

21 December 2015



Ed Dowling a transit ‘visionary’ and innovator

via www.mississauga.com

Ed Dowling, a Mississauga transit pioneer and the municipality’s first director of transit, died Saturday morning from cancer. He was 76.

Bill Cunningham, who succeeded Dowling as the municipality’s transit director after Dowling retired in 1998, regarded his former boss as not only a colleague but a friend. He noted that Dowling brought in a number of innovations that are staples of the transit system these days.

For example, Dowling was responsible for establishing an automated telephone number people could call for information on the buses’ schedule. Dowling was also a champion of transit being a true alternative to the private vehicle and, to help reach that goal, made Mississauga the first municipality in the country to offer air-conditioned buses.

He also introduced Canada’s first articulated buses, made sure Mississauga was the first municipality to sell weekly bus passes, made Mississauga the first transit service in Ontario to use electronic destination signs on the buses and established a satellite transit facility in Malton.

“Ed was very much a visionary,” said Cunningham. “He saw the future of transit in Mississauga and, through innovation, creativity and foresight, he was an architect of the system’s growth from its earliest days.”

A few years back, Dowling received the W.G. Ross Lifetime Achievement Award from the Canadian Urban Transit Association.

He was responsible for unprecedented growth in Mississauga’s transit system. When he started, Mississauga Transit consisted of six buses, three routes and 10 employees. When he retired, there were 310 buses, 60 routes and more than 750 employees.

[Read more...](#)

2015 CUTA Fall Conference Session Presentations Available

Session presentations in PDF format from the 2015 Fall Conference in Montréal can be found in the [CUTA library](#) in the [Members Only Section](#) by using the following keywords: **FCONF15**, **CUTA Fall Conference 2015**, **RAILconnect** and Search Fields: **Abstract/Résumé**

P.S. find [photos from the CUTA Fall Conference](#) on Facebook!

For more information, please contact conferences@cutaactu.ca.

Congratulations to the winner of a free registration to the CUTA Annual or Fall Conference 2016!

Congratulations to **Wade Coombs**, Strathcona County Transit, who was randomly selected from the Fall Conference 2015 session survey submissions to win a free registration to a 2016 CUTA Conference.

For more information please contact conferences@cutaactu.ca.

Call for Abstracts – CUTA Annual Conference - *Transforming Transit for Communities in Motion*

You’ve heard it before – cities grow, demographics shift, customer expectations evolve and people keep moving, right? BUT, how is the transit industry keeping pace, or is it? To remain at the centre of the unique communities it serves and be the pillar of integrated mobility, transit needs to be responsive – it needs to transform.

We want to hear from you about the challenges, opportunities and ideas taking shape as you respond to communities in motion.

Take the time to [submit an abstract](#) for the opportunity to present to transit leaders of today and tomorrow at [CUTA's Annual Conference](#) in Halifax from May 14-18, 2015.

[SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT](#) Deadline for submissions is **January 27, 2016**.

For more information please contact conferences@cutaactu.ca.

CUTA Membership Renewal 2016

The year is coming to an end, and it is now time for us to invite you to **renew your membership** with us. [Click here to pay for your membership](#) (or print your invoice). We look forward to the coming year, as we work with you to develop an even stronger support network among our members, to support you in your organization's goals, and work together towards Transit Vision 2040.

For further information, please contact [Winnie Tong](#), Acting Membership Coordinator.

Nominating Committee Selects Chair and Opens Process for 2016

The CUTA Nominating Committee for 2016, established by the Board of Directors last month, has selected **Bob Paddon** as chair, and will prepare its report for circulation to the membership at least ninety days in advance of the Annual Meeting, scheduled for mid-May 2016 in Halifax, NS. All CUTA members are invited to submit nominations. Forms are [available on the CUTA website](#). Nominations may be submitted directly to CUTA by email to the attention of [Joanne Vézina](#), no later than **Monday 25 January 2016**.

For more information please contact [Joanne Vézina](#) at 613-690-5139.

Transport Futures: HOT Lanes Forum – Cooling Congestion One Lane at a Time

January 22, 2016 – DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Toronto (Downtown)

The Ontario government has announced its [plan](#) to test High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes on a section of the provincial High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) network. But moving forward with this user pay concept, which reduces traffic congestion and raises revenue for transportation infrastructure, will be a challenge given the public's support for "free" roads. In order to assist government staff and politicians in their policy, consultation and construction efforts, Transport Futures invites you to learn all aspects of HOT lane planning, including: benefits and costs; equity and public acceptance; infrastructure, technology and systems procurement and design; governance and legislation; communication strategies and politics.

CUTA members receive a 10% discount! Use discount code **CUTA8** when [registering](#). Early bird rates are in effect until December 31 and seating is limited. Tables of 8 can be purchased for 15% off.

For more information, please visit www.transportfutures.ca/hot or email info@transportfutures.ca.

CUTA Training and Professional Development Update

Congratulations to everyone who participated in our learning events throughout the month of November! Great projects were shared and realised after long hours of work in [Transit Planning](#) and [Transit Scheduling and Runcutting – Level II](#). Stimulating discussion regarding urban mobility was shared in [Integrating Transportation and Land Use Planning](#), and we cannot wait to meet the new participants joining us for our [learning events in 2016](#). If you are a member of OPPI, don't forget you can claim learning units according to the CPL Program Guide for Transit Planning and Integrating Transportation and Land Use Planning. In the next couple of weeks we will be launching our first quarterly e-newsletter, so look out for it in your inboxes! It will be full of rich content relevant to our industry and news from CUTA Training.

For more information or to register use on the [online registration form](#) or contact [training](#) at extension 121.

Welcome to STRADA!

We would like to welcome The London Transit Commission to STRADA. They will be using the [STRADA](#) recruitment toolkit, created for the transit industry by the transit industry for finding the best candidate for the bus operator role!

STRADA helps you to identify the right person to put in the driver's seat by using a system of cross-checked competencies. The cornerstone of the system is the assessment survey, a 30 minute web-based test. Once the test is completed a custom report is

produced for each candidate. HR staff can determine which candidates to bring in for an interview and who to avoid. The report also provides additional interview questions specifically customized for that candidate. The questions dig deep into the candidate's innate personality traits to determine whether they possess the key competencies which will enable them to excel in the role of bus operator.

The STRADA toolkit steps will highlight those candidates that provide excellent customer service, have low absenteeism rates and will stay with you and develop their career in your organization; reducing turnover and performance issues.

SmartDRIVER is calling out for participants

The training department has been approached by several properties in Ontario to have a [SmartDRIVER](#) training in 2016. This will be an open enrolment event, so we are calling out for participants to join the training!

[Contact us](#) with your availability and the number of people you would like trained on [SmartDRIVER](#).