

Committee: **Cycling Advisory Committee**

Organization/Sector represented: **"member-at-large"**

Name: **Kent Buchanan**

Address:

**378 Colville Blvd.
London, Ontario
N6K 2J5**

Occupation: **Environmental Technician and Geographic Information Systems Specialist**

Work experience: **I work in a variety of project areas as an Environmental Technician and Geographic Information Systems Specialist at the local office of a major consulting engineering firm. Over 6+ years, my experience has included Municipal Class Environmental Assessments, infrastructure master planning, drinking water source protection, natural heritage assessments, and renewable energy approvals. I also work part time as a musical accompanist (6+ years). I have further previous work experience as an administrative assistant (2 years), as a leader and program director at a residential children's camp (4 years), as program director at a conservation authority campground (1 year), and as a math, science and English tutor (3 years). My volunteer experience includes membership on the board of a residential children's camp (5 years), membership on the maintenance committee of a local place of worship (6 years), membership on the financial review committee of a local place of worship (4 years), leadership of a community environmental organization (2 years), leadership of a student union at a post-secondary institution (3 years), and leadership of a resident's council at a post-secondary institution residence (2 years).**

Education: **I hold an Honours Bachelor of Science from the University of Toronto (2006), with a major in Urban, Social and Economic Geography, a major in Physics, and a minor in Geographic Information Systems. This degree included study of transportation geography. I also hold an Ontario College Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems – Applications Specialist from Sir Sandford Fleming College (2007).**

Skills: **I have 11 years of experience as an effective board and/or committee member of a variety of non-profit and charitable organizations (described in the "work experience" section above), where I've engaged in stakeholder outreach and consultation, volunteer recruitment, planning and visioning, proposing and carrying out events and initiatives, evaluation of proposed policies, and review of budgets and financial documents. I have 6 years of experience as a bicycle commuter in London, and a lifetime as a recreational cyclist. I am the local office coordinator of my company's annual "Cool Commute Challenge" where employees are asked to try active commuting for a one-month period. I take a keen interest and stay abreast of current cycling issues, infrastructure and initiatives in other jurisdictions.**

Interest reason: **I am interested in the contributing to the success of cycling projects that are undertaken by the City -- as measured by positive stakeholder experience and broad community support -- as this will increase the willingness of all parties to consider future**

initiatives. I am interested in improving both cycling safety as well as community perceptions of cycling safety. I am interested in responsible and respectful cycling as a way of building community support for cycling initiatives. I believe that this advisory committee can be a forum to approach these issues, and I would like to play a role in establishing the usefulness and credibility of this new body.

Contributions: I bring the perspective of someone who enjoys cycling to work and for recreation, but who also recognizes and understands some of the barriers faced by individuals and families in choosing transportation modes. I believe I can help collaborate to advise on short- and medium-term strategies that can advance the City towards its long-term goals as outlined in the Bicycle Master Plan, the Transportation Master Plan, and other documents. I bring a good working knowledge of some of the processes that the City works within, including master planning and Municipal Class Environmental Assessments.

Past contributions: I regularly evaluate and suggest improvements to proposed policies, budgets and initiatives while serving on boards or committees of several volunteer and charitable organizations as outlined in the “work experience” section. I have acted as a voice for unrepresented stakeholders, and I have proposed and undertaken a number of initiatives myself, including: -Securing approval of and leading fundraising for a new scholarship program for student staff-members at a residential children’s camp; -Chairing a campus-wide leadership conference for new student leaders while at the University of Toronto; and -Founding an environmental community group in Belmont, Ontario, and organizing a number of community events including a tour of local “green” businesses.

Interpersonal: I have served on several boards and committees of volunteer and charitable organizations as described above, spanning a period of 11 years. In this time, I have generally been regarded as someone who can listen and learn from others, present my perspective respectfully, and bring a calm demeanor to contentious meetings. I help facilitate respectful discussions by identifying areas where the interests of competing stakeholders overlap, and keeping an eye for both the short-term reality and long-term vision of a proposal.

Interview interest: **Yes**