


8:30 – 9:00	Registration
9:00	Welcome & Introductions
9:30 – 12:15	Research Presentations
9:30 – 10:00	Directing Land Cover Change in the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area with Satellite Remote Sensing Holly Waite, University of Waterloo
10:00 – 10:30	Legends and Folklore Tourism in Niagara Kerri Mulder & Alison Powell, Brock University
10:30 – 10:45	Networking Break
10:45-11:15	Monitoring and Reporting Ecosystem Health: A Report Card on the Health of the Humber River Watershed Sonia Dhir, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
11:15 – 11:45	Manitoulin’s Emerging Escarpment Trail Bob Barnett, Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy
11:45 – 12:15	Digital Discovery and Electronic Explorations: Promoting Sustainable Tourism in the Niagara Greenbelt David Brown & Renato Romanin
12:30 – 2:00	Lunch and Special Guest Speaker Margaret Wentz  Globe and Mail columnist Margaret Wentz isn't afraid of controversy. In fact she's famous for her sharp opinions on everything from politics and Conrad Black to the relations between the sexes -- always delivered with wit and sharp observation. She's been called the best columnist in Canada -- and she inspires more irate letters to the editor than anybody else!
2:00 – 3:00	Panel Discussion: Adaptation to Climate Change at the Municipal Level Jim McClellan and Adam Fenech What is rapid risk assessment of climate change? Using a newly developed approach, rapid risk assessment will: link climate models to policy and decision-making; provide a rapid assessment of the risks of climate change to various economic sectors and the natural environment; and identify priorities for climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies at the municipal level.
2:00 – 3:00	Workshop: GO Green Sustainable Tourism Development Project Michelle Maxwell, Green Earth Strategies and Caroline Polgrabia, Ontario Ministry of Tourism During early 2008, Green Earth Strategies worked in partnership with the Regional Municipality of Durham and the Ontario Ministry of Tourism to research and develop a sustainable tourism development workshop and toolkit package. The package was created to assist tourism operators with beginning the process of introducing sustainable tourism practices into their current operations. This presentation by Michelle Maxwell of Green Earth Strategies and Caroline Polgrabia of Ontario's Ministry of Tourism will give you an overview of the project, the workshop materials and how your organization, municipality or stakeholders could use and benefit from the research and workshop materials resulting from this project.
3:00 – 3:15	Networking Break
3:15 – 4:30	Panel Discussion: Economic Development and Biosphere Reserves Don Ross, Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve and Christian Hart, Lac St. Pierre Biosphere Reserve The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve (FABR), in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Recreation and in collaboration with numerous partners including Parks Canada, the Tourism Industry Association of Canada and regional Chambers of Commerce and marketing partnerships, is developing a national model for the promotion and identification of sustainable tourism opportunities. The ultimate product will be a model that is within the capabilities of an average community, will support environmental and cultural integrity, and will be community led and inspired.
5:00 Escarpment Wine Bar 6:30 Dinner by Orangeville’s award-winning Absolute Catering 8:00 James Anthony and Band	Conference Reception and Dinner Entertainment by Canadian Guitar Legend James Anthony! We are pleased to present internationally acclaimed guitarist/songwriter James Anthony and his band. Since hitting the road at 17, this “guitarist’s guitarist” has backed more than 150 Rock and Roll Legends and has played back to back with blues and rock luminaries like Howling Wolf, Elvin Bishop, Big Mama Thorton, James Cotton, Randy Bachman and Colin James. Don’t miss this chance to see one of Canada’s premier showmen!

Leading Edge 2008 Conference Schedule

Thursday, October 2

9:00 – 9:30	Registration
9:30 – 12:30	State of the Escarpment Sessions <i>Moderator: Moreen Miller, NEC Commissioner and Land Director, Lafarge North America</i>
9:30 – 10:00	How Effective is the Niagara Escarpment Plan in Protecting Provincially Significant Life Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest? Anne Marie Laurence, Ecological Monitoring Specialist, Niagara Escarpment Commission
10:00 – 10:30	Tracking and Monitoring Development Activity on the Niagara Escarpment Daniel Ventresca, GIS Officer, Niagara Escarpment Commission
10:30 – 10:45	Networking Break
10:45-11:15	Forest Cover on the Niagara Escarpment Lisa Grbinicek, Strategic Advisor, Niagara Escarpment Commission
11:15 – 11:45	Visual Assessment Studies on the Niagara Escarpment Linda Laflamme, Landscape Architect, Niagara Escarpment Commission
11:45 – 12:15	Keeping the Edge Chris McLaughlin, Executive Director, Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment The Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment's (CONE) Executive Director Chris McLaughlin shares CONE's vision of the future of the Niagara Escarpment as the program faces increasingly complex challenges and growing development pressures. The Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment (CONE), formed in 1978 to advocate for the Escarpment's protection, is a coalition of 26 environmental non-profit organizations and hundreds of individual citizen members across Canada.
12:30 – 2:00	Lunch & Special Guest Speaker: Roy MacGregor  When Roy MacGregor was named an Officer in the Order of Canada in 2005, the citation read: "One of our most gifted storytellers, Roy MacGregor is renowned for evoking the subtle nuances of our Canadian identity in his columns and books." MacGregor is a highly entertaining public speaker, a natural comic and passionate storyteller with a sense of this country.
2:00 – 3:00	Presentation: Eco Cities Jim Birtch, Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association and Parks Canada UNESCO is seeking ways to apply the MAB (Man and Biosphere) Program to the issues of Urban Areas and an innovative approach has been developed in Canada over the last several years. Called Biosphere Eco-Cities, this suggested component of MAB would designate urban areas together with their surrounding rural areas as international demonstration areas for sustainability. With the participation of multiple sectors of the urban-centred areas, Eco-Cities would focus on supporting nature and improving quality of life, while sharing results with an evolving world network under MAB. Ten themes would be used to help organize and share projects, including: transportation, energy, design, habitat, food, natural capital, waste control, health, recreation and sense of place. The Canadian Committee for MAB has commissioned a pilot study for the City of Ottawa to test the concept.
3:00 – 3:15	Networking Break
3:15 – 4:30	Panel Discussion: Approaches to Consensus and Community Involvement <i>Moderator: Nicola Ross, Editor, Alternatives Journal</i> Peter Etheridge, Fundy Biosphere Reserve; Lynda Lucasik, Environment Hamilton and Debbe Crandall, Save the Oak Ridges Moraine (STORM) Coalition Highlighting the experiences of the Fundy Biosphere Reserve, Environment Hamilton and Save the Oak Ridges Moraine (STORM) Coalition, this panel will discuss what it takes to engage broad ranges of partners to achieve objectives for environmental conservation and sustainable community development.