

AN EXCLUSIVE INVITATION:

THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT BIOSPHERE NETWORK

During an era of Reconciliation, a new organization has emerged to sustain and enhance the status of the UNESCO Niagara Escarpment Biosphere.

All who wish to support the Biosphere are welcome to this engagement and information sharing session.

WHEN:

SUN., SEPT. 11, 2022,
1:00-3:00 P.M.

WHERE:

The Film House
First Ontario Performing
Arts Centre
250 St. Paul Street
St. Catharines, ON
L2R 3M2

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Niagara
Escarpment
Biosphere
Network



OVERVIEW

This presentation will include officials of the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network and representatives of network organizations explaining the importance of preserving the Niagara Escarpment. It will feature stunning never-seen-before photography, aerial and drone video of the Niagara Escarpment in an effort to address profound and increasing environmental challenges.

The Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network, a community-led grassroots organization, was introduced to the public during an official ceremony held at The Brown Homestead on April 22, 2022. The organization has become the official entity working on the mandate and designation of the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere in consultation with UNESCO. Supported by a three-year grant from Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Indigenous non-governmental organization Plenty Canada is nurturing and assisting in the development of the emerging Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network.

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PHOTO BY MARK ZELINSKI



The UNESCO Niagara Escarpment Biosphere currently runs west from Niagara, and then north to Tobermory, extending some 700+ kilometres. To maintain its Biosphere designation, in 2019, a Transitional Leadership Committee was formed to develop a revised Niagara Escarpment Biosphere model after it was deemed no longer appropriate to have oversight nested within a government agency. In 2021, the Transition Leadership Committee and Plenty Canada signed a memorandum-of-understanding to work together on developing this new co-governance structure. Work has progressed well and in March 2022, the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network became officially incorporated under provincial regulations.

“For anyone and everyone who values and seeks to protect the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere, its unique ecosystems and species at risk, this program will provide detailed information and engagement opportunities.”

Visit NEBNetwork.org for more information about the organization.

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PHOTO BY MARK ZELINSKI



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PROGRAM

Short Opening Video Presentation

Stunning video and images of the Niagara Escarpment

Welcome by Program Host Tim Johnson

Opening remarks by NEBN Executive Director and President Patrick J. Robson

Niagara Escarpment Historical Context and Periodic Review Update by Liette Vasseur, professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Brock University

On the Path to Reconciliation: Indigenous Co-governance of Biospheres by Plenty Canada Executive Director Larry McDermott

Short Video Interlude: Messages from network supporters

Envisioning a Sustainable Niagara Escarpment, presentation by Michael McDonald, CEO of the Bruce Trail Conservancy

The Lands We Love and Our Concerns for the Future, by Chief of the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation, Gimaa Kwe Veronica Smith

Short Video Interlude: Messages from network supporters

Niagara to Tobermory and Beyond to Manitoulin, Why the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere is So Important to Preserve and Protect by Mark Zelinski, NEBN Board Member, photographer and publisher

Short Video Interlude: Messages from network supporters

Panel Discussion featuring sector leaders:

- **Stewardship and Heritage**, Niagara Parks Commission Senior Executive Steve Barnhart
 - **Municipal Perspectives**, Town of Lincoln Mayor Sandra Easton
 - **Bagida-waad Alliance and Climate Reality Project**, Victoria Serda
 - **Sustainable Tourism**, Michael Hallé
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Q&A

Closing

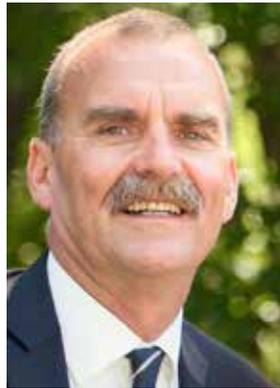


PRESENTERS



Administration. As Chief of her community, Gimaa Kwe Veronica Smith's goal is to support children, youth, families, and community, and to strive to create a sustainable community for future generations.

Prior to her election as Chief of the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation, **Gimaa Kwe Veronica Smith** has worked with Indigenous groups both within and outside of her community since she was 19 years old. This includes working as a Child Welfare Advisor for the Independent First Nations, and a consecutive ten years as a Band Councillor for the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation. Gimaa Kwe Smith studied Accounting and Business Management at Georgian College, and later graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Development Studies from the University of Waterloo. While she is passionate about Native Child Protection and Child Welfare, Gimaa Kwe Smith has experience and knowledge on a number of topics, including Economic Development and Employment, Social Services, Policing, Governance, and



Patrick Robson, MCIP, RPP, is president and chair of the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network. He holds a Bachelor of Applied Arts in Urban & Regional Planning from Ryerson and a Master of Arts in Politics from Brock University, and is currently a professor of Environmental Studies at Niagara College, teaching in the Environmental Management and Assessment and the Ecosystem Restoration post-grad programs, as well as the Environmental Field and Lab Tech program. In March 2017, he was appointed to the Buffalo and Fort Erie Public

Bridge Authority (a.k.a. Peace Bridge Authority). His past work life has included private sector planning consultant work, a planner with the Niagara Escarpment Commission, an investigator with the Ontario Human Rights Commission, and several progressive positions at Niagara Region, including Commissioner of Integrated Community Planning. He and his wife Kelly are also hop farmers. He served three terms as a Councillor in Wainfleet, Ontario and has taught Public Policy at Brock University. He has also presented at numerous conferences regarding land-use and sustainability issues across Canada, in the U.S. (including one at the Library of Congress), Germany, The Netherlands, Japan, and South Africa. Volunteer life includes having served on the Board of YMCA Niagara and as a member of the Indigenous Planning Advisory Committee of the Ontario Professional Planning Institute, as well as on the Board of the Golden Horseshoe Food & Farming Alliance.



Tim Johnson is a board member of the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network, director of Landscape of Nations 360° Indigenous Education Initiative, artistic director of The Great Niagara Escarpment Indigenous Cultural Map, artistic producer of Celebration of Nations, and executive producer of the multiple award-winning documentary RUMBLE: The Indians Who Rocked The World. As the former Associate Director for Museum Programs at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian, Tim managed the museum's largest organizational group across its facilities in Washington and New York. A long list of critically acclaimed exhibits and programs were produced during his tenure, creating an era that significantly advanced the institution's museology and reputation. Over the course of

his work at the Smithsonian Tim edited, conceptualized, and strategically initiated several Smithsonian books showcasing Indigenous art and history. He also established the museum's Indigenous Community Services department and was co-founder and publisher of the museum's flagship quarterly membership magazine American Indian, now in its third decade of publication. Among his many highly successful Smithsonian programs was the museum's Mother Earth Festival, curated and implemented in conjunction with Al Gore's global Live Earth initiative held on July 7, 2007, which diffused American Indian knowledge and scientific evidence concerning environmental sustainability to thousands in attendance and millions watching around the world. Produced to enhance public education about human induced climate change, it stands as one of the Smithsonian Institution's most widely viewed public programs. As a leading figure who brought the reality and ramifications of climate change to the forefront in America's capital, Tim also served on the executive committee of the Smithsonian's 'Living in the Anthropocene Initiative,' a pan-

institutional committee formed to advance public education about climate change and the implications of human conduct on the planet.



Liette Vasseur, board member of the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network, is a full professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Brock University, where she is a member of the Environmental Sustainability Research Centre. She holds the UNESCO Chair on Community Sustainability. Her research is interdisciplinary and links issues such as community-based ecosystem management, climate change adaptation and resilience, and sustainable agriculture. Her climate change adaptation research program encompasses

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PRESENTERS CONT'D.

different ecosystems from the rural community of Lincoln, Indigenous communities of San Juan, and in the Chimborazo, Ecuador. She is Honorary President of the Canadian Commission UNESCO and deputy chair and vice-chair for North America of the Commission for Ecosystem Management with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and co-lead of the thematic group on Climate Change and Biodiversity Policy and Practice.

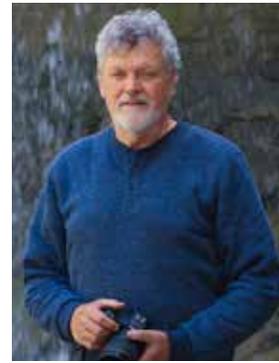


Larry McDermott, Algonquin, is executive director of Plenty Canada, an Indigenous non-government organization devoted to the protection of Mother Earth, building healthy communities, and promoting cross-cultural awareness of the value of Indigenous ways of knowing to achieve

a sustainable environment for future generations. He is also a board member of the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network. A former three-time Mayor and long-time council member of Lanark Highlands, Chair of the Rural Forum of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and Commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, Larry is a member of numerous organizations including the International Indigenous Forum for Biodiversity, the Ontario Species at Risk Public Advisory Committee, the Canadian Environmental Network, UNESCO, and the Ontario Recovery Strategy for the American Eel. Larry also has served as a comprehensive claim representative for Shabot Obaadjiwan First Nation, is a certified tree marker and butternut assessor, and holds other environmental certifications. He lives in a 170-year-old log home on 500 acres of biologically diverse Algonquin land along the Mississippi River.



Michael McDonald is the Chief Executive Officer for the Bruce Trail Conservancy – named Canada's Top Environmental Charity by Maclean's and MoneySense in 2020. After a 23-year successful career in the private sector, Michael combined his business acumen with his love for people and passion for conservation. Michael works towards protecting natural spaces and stewarding the Bruce Trail, Canada's oldest and longest public footpath. Michael is a proud graduate of McMaster University, formerly achieved the rank of Private in the Canadian Armed Forces (reserves), and is a certified hike leader in Ontario. Michael is a lover of nature, and deeply values people's personal connections to natural environments.



Mark Zelinski trained as an artist and a designer, and graduated as the top student of OCAD in 1979. His diverse career as a professional photographer has taken him across 80 countries, with clients ranging from The National Film Board of Canada to Panasonic. He is also a publisher, writer, painter, filmmaker, Fellow of Royal Canadian Geographic Society, member of The Explorer's Club, and winner of the Canadian Governor General's Medal. Zelinski is best known for his "Books That Heal" initiative, donating 8,000 copies of his photography books to 100 worldwide charities. His internationally acclaimed photography books include forewords by HRH Prince Philip, The Honourable Lincoln Alexander, AFN Ontario Regional Chief Isadore

Day, and Justin Trudeau. Zelinski's books Heart Of Turtle Island: The Niagara Escarpment and upcoming sequel Niagara Escarpment: Land Between Waters bring exquisite focus to the environmental treasures of the Niagara Escarpment UNESCO World Biosphere, and to the diverse Indigenous and settler communities that thrive along its rugged, curving path. With ten years, ongoing, of extensive experience studying and documenting the Niagara Escarpment, he applies his knowledge in many ways, including as a member of the Board of Directors of the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network. [www. MarkZelinski.com](http://www.MarkZelinski.com)



PANEL DISCUSSION LEADER

Steve Barnhart, M.L.A., OALA has over 20 years' experience in Environmental planning and design with the last 17 years in public sector landscape architecture. He is currently a senior executive with the Niagara Parks Commission responsible for the organization's environmental planning and stewardship, cultural heritage, and landscape design. Steve oversees the development policy and planning strategy to delivery on the organization's mandate of environmental and cultural stewardship for the Niagara River corridor. Prior to Niagara Parks Steve was with the City of Hamilton and responsible for Park

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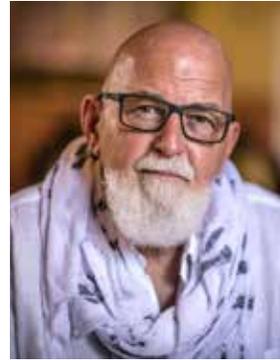
Planning and implementation of open space capital projects and managing forestry and horticulture. Steve has worked on a wide range of projects including master plans, heritage restoration sites, coastal wetland rehabilitation, waterfront development, transportation, storm water management systems and visual impact assessments, and provided expert witness testimony at the Environmental Review Tribunal. Steve is a registered Landscape Architect with the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects since 2000 and currently serving as the association's president. Steve graduated with a Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Guelph and with a Bachelor of Earth Science from the University of Waterloo. In 2016 Steve received the OALA Public Practice Award.



Sandra Easton and husband Tony along with son David, daughter-in-law Kathy, and two grandchildren are life-long residents of Lincoln. Retired from the health care sector, she was elected Mayor in 2014. She represents Lincoln on Niagara Regional Council and has given more than 30 years of dedicated service to her community. Under her leadership, the Town of Lincoln has made great strides toward realizing its vision as 'a Place to grow, a Place to prosper, and a Place to belong.' Sandra is committed to providing new and meaningful opportunities for residents and business owners to help shape the future of their community.



Victoria Serda lives in Saukiing Anishinaabekiing in Warton, and spends a lot of time on and in the Niagara Escarpment in the Saugeen Peninsula. She is on the board of the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network, as well as the Climate Reality Project Canada. In addition, she is a settler ally and treasurer of the Bagida'waad Alliance, which is an Anishinaabe directed and managed environmental not-for-profit led by fishing families in Neyaashiinigmiing, and recently became the executive director of the Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association. She has been married to her husband Jaime since 1994, has a wonderful daughter Corrina, and enjoys teaching foraging to her four-year-old grandson Creegan, who is a Band Member of the Chippewas of Nawash and an expert in identifying bear corn, red raspberries, and keeshig.



Michael P. Hallé, CEO of Niagara Escarpment for Sustainable Travel (NEST), seeks to provide positive disruptions and unwavering leadership to reset the mindset and enhance the lives of those he meets on the path of conscious living through sustainable travel. He believes there is no priority above Mother Earth and her peoples. He is chairman of 10GATES MATRIX Inc., and author of GPS for the Soul of Sustainable Travel. His vast destination marketing organization experience includes past president of Niagara Falls Visitors and Convention Bureau, senior advisor to Secretary of Tourism and the Administration of President Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico (1994-2000), co-creator of the Mexico Tourist Board with Manuel Gonzalez

Martinez, and from 2018 to present service on the Mexican Caribbean Tourism Board, State of Quintana Roo, with brands such as Cancun, Playa del Carmen, Tulum, and Bacalar. In terms of project management, he served in a supporting role in the creation of Sustainable Riviera Maya as an assignment of the General Director. Michael also holds executive experience as Executive In Residence at the Faculty of Business, Toronto Metropolitan University, where he co-developed the Centre of Tourism Studies. He collaborated in the creation of the Niagara Wine Route with Donald J.P. Ziraldo, served on the Board of Directors for Inniskillin Wines, Inc., as senior vice president at Longwoods International from 1989-1992, was a founding board member of Niagara Geopark, and held executive positions in Niagara Falls at Hoco Limited, CP Hotel Skylon Tower, Sheraton Hotels, and Maple Leaf Village.

SUPPORTERS



This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Environment and
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