



## Tales from the *Creative Communities Blog*

**Dr. Betsy Donald**

**Ms. Heather Hall**

**Ms. Clare Wastenays**

# Tales from the *Creative* *Communities* Blog

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# Outline

- **Introduction**
  - Who we are
- **Overview of the Blog**
  - Purpose, Mandate, and Goals
- **Blog Topics**
  - Past examples and future topics
- **Why participate in the blog?**
  - Community and academic opportunities
- **Getting Involved**

# Meet the Bloggers

Betsy, Heather, and Clare

# Betsy Donald

- Associate Professor, Department of Geography
- Research interests: cities and the new economy; local and regional development; the political and cultural economy of food
- Research projects: Kingston Innovation Study, ISRN; From Kraft to Craft: innovation and creativity in Ontario's Food Sector - *Ontario in the Creative Age*, Martin Prosperity Institute

# Heather Hall

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Ph.D. Candidate
- SSHRC – CGS Doctoral Student
- M.A. Planning from the University of Waterloo
- Research interest: planning and economic development in slow-growth and declining contexts
- Recent Projects: “Innovation and Creativity on the Periphery: Challenges and Opportunities in Northern Ontario” – *Ontario in the Creative Age*, Martin Prosperity Institute

# Clare Wasteneys

- **1<sup>st</sup> Year Ph.D. Candidate**
- **M.Sc. in Rural planning and development, University of Guelph**
- **On leave from Program Lead position in the Economic Development Division, OMAFRA**
- **Research interests: creative economies, alternative food networks, and sustainable development/transport in urban and rural communities**

# Overview of the Blog

- **Mandate of KIS project:**
  - *is to strengthen the relationships, the channels and the communications products to find, translate and deliver academic knowledge (both from the literature and from the academic team) to increase the rural economic vitality of Eastern Ontario*
- **The *Creative Communities* blog provides us with the opportunity to develop a **two-way conversation** about Eastern Ontario's economic development**



# What is the Creative Communities Blog?

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- **Our goal is to identify and discuss:**
    - Key challenges and opportunities for economic development in Eastern Ontario
    - Local and regional success stories
    - Local and regional examples of resilience
  - **We post short articles and questions for discussion and encourage readers to post comments**
  - **Discussion Forum by Nathaniel Lewis where anyone can post a topic for discussion**

# Blog Topics

- **What does the 'NEW' Southern Ontario Development Agency (SODA) mean for Eastern Ontario?**
- **Mike Stolte on Stimulus Packages**
- **Do small communities pay the price?**

# Future Topics

- **Local Food**
- **Buying local debate**
- **Sustainable development**
- **More on SODA**
- **Policy highlights**
- **Current issues and opportunities**

# Why Participate in the Blog?

What's in it for us?

# Community Opportunities

- It builds and strengthens connections with academics and other leaders
- It creates a learning environment where everyone can engage with pertinent local and regional economic development issues in Eastern Ontario
- It provides a forum for discussion
- It presents opportunities for cross-community learning and idea generation

# Academic Opportunities

- It serves as a feedback mechanism
- It strengthens our relationships with practitioners
- It provides us with an amazing tool for learning
- It helps us identify the 'on the ground' needs of Eastern Ontario communities
- It allows us to connect our academic research to reality

# Getting Involved



# Creative Communities Blog

- We need you!
- Please visit:  
[www.easternontarioknowledge.ca](http://www.easternontarioknowledge.ca)
  - Left-hand side click on the *Creative Communities Blog*
- Write Comment – name and email
- Post to the Discussion Forum – register as a user
- RSS feed – sign up to be notified whenever the blog is updated

**Thank You!!**

**Questions or Ideas??**