

Symposium 2013: Restore, Rejuvenate, Rebuild *Embracing our 200 Year History for a Sustainable Future*

Canada is becoming an increasingly urban country, with over three quarters of its citizens residing in cities. Urbanization and the influx of people to cities have presented us with some serious challenges. Environmental problems within cities are well known, whether they be poor air quality, degraded waterways, or invasive species. But cities also have an environmental burden beyond their limits, straining the integrity of surrounding natural systems to support our consumption. Economic issues within cities today run the gamut from crumbling downtown infrastructure to the problems of urban and suburban sprawl. Social issues also persist, such as a lack of affordable housing and major disparities in social equity between neighbourhoods. There is an emerging need to bring together key stakeholders and begin a dialogue on urban transformation.

Cities present the potential for truly efficient and sustainable living, if the opportunities are realized. Despite the major challenges, progress towards sustainability in urban areas has certainly begun. More and more, sustainability goals are being incorporated into the planning process to attain a desired balance between the environment, the economy, and society. On the ground, grassroots initiatives like urban food production and local governance are growing in prominence while public policies and industry innovation are facilitating shifts towards a low-carbon urban environment and renewable energy production in cities. Today's decisions and actions will shape the future of our cities, so continual progress and collaboration are vital.

Ryerson is a diverse and expanding university at the core of Toronto with a reputation for tackling urban issues. This fourth annual symposium is facilitated by Environmental Applied Science and Management doctoral students. We are building on the success of previous years, which have tackled such topics as peak oil and integrating the environment and economy. The goal of this year's symposium is to discuss current progress and to explore future directions for transforming cities. Speakers from the public and private sector, academia, not-for-profits, and the media will be presenting on several topics relating to urban sustainability. Our increasingly urban population demands attention to, and progress towards, a sustainable future for Canadian cities.

WHAT: Environmental Applied Science and Management Doctoral Symposium

WHEN: March 22, 2013, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

WHERE: International Room, International Living/Learning Centre (ILC), Ryerson University
133 Mutual Street, Toronto

CONTACT: enscimansymposium2013@gmail.com