

A PLACE AND SPACE FOR CHANGE:
EXPLORING RESIDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF THEIR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
AND HEALTH IN MALTON (MISSISSAUGA), ONTARIO

by

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A thesis submitted in conformity with the requirements
for the degree Master of Arts
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Abstract

Title: A Place and Space for Change: Exploring Residents' Perceptions of their Natural Environment and Health in Malton (Mississauga), Ontario
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Year: 2006
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Linkages between the environment and health are a growing area of research, particularly at the local and neighbourhood levels. Perceptions of the environment have also been shown to influence health. While geographic scale is salient for the study of the environment and health, few studies have examined perceptions of the environment and health across scales. This research responds to this gap, presenting a study of perceptions of the environment and health across scales, with a focus on the local scale. Surveys and focus group sessions were conducted with participants from community groups in Malton (City of Mississauga), Ontario, in order to explore participants' perceptions of the Mimico Creek environment and health. Participants identified links between perceptions of the environment and health at various scales. Participants indicated that perceptions of the environmental health of the Mimico Creek influences health in Malton at both individual and neighbourhood levels.

Acknowledgements

This research was supported by a graduate student fellowship from the Centre for Urban Health Initiatives (CUHI) at the University of Toronto for 2004-2005, and by a Master's Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGS) from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) for 2005-2006. This research contributes to CUHI's "Neighbourhoods and Health" Research Interest Group.

I would like to sincerely thank all who kindly took the time to participate in this research: participants from St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, Lincoln Alexander Secondary School, the LINC5 class at Malton Neighbourhood Services, and the Malton Black Development Association. Also, I would like to extend thanks to Malton residents who contributed their comments to various versions of the survey. I would like to extend a sincere 'thank you' to all Malton residents whom I have had the pleasure of meeting over the course of this research. The Malton Environmental Stewardship Project has opened a 'door' to the Malton community that is gratefully acknowledged. I would like to extend a grateful 'thank you' to Marnie Branfireun (MESP) for all her input and support on this research project. I would also like to thank Mr. Stephen Rutherford, who provided access to Lincoln Alexander Secondary School. Mr. Rutherford's interest and help was invaluable for this research and is gratefully acknowledged. I would also like to thank Ms. Sangha, LINC manager at Malton Neighbourhood Services, for her help in coordinating a focus group with the LINC5 class. This provided an unparalleled opportunity to involve newcomers to Canada in this research, and Ms. Sangha's help is thankfully acknowledged. I would also like to thank Dianne Douglas and Colin Henry for their help in facilitating two focus group sessions with St. Mark's Presbyterian Church. As well, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Clem Burrowes and the Malton Black Development Association for their interest and involvement in this research.

I would like to extend my sincere and grateful thanks to Professor Kathi Wilson for her help in planning, conducting and writing about this research. A student could not ask for a better or more supportive advisor, and I am truly grateful. I would also like to thank my committee members, Professor Sarah Wakefield and Professor Tenley Conway, for their support and involvement in this research. I would also like to thank Renata Wasley (UTM Geography) and Kathi Wilson for their help with the survey data and statistical analysis. I would also like to thank Jennifer English for her note-taking during a focus group session. I would also like to thank my friends and colleagues at the University of Toronto and UTM for their help and support, with a special thanks to Mike Lackner for making the map of Mississauga and Malton.

Finally, I would like to thank my friends, family and spiritual family for their unwavering love and support. My sincere thanks to Deborah Allen for sending me much positive energy and angelic support, Nadia Quaestor for her love, support and protection, and all my dear ones—including my little calico cat—for their support and caring interest. My ultimate gratitude and love to God, the Angels and Earth Angels, and to Spirit for loving, supporting and guiding me.

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