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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

# ***The Grey Tsunami*** ***Aging Communities & Planning*** **Ontario Professional Planners Institute - 2008 Symposium** Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> & Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup> Clarion Pinewood Park Resort, North Bay

Ontario's population is aging.  
Community planning and the role of  
planners are changing with it.

As the 'Baby Boomers' retire, communities will see profound changes in terms of the demand for social services, housing, transportation, and health care, to name but a few. Community planners from across the province will meet at the symposium to discuss the challenges, necessary knowledge and resources needed to lead and manage change associated with Ontario's aging population. Experts from a broad range of disciplines will discuss and highlight what lies ahead. Speakers include:

1. Dr. David Foot (Keynote Speaker noted demographer and author)
2. Susan Eng (luncheon speaker Advocacy Director, CARP)
3. Suhana Meharchand (MC for OPPI awards reception/dinner CBC-TV journalist)
4. Brad Graham (Assistant Deputy Minister Ontario Growth Secretariat)
5. Gaylene Pron (Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care)
6. Ed Starr, MCIP, RPP (Principal Planner, SHS Inc.)
7. Beatrice Schmied (Executive Director, Ontario Public Transit Association)
8. Jean Monteith, MCIP, RPP (Principal Planner, Monteith Brown Planning Consultants)
9. Dr. Charles Gardner (Medical Officer of Health and CEO, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit)
10. George Farkouh (former Mayor of Elliot Lake)

Another highlight of the symposium is an awards ceremony on Thursday night that will feature this year's Excellence in Planning Award winners. The Awards recognize: excellence in all aspects of the profession; a strong awareness of the planning profession among related professions, all levels of government, potential private and public sector clients, and the general public; and professional planners providing excellence to the community.

OPPI will also be announcing at the awards ceremony the appointment of an Honorary Member of the Institute. Honorary Membership recognizes the work of non-planners and acknowledges the valuable contribution of people outside of the profession in promoting healthy communities.

Detailed symposium information is posted at: [www.ontarioplanners.on.ca](http://www.ontarioplanners.on.ca)

*The Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) is the recognized voice of the Province's planning profession. Its more than 3,000 members work in government, private practice, universities, and non-profit agencies in the fields of urban and rural development, urban design, environmental planning, transportation, health and social services, heritage conservation, housing, and economic development. For further information, go to: [www.ontarioplanners.on.ca](http://www.ontarioplanners.on.ca)*

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