

CALL *for* PAPERS *and* POSTERS

Proposals and abstracts for papers and posters
are now being accepted for Leading Edge 2006.

We invite you to submit a paper or poster for presentation at Leading Edge 2006, the Niagara Escarpment Commission's 7th biosphere conference. The submission deadline for abstracts and proposals is **May 31, 2006**.

We welcome a wide range of participants and delegates, such as:

- Researchers, students and educators.
- Municipalities wanting to share or learn new techniques in planning sustainable communities.
- Organizations and individuals involved in sustainable land use, stewardship, restoration and other activities.
- People involved in practical approaches to sustainable business development.
- Government departments, ministries and agencies involved in planning, environmental protection and natural resources.

We encourage presenters to demonstrate linkages between ecosystem health and human well-being.

This upcoming conference promises to provide another fantastic opportunity to learn about new trends and activities and to share information with leading authorities.

See you in October!

Sincerely,



Don Scott
Chair, Niagara Escarpment Commission

Please submit to:

Niagara Escarpment Commission
Leading Edge 2006
Co-Chair Karen Carruthers
232 Guelph St.
Georgetown, ON L7G 4B1

Web: www.escarpment.org
Tel: 905.877.6172
Fax: 905.873.7452
Email: leadingedge@escarpment.org

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CONFERENCE THEMES

1. Communities in action

This theme explores the role of citizen engagement in activities to preserve, protect, mediate, conserve or monitor natural processes. Topics may include:

- Organizing action for sustainable community design
- Community-based education, environmental monitoring, habitat regeneration or restoration or research
- Partnerships
- Stewardship and restoration
- Wildlife management, habitat protection and habitat restoration
- Traditional knowledge

2. Research, monitoring and conservation projects

The conference is a forum for those involved in research, monitoring and conservation to present final results, work in progress and recommendations for action. Of particular interest are projects and research contributing to the integration of natural, human and cultural systems. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

Research

- Biodiversity
- Biosphere reserve concepts and practices
- Comparative studies of protected natural areas and areas of human intervention or use
- Identification of poorly known or undocumented geological, geomorphological, biological, heritage or cultural features
- Development of techniques for protection, management, rehabilitation or restoration of significant natural, archeological, architectural or historical heritage

Monitoring

- Development of comprehensive monitoring programs
- Ecological indicators and monitoring targets
- Development, testing and selection of monitoring protocols
- Educational tools, techniques or strategies
- Using monitoring information to develop and/or evaluate land-use policy
- Methods for reporting monitoring results
- Techniques for data management and integrated analysis

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Conservation

- Greenbelts and corridors
- Communications and education
- Species at risk
- Demonstration projects
- Land trusts
- Private and public stewardship
- Habitat improvement
- Techniques for rehabilitation and restoration

3. Sustainability

This theme promotes dialogue in the evolving effort to blend natural science, social science and human needs and desires. Topics might include:

- The human dimension in the landscape
- Assessing the value of the natural or rural landscape
- Economic strategies
- Socio-economic models for sustainable use
- Research into community and personal values ("experience of place")
- Research, trends and projects in sustainable tourism and agritourism
- Economic incentives for environmental preservation (e.g. carbon credits)
- Investing in the environment
- Communications and marketing

ABSTRACT GUIDELINES

- Font: Times New Roman, 12 point
- Length: 200 words (limited to one page)
- Poster/paper: Indicate if the abstract is a poster or paper.
- Language: English
- Submission: Email Word document to **leadingedge@escarpment.org**
Please include "Leading Edge" in subject line. Faxes will not be accepted.
- Deadline: Abstracts must be received by **Wednesday, May 31, 2006.**

Submit abstracts to: Leading Edge 2006/ Co-Chair Karen Carruthers
Niagara Escarpment Commission
232 Guelph Street Georgetown, Ontario, Canada L7G 4B1
Email: **leadingedge@escarpment.org**
Tel. (905) 877-6172

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SAMPLE ABSTRACT:

Title: A Comparative Analysis of Land Values Within and Adjacent to the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area, Dufferin County, Ontario

Author: Alan ERNEST

Abstract for Paper:

The impact of provincial land use controls on real estate values along the Niagara Escarpment has been a matter of interest and concern since land use controls for the Niagara Escarpment were first proposed. This study, which was carried out for the Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment and the Niagara Escarpment Foundation, with funding from the George Cedric Metcalf Foundation, examined whether inclusion within the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area (NEPA) influences real estate values.

Real estate appraisal techniques were employed to undertake a comparative analysis of vacant land sales within, and outside but nearby, the NEPA in Dufferin County. Dufferin County was selected as the study area because it offered a location where lands within the NEPA and adjacent areas outside the NEPA have similar landscape characteristics, physical constraints, access, proximity to urban centres and aesthetic appeal. Good data was also available for this study area. Sales between January 1, 1998 and June 1, 2003 were examined.

Results show that vacant properties within the NEPA had significantly higher average land values than sales in the portion of the study area outside the NEPA. This finding was consistent for all property size ranges. The study concludes that Niagara Escarpment Plan policies have had a significant positive impact on land values within the NEPA in Dufferin County, and offers possible explanations for this.

Contact:

Alan Ernest

381 Carlisle Rd.

Carlisle, ON

L0R 1H1

Phone: (905) 689-9466

Email: ernest@interlynx.net

**Participants selected for paper or poster presentation will be notified by email.
Specific formats for final submissions and poster display will be provided at that time.
Conference Proceedings for Leading Edge 2006 will be produced online at www.escarpment.org.**