

As we enter into what is often referred to as the "dog days of summer", WCGI finds itself incredibly active on a number of fronts.

1. The economy has picked up noticeably in the past few months as overall activity has improved in the land development sector and individuals and corporations are intent on initiating new projects and advancing approvals. There is a perceptible improvement in confidence as new projects get activated and new life is injected into projects which have been under consideration for some time.

2. WCGI has been quite active representing landowners throughout various municipalities who are in the final stages of completing Growth Plan conformity exercises, Official Plan reviews, and, in the City of Toronto, the new Draft Zoning By-law. The upcoming municipal elections this Fall are serving to function as a deadline by which many municipalities wish or need to complete these exercises.

3. The integration of Ghent Planning Services into WCGI, and the opening of our new office at 1660 North Service Road East in Oakville, has enlivened activity levels for the firm in the western GTA, and has also served to attract a number of new projects in this area.

We are optimistic about the future and remain eager to assist our existing and growing client base in achieving their objectives.

Have a fantastic summer!

Mark N. Emery, BES, MCIP, RPP
President

WESTON CONSULTING GROUP ACQUIRES GHENT PLANNING SERVICES

Weston Consulting Group Inc. is pleased to announce the expansion of services in the Oakville, Halton and GTA West markets through the purchase of Ghent Planning Services. We are excited to provide an expanded range of services and expertise to our current clients and the clients of Ghent Planning Services.

John Ghent has joined WCGI as a Senior Associate. John brings specialized knowledge and experience to WCGI both as a private planning consultant and as a former Manager of Current Planning for the Town of Oakville. His insight and knowledge of the Oakville and Halton area has been recognized by his clients and is a valuable addition to WCGI.

Ghent Planning Services clients will receive the same high level of service they have come



to expect. Not only will they still have access to John's unique skills, this will now be supported by a team of professional planners and design personnel, ensuring continuity and the opportunity to leverage the experience and services provided by WCGI.

All business and land use planning services undertaken by Ghent Planning Services will continue under the Weston Consulting Group Inc. banner. John and Weston staff are working diligently to ensure the current high level of service is maintained and enhanced for all clients.



Photograph courtesy of The Oakville Beaver

L to R: John Ghent, Mark Emery, Oakville Mayor Rob Burton and Kurt Franklin at the ribbon cutting.



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WCGI is very pleased to welcome John into the firm and we look forward to working closely with him to serve our combined base of clients in the Town of Oakville as well as throughout Halton and points west.

Should you have any land use planning or development projects you would like to discuss, please give us a call and we will be happy to assist you.

WCGI Oakville Office Open House

Weston Consulting Group has opened a western office located at 1660 North Service Road East, Suite 114 in Oakville to more effectively service land use planning projects located in the Oakville, Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton, Mississauga, Hamilton, and Niagara areas.



On June 10, 2010 the firm welcomed clients and friends to an Open House at the new office with a BBQ and refreshments.



Oakville Mayor, Rob Burton, presided at the ribbon cutting ceremony.



John Ghent, Senior Associate, will be staffing the Oakville office, along with Kurt Franklin, Vice President, and Ashlee Rivet, Junior Planner.



Guests and staff enjoyed conversation and a BBQ to celebrate the opening of the WCGI Oakville office.



WCGI Planner involved in planning initiatives

Jane McFarlane, intermediate planner with WCGI, authored an article titled "Has the Greenbelt Plan Changed the Planning Application Process" which was published in the Ontario Planning Journal. Jane is also

active with the Toronto City Summit Alliance, a coalition of civic leaders in the Toronto region, formed to address challenges to the future of Toronto.

Infrastructure Investment

As part of the economic recovery strategy, the Federal Government has made significant amounts of funding available for municipalities to improve their infrastructure. WCGI has been involved in several projects of this type, including the expansion of the Malton Community Centre in the City of Mississauga. WCGI was retained by the City and the architect to provide planning and project management services for this challenging project.

The existing Malton Community Centre is located adjacent to a floodplain associated with the east branch of Mimico Creek. The proposed expansion requires locating part of the parking within the existing floodplain. The City also requires that municipal projects follow the same process and standards as all other landowners. Thus, site plan approval, minor variances and TRCA permits were required.

Detailed negotiations and discussions were held with City and TRCA staff to determine how this community project could be achieved within the strict timelines of the funding approvals. Minor variances, site plan approval and TRCA permits have all been obtained and construction is currently underway.



While floodplains always provide significant challenges for new development, this project demonstrates how patience and attention to detail can overcome these obstacles and meet objectives.

Article written by Kurt Franklin, Vice President (WCGI), tel. 905-738-8080 ext.224