

## Inspiring Ideas...

At the 'Less Talk More Walk' event that brought Gil Penalosa (8-80 Cities, formally known as Walk and Bike For Life) to Brantford in October 2008, approximately 60 participants indicated that they would like to see the following low cost, high benefit, good visibility, and easy to implement solutions brought forward:

### Bicycle Friendly



- Reduce speed on Icomm Drive
- Bike racks
- High visible crossings – over arterials, corners, etc.
- Trading car spaces for bike spaces on Dalhousie and Colborne
- Bike lock up spots (i.e., Price Chopper, Civic Centre, Sobey's)
- Visually appealing bike parking at library (i.e., "Book Rack")
- Take away parking spaces (1-2) for bike parking downtown
- More Bike Days through the year
- Biking etiquette and how to bike with traffic safety programs

### Pedestrian - Friendly



- Fix sidewalk paving
- Snow removal on sidewalks (as well as garbage)
- Lighting increased (redirected to sidewalks)
- Increased way finding – maps, signs, etc.
- Clear trail maps (more places)
- Increased connection to trails
- A quicker activated pedestrian light
- Maintenance of pedestrian walkways

### A Great Place



- More programming (and awareness of programming)
- More visually stimulating – paint! – lively public spaces
- Better street furniture (benches, bus stops, etc.)
- Encourage to build great public spaces (closed and open)
- Pedestrian Mall at Colborne St. / Dalhousie St. (between George St. and King St.)
- Temporarily reduce the lanes between June and September (to one lane along Colborne and Dalhousie)
- Clean up streetscape

## Questions/Comments?

Please contact us at: Harry Sawchuk - Chair, Walkability Taskforce  
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### Mission

Working together to encourage and promote the values of walking as it relates to health, recreation, the environment, planning and transportation.

### Vision

We envision a walkable Brantford that is safe, accessible, convenient and attractive.

### Values

We value:

- Walking as an experience providing a sense of place that is safe and attractive.
- Supportive well designed environments that promote choices to walk.
- A connected accessible network of sidewalks and multiuse trails.
- Walkability as integral part of the city's strategy planning goals.
- Positive health effects that come from a community where walking is the cultural norm.

## 2009: What a Year!

In reporting to all interested stakeholders in our community, I am pleased to say that the year 2009 saw a number of significant "steps" made in moving Brantford toward a more walkable and pedestrian/cyclist-friendly community. This inaugural newsletter showcases the initiatives undertaken by the Task Force in 2009, for which I am very proud to share with you.

I encourage you to continue your interest in and support for making Brantford a city where active transportation contributes to a quality of life, second to none,

for all citizens. As Gil Penalosa states, "a community should be safe and viable for the eight-year-old as well as the 80-year old".

Please share your thoughts, suggestions and ideas with us!

Respectfully submitted ,

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• Creating • Sustaining • Liveable Communities • Inclusive Spaces



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In September we co-hosted with walkON a fourth community forum, *Planning for People and Places*, inviting Cynthia Nikitin from Project for Public Spaces (NY) and Catherine O'Brien from Cape Breton University (NS) to speak about creating sustainable, liveable communities and inclusive spaces and the link between public spaces and sustaining community happiness.

*"An uplifting experience, very relevant for community growth and development today!"*  
*"Awesome speakers! A+++! We need to spread the message. This is just too important"*  
-Participant feedback

## Local Updates

### Task Force Partnership Development

- The Task Force met seven times to plan and organize professional development opportunities for the community.
- The Task Force liaised with the City of Brantford Transportation Safety Committee, the Multi-Use Bikeway Trails Committee, as well as the Brantford Community Foundation Environment Committee, providing ongoing updates.



### October ...



Brantford City Council proclaimed October 2009 as:

- Walking month
- International Walk To School Month

### Professional Development

- 10 delegates participated in the National Active and Safe Routes to School Training Workshop hosted by Green Communities Canada.
- 2 delegates participated in the annual International Walk21 Conference in New York City.

**Walk21**



### Mapping Neighbourhood Trails:

- Shellard Lane Neighbourhood Association is collaborating with a local retirement home on a trail connection project in West Brant.
- Branlyn Neighbourhood Association Youth Group is undergoing a neighbourhood mapping exercise to identify trail connections.

### Commitment to Brantford's Children & Youth

- *Signed Walking Routes* program invited three more schools to participate in 2009.
- Worked with the Branlyn Neighbourhood Association Youth Group to examine walkability and bikeability issues in their neighbourhood.
- Support provided to Assumption College School's Bike and Environmental Committees (including the purchase of bicycle racks at the school).

### Enhancing the Pedestrian Experience

- Provided support for the Pedestrian Safety working group to address the issues around safety in the West Brantford area.
- Delegation presented at City Council on sidewalks, pedestrian and cyclist safety and proposal of new school issues on Shellard Lane and Blackburn Drive.
- Colborne and Dalhousie Street conversion and redevelopment projects: submitted a proposal to a variety of stakeholders the idea of making South Colborne Street a "Pedestrian Zone", which would include dedicated lanes for both Public Transit and cyclists.
- Ongoing advocacy for a more pedestrian friendly and walkable community via city council presentations, community/public forums and professional networking.



## Recognizing the City's Accomplishments 2009

- ✓ The City of Brantford added more than a kilometer of sidewalk (Shellard Lane and Lynwood Drive) to the existing 454 km of sidewalks in the City.
- ✓ Although there were no new traffic calming measures taken in 2009, the City of Brantford has installed vertical or horizontal deflection measures for traffic calming on the following streets: Parkside Drive, Dufferin Avenue, Catharine Avenue, Queensway Drive.
- ✓ The City of Brantford installed a new Pedestrian Traffic Signal on Colborne Street (at Pauline Johnson Collegiate). There are 23 pedestrian signals in Brantford...about 16% of the 133 total traffic signals. The City has installed countdown timers at 9 locations, and going forward, all new pedestrian signals will include countdown timers.
- ✓ As of January 2010 there are 68.5 km of inspected and maintained trails in Brantford; 13.3 km are paved and 55.2 km are primarily stone-dust. In 2009 the final 300m of the TH&B trail between Shellard Lane and the County/City boundary was completed; the County was able to extend this trail a further 12 km across the County to Jenkins Road. A short (175 m) but important neighbourhood connection from Florence Buchanan to Copernicus Blvd was also completed.
- ✓ Brantford Transit completed the installation of bike racks on the transit fleet, bringing the number of bike racks to 31, and reported that over the initial fourteen month period the racks were used 537 times.
- ✓ The City of Brantford "opened" the streets to pedestrian-use-only for 13 events held between early June and the end of September...at least 1 event on all but 8 of the 17 weekends was held during that period, in addition to Canada Day. None of these events created gridlock and brought hundreds (in some cases, thousands) of people into the City!



### Some ideas as we move forward through 2010:

Planning a Youth Summit focused on active transportation.

Looking at benchmarking opportunities.

Following up on the key recommendations emerging from the 2009 Trails for Active Transportation Report (8-80s Cities; Gil Penalosa - [www.8-80cities.org](http://www.8-80cities.org))

Continue to expand the circle of walkability and bikeability individuals and networks.

### Brantford Walkability Task Force Members

- Citizen volunteers
- City of Brantford
  - Parks and Recreation
  - Planning
  - Transportation/Engineering
- IBI Group
- Wilfrid Laurier
- Shellard Lane Neighbourhood Association
- Brant County Health Unit