

Committee: **Environmental & Ecological Planning Advisory Committee**

Organization/Sector represented: **Western University**

Name: **Rebecca Doyle**

Occupation: **Ph.D student (Geography, Environment & Sustainability)**

Work experience: **Academic work experience: During the summer of 2014 I was hired as a research assistant at the Centre for Experimental Climate Change Research at Western University. While working as a research assistant, I was focused on using experimental growth chambers to better understand how plant communities in Canada's boreal forests might respond to climate change. From 2015 to present I worked as a teaching assistant for the Department of Geography at Western University, helping the professors to grade assignments, administer tutorials and hold office hours. Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) experience: During the summer of 2015 I worked as an Environmental Communication and Outreach Coordinator for the NGO Friends of the Coves Subwatershed Inc. (FOTCSI). My role at FOTCSI was primarily to write grants, facilitate community outreach events and manage social media accounts. Industry experience: During the summers of 2012 and 2013 I worked with an engineering consulting firm called Tecsar Engineering Inc. as an administrative assistant and junior architectural draftsman. While working at Tecsar I was given the opportunity to transfer to their partner company, Nova Chemicals Inc., to help project management prepare documentation for an upcoming audit.**

Education: **I completed my undergraduate degree at Western University in 2015. I graduated with an Honors Specialization in Environmental Science with a minor in English Literature and Culture. In 2015 I began my Master's research in the Department of Geography at Western University. I am co-supervised by Dr. Katrina Moser and Dr. Fred Longstaffe. In 2016 my supervisors recommended that I fast-track my Master's degree into a Ph.D. In addition to my Ph.D. I am enrolled in an Environment & Sustainability enrichment program, which involves taking an extra seminar course throughout the entire tenor of my Ph.D. I am scheduled to graduate from my Ph.D. and the enrichment program in 2020.**

Skills: **If chosen to be a part of the Environment and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EPAC), I will bring to the table my specialized knowledge of geochemistry and aquatic science, my broad understanding of environmental issues, my strong background in science communication and my positive attitude. My Ph.D. research, which focuses on using indicators in lake sediments to understand past climates, has provided me with specialized knowledge in the fields of geochemistry and limnology, the study of lake systems. In addition to my specialized knowledge, I also have a broad understanding of environmental issues in London and throughout Canada thanks to my background in Environmental Science. Furthermore, my experience working as an Environmental Communication and Outreach Specialist, my involvement in several sustainability-oriented organizations on campus and my minor in English Literature and Culture have taught me excellent oral and written communication skills. Finally, working in a collaborative laboratory environment has taught me to be a team-player who is agreeable yet driven. I make it my goal every day to come to work with a positive attitude.**

Interest reason: **I am mainly interested in joining EPAC because I have a keen interest in municipal policy. Although the final decision on policy matters is made by the Municipal Council, I think that becoming a part of EPAC would help me gain a better understanding of how decisions related to Environmentally Significant Areas and other natural areas are made. Importantly, I feel that participating in EPAC would be a way for me to give back to my community.**

Contributions: **I foresee that my main contributions to this body will be twofold. I can use my technical expertise as a budding aquatic scientist to offer informed advice on the impacts of development in natural areas, particularly near lakes and rivers. Also, I can draw on my experience writing and editing reports to help improve the quality of documents.**

Past contributions: **While working for Friends of the Coves Subwatershed Inc. (FOTCSI), I frequently consulted with Linda McDougall (the City Ecologist) and Andrew MacPherson (Manager of Environmental and Parks Planning) about grants that I was writing with Thom McClenaghan (Present of FOTCSI) to establish part of the Coves subwatershed as a**

public park. Through this collaborative effort FOTCSI received nearly \$200 000. The City of London used this funding to install the infrastructure necessary to establish the Coves as a public park.

Interpersonal: I have gained experience exchanging views with others, and respecting their skills/abilities/knowledge while working in my co-supervisor's (Dr. Fred Longstaffe's) laboratory, The Laboratory for Stable Isotope Science. In this eight-million-dollar facility, students are taught to negotiate amongst themselves who gets to use which delicate, expensive machine at what time. This process is often incredibly challenging since each student is under pressure to produce analytical results, and often the machines stop working if overused. Therefore negotiating access to each machine requires patience, understanding and compromise. When one of these instruments breaks down, all the students trained on that machine must work amongst themselves and with highly-trained laboratory technicians to diagnose the problem and repair the instrument. Accomplishing this feat requires, not only teamwork, but a willingness to forgive others for their mistakes and think proactively.

Interview interest: **Yes**