



CatIQ Connect 2020

Student Delegate Presentation – PhD research

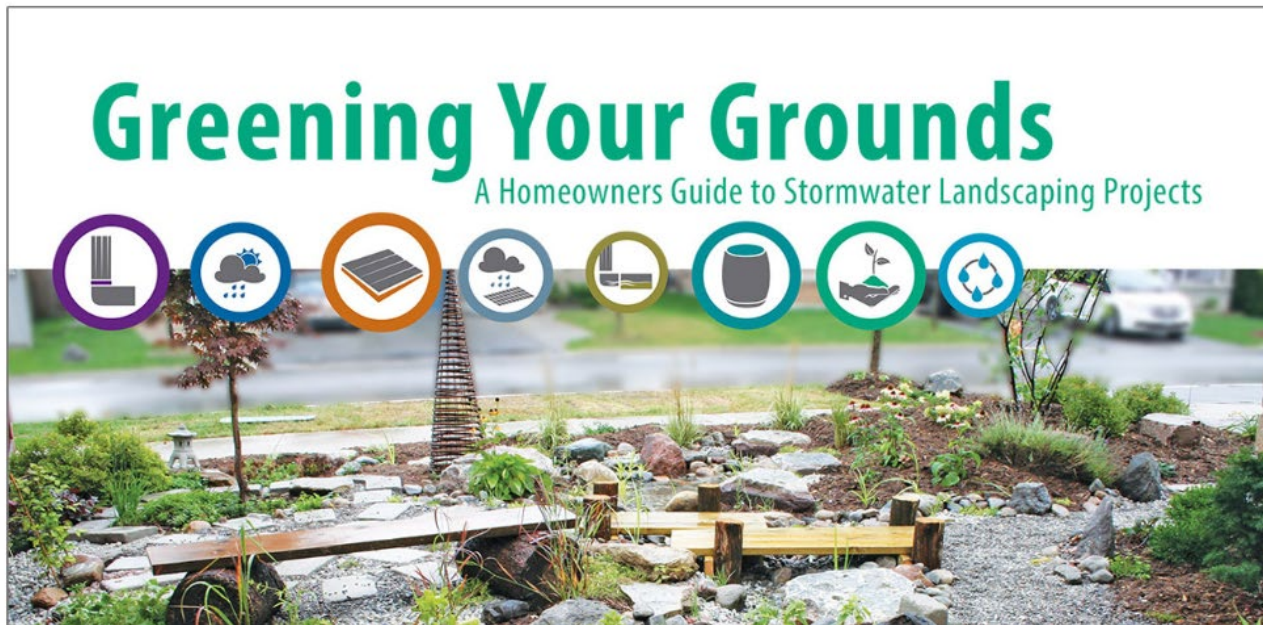
Bringing adaptation home:
Household engagements with climate change
in Ottawa and Halifax

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February 4, 2020

Research interests:

- **Household** climate change adaptation action
- **Cumulative impacts** of home-based cc activities across neighbourhoods
- **Private property rights** and climate change



Mitigating flood risks in your own backyard



A new report details ways local communities can boost their resiliency to extreme weather events

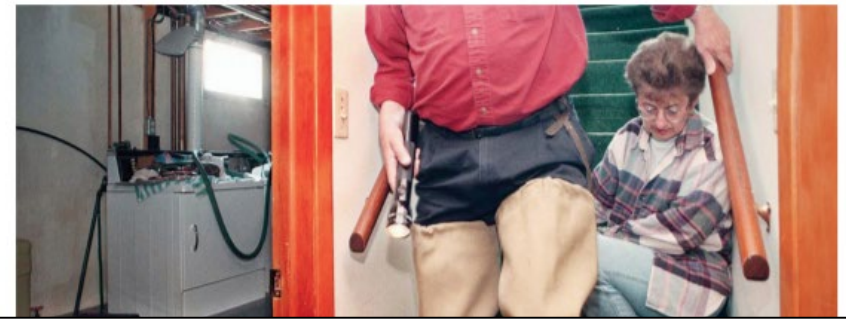


Bob McDonald · CBC Radio · Posted: Nov 16, 2018 3:30 PM ET | Last Updated: November 30, 2018

 Institute for Catastrophic
Loss Reduction
Building resilient communities

Protect your home from **Basement flooding**

Designed for safer living®



Intense weather: Options for homeowners



Intense rain,



Summer



My research:
**What motivates homeowners
to undertake climate change
adaptation activities?**

**ter snow and
torms:** Install
roof heating
es, strengthen
of structure



yard xeriscaping
(low-water planting
and maintenance)

vegetation, install
fire-resistant roofing



Research sites – Ottawa and Halifax:

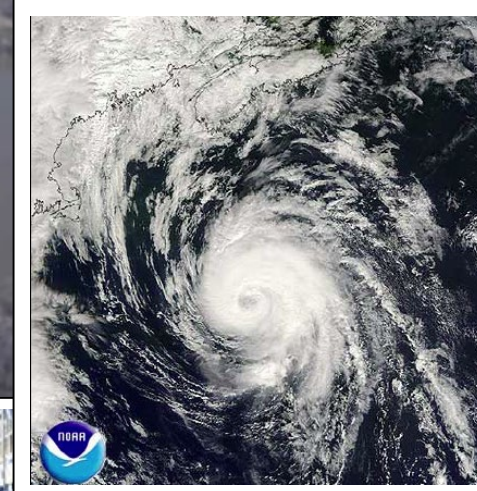


The Ottawa and Gatineau flood: A photo timeline



Taking a look back at the Ottawa and Gatineau floods

CBC News · Posted: May 14, 2017 5:00 AM ET | Last Updated: May 14, 2017



Research theme 1:

Research question:

Where do residents situate places of climate change vulnerability and risk in relation to their homes and neighbourhoods?

Key findings:

- Residents often downplay local impacts
- Local impacts are often understood by residents as existing beyond their home properties

“Usually I don’t think of local... I think of globally because I think it’s far more frightening... there are many more people in other places in the world who are screwed by this far more than we are.”

(Ottawa interview participant)

Research theme 2:

Research question:

How do residents understand home property/neighbourhood trees and other vegetation in the context of climate change impacts and adaptation?

Key findings:

- Residents understand local vegetation as reducing cc impacts but also potentially contributing to other risks
- Challenging to link planting on individual properties to wider neighbourhood adaptation

“You put a tree anywhere in my yard and it could fall on my house. And mine’s a big lot for this area.”

(Ottawa interview participant)

Research theme 3:

Research question:

How do residents situate responsibility for managing stormwater around homes and across neighbourhoods?

Key findings:

- Cynicism about neighbouring infill development reduces motivation for household adaptation action

“It kills me every time somebody buys a house our size, they rip it down, they put in a giant house and they take every inch of space, and all the trees go down.”

(Ottawa interview participant)

Recommendations

Motivating household climate change adaptation activity:

- Assist residents

- Help residents
greenspace
from large

- Address c

General recommendations:

- Offer a **comprehensive** home-based adaptation program
- Leverage resident interest in **incentives, guidance**

ing
risks



Next phase of research:

Develop an online **climate change 'community of experience'** for households across Canada:

Canadians sharing experiences and advice –
**home-based activities to
reduce intense weather risk**

