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## Part of a Neighbourhood

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More than 70 residents and invited guests from government and United Way Canada spent a recent Saturday afternoon and evening together in Thunder Bay celebrating their neighbourhood and planning for its future.

The Simpson-Ogden Visioning Workshop on January 14, 2006 saw participants prepare ideas for a better neighbourhood and share in many jokes, stories, great food and dancing. The ANC team and the new Project Advisory Committee now have a clear direction for future planning as well as many excellent ideas for neighbourhood projects.



Residents spoke with pride about the many positive reasons for living in the Simpson-Ogden area and about their commitment to make the neighbourhood a better place by addressing issues of safety, housing and the need for improved social and recreation services.

"This is the first Saturday afternoon in seven years of living here that I have felt part of a neighbourhood," commented one of the residents.

 [More on this visioning workshop!](#)

### Related Links

- [Celebrating Our Successes: Past, Present and Future](#)
- [Learn more about Simpson-Ogden's initiative!](#)

## Resources

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**Katrina's Window: Confronting Concentrated Poverty Across America** - Hurricane Katrina's assault on New Orleans' most vulnerable residents and neighborhoods has reinvigorated a dialogue on race and class in America. This paper argues that the conversation should focus special attention on alleviating concentrated urban poverty—the segregation of poor families into extremely distressed neighborhoods. Learn more [here](#).

**Community Organizing and Development** - The Online Conference on Community Organizing and Development, COMM-ORG was founded in 1995 with the mission to link academics and activists, and theory and practice, toward the goal of improving community organizing and its related crafts. Visit the website [here](#).

## ANC Updates – What's New

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### **Neighbourhood visioning exercises take place in Thunder Bay and Halifax**

Residents of Simpson-Ogden (Thunder Bay) came together on Saturday, January 14 for a visioning and planning session, at which they reviewed information gathered from ANC discussion groups and interviews, and discussed how to move forward on residents' identified priorities in 2006. In addition to publicizing the event in the Simpson-Ogden ANC newsletter, volunteers canvassed the neighbourhood to encourage residents to participate and to lend their voice to this first step in charting the neighbourhood's future course.

#### **For more, check out:**

- [A Special Edition of the Simpson-Ogden Newsletter](#)
- [New Year, New Opportunities for Simpson-Ogden area](#)

Spryfield residents came together Saturday, January 21 to begin developing a strategy and action plan for the future. This has followed several months of 'many small meetings', surveys, and informal conversations to get to know the neighbourhood and to find out what Spryfielders like about their neighbourhood, and what they would like to change.

#### **For more, check out:**

- [We Are Spryfield](#)
- [Neighbourhoods seek own solutions](#)
- [Spryfield tackles bad image](#)

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### **Neighbourhoods and Urban Transformation: the New Global Context Urban Affairs Association, 36th Annual Meeting Montréal, Canada April 19 - 22, 2006**

In 1950, approximately one-third of the world's population lived in cities. By the year 2000, the proportion had increased to one-half. Most importantly, it is projected that by 2050, that nearly two-thirds or 6 billion people will occupy urban places (UN-Habitat, 2005). And where do the majority of these humans live?

In neighbourhoods.

Neighbourhoods are, as Jane Jacobs has argued, the building blocks of urban life. But much has changed about urban neighbourhoods during the past fifty years. Research on neighbourhoods has changed as well.

Neighbourhoods and Urban Transformation: the New Global Context is the Urban Affairs Association's 36th Annual Meeting. Themes of the conference include:

1. Neighbourhood Identity - grassroots leadership, social capital, community-based planning, gentrification;
2. Neighbourhood Environments and Economic Sustainability - measures of health and safety, environmental justice, poverty alleviation, employment and economic opportunity;

3. Neighbourhood Culture and Organization- gendered space, race/ethnicity/class, community organizations, capacity building;
4. Transnational Neighbourhoods - immigration and ethnic enclaves, social movements, population dynamics;
5. Neighbourhood Renewal - New Urbanism and urban Neighbourhoods, redeveloping downtowns, transit planning, alternative zoning, affordable housing; and
6. Governance, Public Policy and Neighbourhoods - municipal, regional and national government policy initiatives that affect Neighbourhoods; politics and Neighbourhoods.

For more information and to register, visit: <http://www.udel.edu/uaa>

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