

Write Up on Dr. Wayne Caldwell's Research Advisory Committee Meeting

By Elizabeth Dwyer

Gateway CERH Research Chair Breeds Innovation at the University of Guelph

On Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup> 2014, members of the Gateway team traveled to Guelph and paid a visit to the University of Guelph where Gateway's Chair of Healthy and Sustainable Communities, Dr. Wayne Caldwell, held a Research Advisory Committee Meeting. Gateway's President, Gwen Devereaux, and Elizabeth Dwyer, a Research Assistant with Gateway, joined approximately thirty individuals of varying backgrounds to listen and collaborate. Dr. Caldwell and six of his students introduced eleven current and future research projects for which Dr. Caldwell serves as project director. The sixth research project "*Healthy Rural Built Environments*"\*, especially piqued the interest of Gateway's team. This project aims to design and render a "toolkit" that will usher communities through the building of healthy rural built environments. Dr. Caldwell and a large group of researchers and advisors will work with Public Health Ontario with the guidance of the Chatham-Kent and Elgin-St. Thomas Public Health Units. Many will ask, "Why this project?" The answer is simple: in a Statistics Canada comparison of rural vs. urban health units, higher rates of chronic disease such as diabetes and higher rates of causative factors such as obesity found their home in the rural units. In fact, the highest rate of obesity belongs to Huron County. The project has goals of assisting in the implementation of *Ontario Public Health's Standards* and the province of Ontario's *Provincial Policy Statement*. Gateway looks forward to updates on this project; this is just one of the many projects that are currently underway by Gateway's Research Chairs who are innovating and improving the quality of life of residents of Rural Southwestern Ontario.

For more information on this and the other projects discussed at the meeting, please see:

[www.waynecaldwell.ca](http://www.waynecaldwell.ca)

\* *Healthy Rural Built Environments* is funded through *Public Health Ontario*