



## SUSAN ROBERTSON ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER

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### PROFILE

Susan is an Environmental Planner specializing in watershed management, community engagement and Indigenous planning. A Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners and a Registered Professional Planner in Ontario, Susan has 15 years' experience and has worked with Conservation Authorities, First Nations, not-for-profits and municipal, regional and provincial levels of government within the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

### EDUCATION

Masters in Environmental Planning, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, 2002-2004

Presented graduate thesis on municipal governance, sustainable urban design and growth at the Association of American Geographers Conference, Chicago, 2005.

Bachelor of Science, Joint Honours in Departments of Geography and Anthropology, Trent University, 1996-2000

Honours thesis on Urban Waterfront Planning and Public Participation for Peterborough's land use plan for Little Lake with over 300 surveys conducted.

### TRAINING

Duty to Consult and Accommodate Training, The Commons Institute, 2018

Working Effectively With Indigenous Peoples, and Indigenous Consultation and Engagement, Indigenous Employment: Recruitment and Retention, How to Negotiate with Indigenous Peoples and Working with the UN Declaration, 2019, Indigenous Corporate Training Inc., 2019

### EXPERIENCE

#### **Escarpment Corridor Alliance, Environmental Planning Support 2023 - present**

People Plan Community is supporting the Escarpment Corridor Alliance in upholding the policies of the Niagara Escarpment Plan along the 720 km stretch of the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area through policy support and planning application review.

#### **Aanjinaakgosidjigeng-Baawaating: Renewing Relations in Baawaating May - November 2023**

People Plan Community alongside Incite Planning and JDI Business Services hosted an In-Person Engagement Session with the International Lake Superior Board of Control and Batchewana First Nation regarding Fluctuating Water Levels on St. Marys River and Whitefish Island.

#### **BIMAADIZIWIN NIBI AAWAN/Water Is Life:**

#### **Engagement Summary with First Nations for the Assessment of Lake Ontario Nutrient Targets under the Nutrients Annex of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, 2023**

People Plan Community alongside Incite Planning and JDI Business Services hosted a series of virtual and in-person engagement sessions with First Nations along the north shore of Lake Ontario to discuss nutrient level information within Lake Ontario and to explore ways to work together.

#### **Nutrients, Waters and Rights:**

#### **Summary of the Virtual Engagement Session with the Métis Nation of Ontario with Environment and Climate Change Canada on an Assessment of Lake Ontario Nutrient Targets under the Nutrients Annex of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, 2023**

People Plan Community alongside Incite Planning and JDI Business Services hosted a series of virtual engagement sessions with the Métis Nation of Ontario on nutrient level information within Lake Ontario and to explore ways to work together.

#### **Engaging Batchewana First Nation**

#### **Regarding Fluctuating Water Levels and Flows on the St. Marys River and Whitefish Island Through RESPECT®: An Indigenous Relations Model, 2022**

People Plan Community alongside Incite Planning and JDI Business Services hosted a series of virtual engagement sessions to build relationships between the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Adaptive Management Committee and Batchewana First Nation.

#### **First Nations Community Engagement on the Assessment of Interim Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Phosphorus Targets for Lake Ontario**

#### **Environment and Climate Change Canada, December 2022 to May 2023**

Susan, alongside exemplary colleagues, outreached and engaged across Lake Ontario with First Nation Treaty partners to assess and discuss Nutrients target for Annex 4 of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement to support Environment and Climate Change Canada.

#### **Engaging Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River Indigenous Nations and U.S. Tribes Regarding High Water Impacts in Support of the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Adaptive Management Committee's Expedited Plan 2014 Review International Joint Commission, June 2021 to March 2022**

Susan, alongside exemplary colleagues, led a tailored outreach and engagement program across Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence with twenty-two Indigenous communities that either reside directly or maintain Treaty and territorial rights along the shoreline, to assess impacts to fluctuating water levels along Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

#### **Engaging Lake Ontario Shoreline Municipalities in the Province of Ontario to Document High Water Impacts Kennedy Consulting and Dillon, for the International Joint Commission, September 2020 - February 2021**

Supported Kennedy Consulting and Dillon with engaging shoreline municipalities and conservation authorities on high-water impacts along Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River for the Great Lakes Area Management committee on behalf of the International Joint Commission. Responsibilities included support with preliminary research review, survey design, live transcribing workshop discussions and support with analysis of impacts for final report.

#### **Ontario Heritage Act Planning Letter Report for impacts to a Designated Cultural Heritage Landscape from a proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision, City of Brampton Board of El Dorado Camp and Amusements Limited, Camp Naivelt, September to November 2020**

Retained by the Board of El Dorado Camp and Amusements Limited to provide planning review and commentary on impacts from a proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision, to the only designated Cultural Heritage Landscape in the City of Brampton, Camp Naivelt.

*Plan Together for Common Ground*

### **Environmental Planning Unit Framework**

#### **Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, April 2020**

Designed the environmental planning unit framework for the Department of Consultation and Accommodation, for the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation to support the First Nation in actively engaging in the review and approval of environmental planning files within the Treaty Territory in equal partnership with various levels of government.

### **Indigenous-Non-Indigenous Knowledge Building Partnership Guide**

#### **Niagara Escarpment Foundation, Niagara Escarpment Commission, 2019**

Anishinaabe Cultural Consultant Kim Wheatley and Susan Robertson were retained by the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Niagara Escarpment Foundation to prepare a Knowledge-Building Partnership Guide for the new Transitional Leadership Committee of the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve (NEBR). The Guide helps fulfill UNESCO's direction to the NEBR to fully engage with Indigenous peoples in leadership of this Biosphere Reserve. The Transitional Leadership Committee, which does not yet include Indigenous representation, needed insights into how to build relationships with First Nations and Métis communities with treaty and traditional lands in the Niagara Escarpment in a good way.

### **Moccasin Identifier**

#### **Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, 2019-ongoing**

Lead project consultant supporting the launch and development of Carolyn King's Moccasin Identifier, which aims to bridge Treaty understanding between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous people through education and publicly accessible experiences.

### **Indigenous Municipal Engagement Program**

#### **Shared Path Consultation Initiative, January 2019**

Created and developed of the Indigenous Municipal Engagement Program, which supports the inclusion of Treaty and Title rights within Ontario Land-use planning system and municipal governance processes.

### **New Credit Cultural Committee Strategy Report**

#### **New Credit Cultural Committee, May 2018**

Led committee engagement sessions with New Credit Cultural Committee to assess needs and determine goals. Prepared summary report with priorities, direction and actions for the next 5 years for committee and council approval.

### **Credit Valley Trail Strategy**

#### **Credit Valley Conservation and Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation, 2014 – 2018**

Initiated, led and co-authored the Credit Valley Trail (CVT) and CVT Strategy, a 100-km trail within the Credit River Valley alongside Credit Valley Conservation, Credit Valley Conservation Foundation, Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Sport and all twelve watershed municipalities.

### **Credit Valley Trail Indigenous Experience Plan**

#### **Credit Valley Conservation Foundation and Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, 2016 – 2018**

Initiated, designed and authored the CVT Indigenous Experience Plan in partnership with ancestral First Nations of the Greater Golden Horseshoe, to share Indigenous culture as part of Reconciliation within 12 public parks along the entire 100-km length of the Main Credit River Valley and CVT.

### **Planning Around Rapid Transit**

#### **Cumming+Company, City of Kitchener,**

#### **January – March 2016**

Supported Cumming+Company with public engagement assistance for Planning Around Rapid Transit Stations (PARTS) Public Information Centres (PIC).

### **Project Manager for the Humber River, Watershed Management Division**

#### **Toronto and Region Conservation, 2007-2011**

Co-authored watershed planning policy documents such as the Humber River Watershed Plan: *Pathways to a Healthy Humber*, 2008 and the 2011 Living City Report Card.

Managed the award-winning Humber Watershed Alliance (HWA), a community-based action group consisting of representatives from across the watershed.

Led two nationally award-winning (National Heritage Trust, 2011) projects: *Le Sentier Partagé/Shared Path: Toronto's Newest Discovery Walk* and *Crossing The Humber: the Humber River Heritage Bridge Inventory*.

Retained over \$2.5M through municipal partnerships to implement conservation area management plans.

Planned and hosted dozens of community events and information sessions.

### **Development Approvals Planner, Planning and Development Department**

#### **Toronto and Region Conservation, 2005-2007**

Reviewed and approved hundreds of Planning Act applications under the Conservation Authorities Act's Ontario Regulation 166/06 across the Greater Toronto Area.

Coordinated inter-department teams for file review, including flora and fauna ecologists, fluvial geomorphologists, water resource engineers and geotechnical engineers

Condensed file review comments into planning approval processes and shared information with clients in relatable language and terms so that environmental planning conditions were addressed prior to regulatory approval and permit issuance

Initiated a streamlined environmental planning review and approval process enshrined within the Town of Richmond Hill's Oak Ridges Moraine Implementing Zoning Bylaw for development within Key Natural Heritage features on the Moraine, presented at a Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Conference as a creative approach to applying environmental planning policy through law.

### **Research and Policy Analyst**

#### **Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 2003**

Conducted the Municipal Infrastructure Deficit Survey with all Major Metropolitan Areas across Canada

## **OTHER**

Teachers' Assistant, Department of Geography, York University, 2002 – 2003.

Environmental Tourism Consultant, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada and Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Finance, Grenada, West Indies, 2001.

## VOLUNTEER WORK

Public Policy Committee, Shared Path Consultation Initiative, 2021-present.

Member of the Indigenous Perspectives Planning Task Force with the Ontario Professional Planners Institute, 2019.

Member of the Planning Recognition Subcommittee with the Canadian Institute of Planners for the Centenary Event Planning to be held in Ottawa, 2019.

Acting Executive Director, Credit Valley Heritage Society, 2012-present.

## AWARDS

National Heritage Trust Recipient, 2024, People Plan Community for Restoration of the Historic Council House at the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation

First-ever Credits Award Recipient to be both nominated and awarded by the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation for contributions to promoting and sharing their cultural heritage, 2017.

National Heritage Trust award recipient, for both The Shared Path/Le Sentier Partagé and Crossing the Humber: Humber River Heritage Bridge Inventory, 2011.

## APPOINTMENTS

Member of the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation Planning Services Advisory Panel, 2023 - present

Director at-Large of the Board, Shared Path Consultation Initiative 2022 - present

Member of the Board, Shared Path Consultation Initiative, 2023

Chair of the Public Interest Advisory Committee, for the Niagara Escarpment Commission as a representative of Ontario Nature, 2021-present

Director at-Large of the Board, Ontario Nature, 2020

Commissioner, Public-At-Large, Niagara Escarpment Commission, 2018-2020.

## BLOGS/WEBINARS/PRESENTATIONS

*Duty to Consult: Answering the Questions*, OPPI Blog Exchange, with David Stinson and Carolyn King, October 2021

*Empowering a Treaty Conversation about Relationships and Planning Policy*, OPPI Blog Exchange, with Stephanie Burnham, January 2020.

*Starting the Dialogue: Planning for Reconciliation in Ontario*, OPPI Blog Exchange, December 2018.

*Trying to get it right: Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Relations* webinar, Susan hosted with Carolyn King for Green Communities Canada, September 2018.

*Emerging Indigenous Municipal Planning: Building Relationships and Sharing Culture* Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Annual Historical Gathering, February 2018.

*Credit Valley Trail Naturally Connected*, Ontario Trails Coordinating Committee, Oct 2017.