neighborhood.



Ryerson University [revealed the design for the new Centre for Urban Innovation \(CUI\)](#), a research, incubation and commercialization hub focused on solutions to urban infrastructure issues. Designed by **Moriyama & Teshima Architects**, CUI will provide 40,000 square feet of research and fabrication space for faculty and students conducting research on alternative energy, water management, food production, and data analytics in a heritage building at 44 Gerrard Street East.

Events

TOcore open house (March 4)



The City of Toronto and the Ryerson City Building Institute are organizing an event to discuss the City's upcoming plan for our growing downtown. Find out how it will improve liveability for all Torontonians and join in the conversation with Toronto's Chief Planner and the heads of Transportation, and Parks, Forestry

Barbara Gray (General Manager, Transportation Services), **Janie Romoff**, (General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation), and **Ken Greenberg** (Visiting Scholar, Ryerson City Building Institute,). [More details.](#)

Brad Cloepfil from Allied Works Architecture (March 9)

Ryerson University's Department of Architectural Science will host a one-hour talk by Brad Cloepfil, an architect, educator, and principal of Allied Works Architecture.

[Details here.](#)

1UP Toronto youth urbanism conference (March 19)

Several secondary school student leaders will attend a conference at the Ryerson University's Launch Zone featuring guest speakers, interactive workshops, and a design jam addressing the topics of play, eat, and move. [Details here.](#)

Research

Is Toronto really a sanctuary city?

Ryerson researchers including **Graham Hudson** and **Idil Atak** from from the criminology department, and **Charity-Ann Hannan** from the department of politics and public administration, recently produced a working paper on Toronto's "sanctuary city" known as Access T.O. The project is aimed at ensuring that all residents can access municipal and police services, regardless of immigration status. Researchers found that while Access T.O. started as a symbolically ambitious but practically cautious policy, it has yet to become fully implemented. The paper, *(No) Access T.O.: A Pilot Study on Sanctuary City Policy in Toronto, Canada*, [can be downloaded here](#) [↗](#). The study received extensive media coverage, including the [Toronto Star](#) and [CBC](#).

Text in the City

The latest books of interest to Ryerson city builders

The Ryerson City Building Institute's visiting scholar **Ken Greenberg** recently reviewed urbanist Shawn Micallef's latest book in [The Globe and Mail](#). "The book offers both a sobering postmortem examination of the Ford administration and a warning that the underlying conditions that drove the 'taxpayer revolt,' and inspired rants against the 'gravity train' stationed at city hall, are still with us," writes Greenberg, "while at the same time delivering a more hopeful exhortation that Toronto can fulfill its vast potential – that the city will not simply

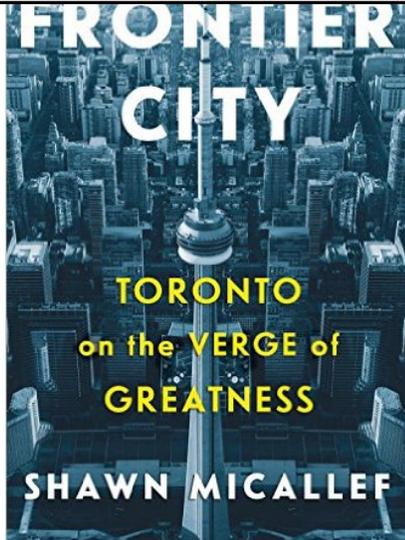
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We're always looking for the latest research, events, and news from Ryerson's city building community to share with our readers. Contact editor Dominic Ali domali@ryerson.ca.



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