



Global Greenbelts Conference

Local Solutions to Global Challenges

March 22nd - 24th, 2011
Radisson Admiral Hotel
Toronto, Canada

www.globalgreenbeltsconference.ca

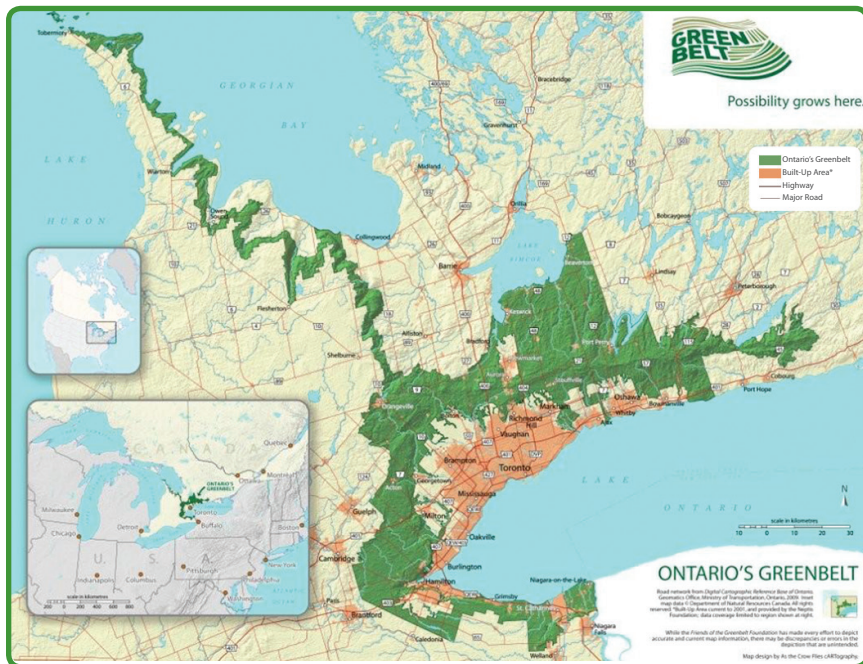


Possibility grows here.

About the Conference

Greenbelts: Local Solutions for Global Challenges mixes panel discussions and site visits to Ontario's Greenbelt to highlight the potential of greenbelts to help manage urban growth, sustain farming and the vibrancy of surrounding communities, and protect valuable ecosystems. Delegates will learn from over forty-five speakers from across the globe.

Ontario's Greenbelt protects 1.8 million acres of prime farmland and green space around the Greater Golden Horseshoe. It provides clean water, healthy local food, and \$2.6 billion per year in ecological services. Over 90% of Ontarians agree that the Greenbelt is one of the most important contributions to the future of the Province, and 93% strongly support it.



Global Greenbelts

Learn About

The Melbourne Green Wedges, forming a broad arc around metropolitan Melbourne, Australia, and part of a larger strategy to prevent urban sprawl into the hinterland.

The 'Iron Curtain' Green Belt, the belt of land spanning 1,393 kilometres along the no-man's land on either side of the former 'Iron Curtain' in Germany, harbouring an incredible diversity of animal and plant species.

The European Greenbelt, an ecological network potentially connecting 24 countries in Europe from the North to the South.

The Sao Paulo City Green Belt Biosphere Reserve, with its world leading eco-training and entrepreneurship programs for disadvantaged youth.

The Frankfurt Green Belt, evolved from early green spaces where the medieval city walls once stood, to the 1991 'GrünGürtel' wrapping around the city, now forming part of a larger regional green system.

The Mazovia Region around Warsaw, where work is underway to establish a greenbelt to protect its unique environmental landscape, species habitat, and productive farmland.

The San Francisco Bay Area, with a comprehensive vision for smart growth and greenbelt protection.

The London Metropolitan Green Belt, the largest UK green belt, preventing urban sprawl and providing fresh food and open space.

The Dutch Green Heart, an agricultural area surrounded by The Hague, Amsterdam, Utrecht, and Rotterdam.

The Copenhagen Finger Plan, that has contributed to protecting agricultural and natural landscapes space since 1947.

The Ottawa National Capital Commission Greenbelt, the oldest and largest federally owned greenbelt in North America.

The British Columbia Agricultural Land Reserve, preserving farmland and strengthening farming across the province.

Date: March 22nd - 24th, 2011

Venue: Radisson Admiral Hotel,
Toronto, Canada

Registration fee: \$250.00 + HST

Register at:
www.globalgreenbeltsconference.ca

Conference Highlights

Keynote Speakers



Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario (invited)

Dalton McGuinty is Ontario's 24th Premier. In the provincial election of 2003, he led the Liberal party to a majority government. He and his party earned a second consecutive majority on October 10, 2007. He has represented the riding of Ottawa South as its MPP since 1990.



Margaret Atwood

Throughout her writing career, Margaret Atwood has received numerous awards and honorary degrees. Her work has been published in over 35 countries and she is the author of more than 40 books of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction.

Atwood has strong views on environmental issues, and she and her partner are the Joint Honourary Presidents of the Rare Bird Club within BirdLife International. She has been Chair of the Writers' Union of Canada and President of PEN Canada, and is currently a Vice President of PEN International.



Dr. Ronald F. Williamson

Dr. Ronald F. Williamson is an archaeologist with almost 40 years of field and administrative experience. He holds an Honours BA from the University of Western Ontario and MA and PhD from McGill University. In 1980, he founded Archaeological Services Inc. and has since directed over a thousand archaeological assessment, excavation, and planning projects throughout the Great Lakes Region.

Lunch and Laughter

Join Second City, one of the world's leading sketch-based comedy ensembles, for some lighthearted humour.



Site Visits

On March 22nd choose one of five full-day site visits that get you out into Ontario's Greenbelt. Don't miss this fun day exploring the possibilities in the Greenbelt.

- Option 1:** Savour the offerings from the tender fruit and grape area in the Niagara Peninsula.
- Option 2:** See the changes happening on farms in the Holland Marsh.
- Option 3:** Experience a 15th century Iroquoian Village nestled in the Niagara Escarpment, and hike in part of the Cootes to Escarpment Park System.
- Option 4:** Join in a Spirit Walk led by a member of the Alderville First Nation in the Rice Lake Grasslands, and learn about the geology and natural history of the area.
- Option 5:** Learn about improving access to locally grown food at two leading community food security organizations.



The Reel Greenbelt: Youth Video Competition

An evening event, with Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Bartolucci, showcasing one-minute videos submitted by Ontario youth for the Reel Greenbelt Youth Video Competition. Prizes will be presented to the winning competitors. More information can be found at www.reelgreenbelt.ca

Program

March 23, 2011

- 9:15 **Opening Address: Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario (invited)**
- 10:30 **International Perspectives on Greenbelts and their Possibilities**
Frankfurt Green Belt, Germany
Melbourne Green Wedges, Australia
Sao Paulo City Green Belt Biosphere Reserve, Brazil
- 12:30 Lunch and laughter with **The Second City**, one of the world's leading sketch-based comedy ensembles.
- 14:00 Parallel Sessions
- Sustaining Rural Vitality:** Speakers from the United Kingdom, Peri-Urban Regions Platform Europe (PURPLE), and Canada - Listen to their experiences and ideas for innovative forms of economic development including how communities can take advantage of their unique greenbelt attributes and proximity to urban markets and transportation systems.
- The Changing Landscape of Farming:** Speakers from Australia and Canada – Hear about the distinctive approaches farmers and partners are taking to stay viable, now and into the future.
- Incorporating the Economic Benefits of Greenbelts into Decision Making:** Speakers from the Netherlands, United Kingdom, and Canada – Learn about using natural capital valuation to inform decision making about land use and development in and around Greenbelts.
- 16:00 **International Perspectives on Greenbelts and their Possibilities**
Mazovia Region, Poland
San Francisco Bay Area, United States of America
Iron Curtain Green Belt, Germany and European Green Belt
- 18:00 **Harbourfront Reception and Dinner** Celebrating European Greenbelts and featuring *Beyond Imaginings* Greenbelt photo exhibit.

March 24, 2011

- 9:00 **Dr. Ronald F. Williamson** will provide an overview of First Nations' history in Ontario's Greenbelt and identify applications and implications for the future.
- 10:30 Parallel Sessions
- Enhancing Ecosystems and Biodiversity:** Speakers from Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Canada – Hear about on-the-ground strategies for enhancing ecological integrity and health.
- Everyone's Greenbelt: Reaching Out to Diverse Communities:** Speakers from the United States and Canada – Learn about successful examples of engaging multicultural communities in farming in Greenbelts in recreational and tourism opportunities, and land stewardship.
- Greenbelts and Infrastructure Development:** Speakers from Denmark, Germany, and Canada - Listen to different experiences in identifying alternatives to expansion and development of new infrastructure, as well as ways of minimizing negative impacts on the integrity of ecosystems.
- 12:15 **Lunch with Keynote Speaker: Margaret Atwood**
- 13:45 Parallel Sessions
- Governing Greenbelts:** Speakers from Germany, the Netherlands, the United States, and Canada – Learn about collaborative Greenbelt implementation, and more integrated implementation and monitoring.
- Connecting People to Greenbelts:** Speakers from Brazil, the United Kingdom, and Germany – Listen to examples of community champions and successful partnerships, and ways of going beyond awareness-raising to fostering high citizen engagement.
- Improving Urban Food Access:** Speakers from the United States, Australia and Canada – Hear about interventions to ensure improved food access and longer term approaches to alleviating household food insecurity.
- 15:45 **Five Big Ideas for Greenbelts:** Five experts will each present their big idea for the future of greenbelts.



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