

## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION



**In my opinion, Arthur Orsini is the foremost expert on working with high schools in North America.**

Wendi Kallins - SRTS Founder,  
Program Director, Marin Co., USA

## EDUCATION

### M. Arts (Env. Ed. & Comm.)

Royal Roads University (2005)

### Adult Training & Facilitation Certificate

Justice Institute (2002)

### B. Architecture

Carleton University (1993)

## AWARDS

### Royal Roads University

Continued Sustainability (2005)

Entrance Award (2003)

### OECD

Environmentally Sustainable  
Transport - Education & Youth  
(2000)

Arthur Orsini has been involved in the creation and delivery of Active School Travel projects since 1997. He is passionate about the need to engage children and youths in skill-building, program development and implementation. He has successfully collaborated with students from age nine through to Grade 12.

In 1999 he created the first-ever Secondary School TDM program which was awarded an *Environmentally Sustainable Transport* award from the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development). That program has been recreated in Toronto, Winnipeg, Auckland and Marin County, California.

Orsini was Canada's first School Travel Planner - having travelled to New Zealand to take on that role across the Auckland Region in 2005. Back in Canada, he developed the 2007 YWALK Youth Forum for Toronto's Walk21 conference and upon returning to Vancouver, led the 2007-2009 national pilot project as BC's School Travel Planning Co-ordinator.

In 2009-2010, Orsini completed Walkability Assessments at all 27 elementary schools in the City of Coquitlam in a process that included student leaders. He then facilitated a student-led active school travel program that saw a 37% reduction in traffic across four case study schools.

Orsini has written widely on youth engagement and has delivered dozens of workshops in; Australia (*Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, Perth*), Canada (*Calgary, Halifax, Kelowna, Montréal, Ottawa, Sydney, Toronto, Vancouver, Whitehorse, Winnipeg*), New Zealand (*Auckland, Wellington*), and the USA (*Minneapolis, Portland, Tacoma*).

## CAREER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Youth Engagement Training

#### **Adult Facilitator Workshops** through *Urbanthinkers* (from 2002...)

- Developed and adapted over 40 workshops for transportation, health, environmental and community professionals
- Researched student-led strategies for active school travel programs

#### **Student Leader Workshops** (from 1999...)

- Mentored over 600 youth leaders (age 9-18) in diverse personal projects promoting sustainable transportation
- Facilitated Sustainable Transport Youth Forums
  - **YWALK** (Toronto, 2007)
  - **Untouched World Youth Event** (Auckland, 2006),
  - **Sir Peter Blake Environmental Youth Forum** (Wellington, 2006)

#### **Publications** through *Urbanthinkers* (2001-2011)

- Authored **Learning Without Teaching: Youth-Led Programs To Reduce Car-Trips To School** (October 2010)
- Wrote **Guide to Child & Youth Engagement in Active School Travel Projects** with Bernadette Kowey (June 2010)
- Published Masters thesis ***Fun, Fast and Fit: Influences and Motivators for Teenagers Who Cycle to School*** in *Children, Youth and Environments Journal* (peer-reviewed) with Dr. Catherine O'Brien (Apr 2006)



**Arthur Orsini is Canada's expert in child and youth engagement.**

Jacky Kennedy  
Director, Canada Walks

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

### Walk21 International Conference

Vancouver - Oct 2011  
Toronto - Oct 2007  
Melbourne - Oct 2006

### US Safe Routes to School conf

Minneapolis, Minn - Aug 2011  
Portland, Oregon - Aug 2009

### World Env. Education Congress

Brisbane, Australia - July 2011

### Manitoba ASRTS Prov. Training

Winnipeg - Jan 2011

### US Association for Commuter Transportation

Palm Springs, California - Aug 2010

### DASH-BC Healthy Schools Symposium

Vancouver - Apr 2010

### Canadian Association for Commuter Transportation

Toronto - Nov 2009

### National Active & Safe Routes to School Training

Toronto - Mar 2009

### Washington Safe Routes to School Summit (Keynote Speaker)

Spokane, Washington - Nov 2008

### Pro-Walk/Pro-Bike Conference

Seattle, Washington - Sep 2008

### YWALK Youth Forum

Toronto - Oct 2007

### Sir Peter Blake Youth Forum

Wellington, New Zealand - Apr 2006

### New Zealand Environmental Education annual conference

Auckland, New Zealand - Jan 2006

### Bicycle Federation of Australia

annual conference  
Brisbane, Australia - Oct 2005

### Active Learning Active Research

annual conference  
Sydney, Australia - Sep 2005

### European Conference on Mobility Management

Gent, Belgium - May 2002

## School Travel Plans

**Facilitate Active School Travel** for the *City of Coquitlam* (2010)

- Recruited, trained and supported 30 student leaders at four schools in engaging their peers and families - with 100% student retention
- Achieved a 37% decrease in vehicle traffic - almost doubling goal of a 20% reduction

**BC School Travel Planning Co-ordinator** for *Green Communities Canada* (2007-2009)

- Recruited five schools: co-ordinated municipal and school committee meetings and included student engagement components
- Achieved up to a 20% reduction in vehicle-trips to school - and a culture of walking events that remain within the school culture

**Road Safety Co-ordinator** for *Auckland City Council* and *Auckland Regional Transport Authority* (2005-2006)

- Facilitated student engagement of walking & cycling activities with elementary, intermediate and secondary schools
- Founded **Bike Better** program - listed on front page of the *New Zealand Herald*, Sept. 26th 2006

## Walkability Assessment

**Facilitator** for the *City of Coquitlam* (2009-2010)

- Conducted **WalkArounds** at all elementary schools - with senior student leaders included in the process and discussion
- Documented and developed final reports for Engineering Staff

**Facilitator** for *Green Communities Canada* (2007-2009)

- Conducted **WalkArounds** at three elementary schools - with senior student leaders included in the process and discussion
- Led traffic count at one pilot school which was conducted by pairs of student leaders and volunteer parents

## Cycling Training

**Program Manager** for *Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition* (2007-2008)

- Created first cycling program aimed at key role models: teachers
- Developed resources and facilitated educational workshops
- Doubled the number of 'regular' bike commuters

## Secondary School TDM (Transportation Demand Management)

**Off Ramp Program Manager** for *BEST (Better Environmentally Sound Transportation)* (1999-2004)

- Pioneered first secondary school TDM program in partnership with student leaders from 17 Vancouver and Victoria high schools
- Achieved over 80% reduction in car-trips to school on event days

## Curriculum Development

**RoadSense Resources** for *ICBC* (2010)

- K-Gr. 3 Resource (90 pages), Gr. 4-7 Resource (100 pages)

**Commuter Migration** for *Auckland Regional Council* (2006)

- Gr. 10 Social Studies: **The School Commute**