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Greenbelt Foundation

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GREENBELT FOUNDATION BACKGROUNDER ***2020 Friend of the Greenbelt Award***

Date: October 29, 2020

Prepared for: Various Media

Prepared by: Greenbelt Foundation

Overview

February 28, 2020 marked the Ontario Greenbelt and Greenbelt Foundation's 15th Anniversary. To celebrate this milestone year, the Foundation has launched a special 15th anniversary edition of our annual Friend of the Greenbelt Award.

The annual Friend of the Greenbelt Award recognizes leaders from across the Greater Golden Horseshoe region who champion, innovate, and ensure the ongoing success of Ontario's Greenbelt. Past recipients of the Friend of the Greenbelt Award have included former Mayor of Toronto, David Crombie, and Canadian singer-songwriter, Sarah Harmer. The Friend of the Greenbelt Awards ceremony brings together a diverse community of policymakers, community leaders, executives, and activists to celebrate the work done to make the Greenbelt a vibrant, working landscape that benefits Ontario communities. This year, the ceremony has been replaced with a series of videos released online, which announce and celebrate the award recipients.

Each recipient is being honoured with a dedicated video, released through Greenbelt Foundation social media channels from November 2 – 12, which captures their achievements and leadership, which have contributed to building and sustaining Ontario's Greenbelt.

2020 Recipients

This year, we will give out awards in five categories: Community Engagement, Farming and Agriculture, Municipal Leadership, the Restoration and Enhancement of the Oak Ridges Moraine, and the Restoration and Enhancement of the Niagara Escarpment.

The award recipients are as follows:

1. Community Engagement – Carolyn King, Founder of the Moccasin Identifier Project (MIP)

The Greenbelt Foundation has been a proud supporter of the Moccasin Identifier Project since 2018. Led by Carolyn King, former chief of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and with ongoing support from the Mississaugas, Carolyn's work builds relationships between First Nations and other Ontario communities. The Moccasin Identifier Project reminds Ontarians of the historic and current presence of Indigenous communities across the landscape, particularly in the Greenbelt region. The educational tools developed through the MIP program drive important community development and awareness building.



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"There is a way that Carolyn shares a message that makes you want to be involved and that is what great leadership looks like," says Susan Roberston, Principal Planner at People Plan Community and a key consultant to Carolyn King's Moccasin Identifier Project.

Carolyn King's Bio

Carolyn is a member and resident of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation located adjacent to the Town of Hagersville. She completed a two-year term in political office as the elected Chief from 1997-99. She was the first woman ever elected as Chief of her First Nation. With over 30 years of work experience in the field of First Nation community development, Carolyn provides cross-cultural training sessions/presentations to government, colleges and universities, businesses and non-profit organizations to help people develop a better understanding of Indigenous/First Nations Peoples in Canada. She is the founder of the Moccasin Identifier Program, in partnership with Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Greenbelt Foundation, which works to promote public awareness of significant cultural historic sites and the ancestral presence of First Nations and Métis Communities across Ontario. Carolyn wants to change the world for indigenous Peoples.

Please visit our website to read Carolyn's full bio: https://www.greenbelt.ca/greenbelt_award

2. Farming and Agriculture – Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA)

The Greenbelt Foundation recognizes the incredible value the Ontario Federation of Agriculture has contributed in terms of protecting and innovating farmland in Ontario. The OFA is an important advocate for farmers, a producer-led organization, and works consistently to enhance Ontario's Greenbelt—which is one of Canada's most important agricultural regions.

"Our board of directors, our staff, and our county federations—as well as our members—all have a role to play in ensuring the success of the agri-food sector," says Danielle Collins, Policy Analyst at Ontario Federation of Agriculture. "We know the issues facing Ontario farmers and we advocate on their behalf for solutions."

OFA Bio

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is the largest general farm organization in Ontario, proudly representing 38,000 farm family members across the province. OFA is a dynamic, producer-led organization based in Guelph, Ontario that works to represent and champion the diverse interests of Ontario's agri-food sector and rural communities. Their work includes government relations, farm policy development, research, lobby efforts, community representation, media relations and more. We have a strong voice for our members and the agri-food industry on issues, legislation and regulations governed by municipal, provincial and federal governments. They are the leading agricultural advocate for Ontario farmers, their farm businesses and their communities.

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3. **Municipal Leadership** – *Glen De Baeremaeker, Erin Shapero, Allan Elgar, Steve Paris (Municipal Leaders for the Greenbelt)*

Municipal leadership is critical to the ongoing protection, enhancement, and stewardship of Ontario's Greenbelt. Each of the recipients in this category have shown incredible leadership in supporting the Greenbelt within their communities. These Municipal Leaders for the Greenbelt supported the creation of Ontario's Greenbelt before it was formally established by government.

"The work of the Municipal Leaders for the Greenbelt, along with others in the environmental community, culminated in the creation of Ontario's Greenbelt by the Province of Ontario," explains Kevin Beaulieu, Director of Municipal Affairs and Strategic Partnerships at the Greenbelt Foundation. "Their foresight and dedication have helped to create and maintain the largest Greenbelt in the world, which spans over two million acres from Cobourg to Niagara and north to include the Niagara Escarpment, Oak Ridges Moraine and Protected Countryside."

Steve Parish Bio

Steve Parish retired as Mayor of the Town of Ajax in November 2018. Appointed Mayor in December 1995 and re-elected for six consecutive terms, he is the longest serving Mayor in the town's history. During this time, Steve played a leadership role in several important environmental initiatives. An early proponent of smart growth, he led Ajax Council to adopt an "environment first" Official Plan in 2000. In conjunction with this plan, Ajax was the first Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) community to adopt firm urban boundaries, thus further restricting sprawl. Steve championed the adoption of the Province of Ontario's Greenbelt Plan and successfully lobbied to have all of the town's non-urban lands included in the Greenbelt. He subsequently became one of the co-chairs of Municipal Leaders for the Greenbelt, a position he held until his retirement in 2018.

Please visit our website to read Steve's full bio: https://www.greenbelt.ca/greenbelt_award

Erin Shapero Bio

Erin participated as a member of Ontario's Greenbelt Council and as a board member of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. After retiring from politics, Erin came to Environmental Defense Canada, thrilled to work with local communities across the Greater Golden Horseshoe Region to protect the jewel that is Ontario's Greenbelt. In her five years at Environmental Defense, Erin worked enthusiastically to ensure the Greenbelt, Oak Ridges Moraine, and Niagara Escarpment were protected and enhanced. She coordinated the work of the Ontario Greenbelt Alliance (OGA), spearheading Greenbelt growth and the creation of the Urban River Valleys designation that now protects the major rivers and streams across the GTA. Her work also included the OGA-coordinated 'Greenbelt and Places to Grow' 10-year review submissions, resulting in strong Greenbelt protections. She also continued to support the work of the Municipal Leaders for the Greenbelt and helped to grow support for the organization.

Please visit our website to read Erin's full bio: https://www.greenbelt.ca/greenbelt_award

Allan Elgar Bio



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Allan Elgar has served on Oakville Town Council and Halton Region Council since 2000 and has sat on numerous committees and task forces. In addition, he has served on the Board of Directors for Conservation Halton since 2001. In 2003, Allan was appointed by the Province as a commissioner for the Niagara Escarpment Commission where he served for 13 years. He also served on the Board of Directors for Credit Valley Conservation and is a member of the Municipal Leaders for the Greenbelt. Councillor Elgar's involvement in local issues started when he volunteered as a founding director and first president of Oakvillegreen Conservation Association Inc.—a grassroots residents' organization working to protect the local natural environment. In 2005, he won the Carolinian Canada award for his "contribution towards the protection of the natural diversity and natural habitats of Ontario's Carolinian Zone." In 2013, Councillor Elgar was awarded the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of his role in the creation of Oakville's Natural Heritage System, the first of its kind in Ontario. In addition, he spearheaded a campaign that resulted in the preservation of 46,081 hectares of greenspace in Halton, at no cost to taxpayers, through the use of zoning.

Please visit our website to read Allan's full bio: https://www.greenbelt.ca/greenbelt_award

Glenn De Baeremaeker Bio

Glenn has been a committed community advocate and environmentalist for decades. From his years as a key volunteer for Save the Rouge to his 15-year position as a City Councillor, he worked hard to make Scarborough a beautiful, welcoming community and to contribute to the greater good. Glenn served as City Councillor for Scarborough Centre, Ward 38, from 2003 to late 2018. While in that role, he also served as Deputy Mayor, Toronto East; the Mayor's Lead on the Scarborough Subway; and the Mayor's Lead as Toronto's Tree Advocate. Each year while in office, Glenn hosted a series of community events, including environment days, movies in the park, skating parties, and children's Christmas parties. Sometimes referred to as "Mr. Scarborough," Glenn continues to be a committed advocate for his community. Glenn was known as a "councillor you could count on"—he worked hard to solve local problems and to make Toronto an even greater city than it was when he first took office.

Please visit our website to read Glenn's full bio: https://www.greenbelt.ca/greenbelt_award

4. **The Restoration and Enhancement of the Oak Ridges Moraine** – *J. Russell Powell, former CAO of Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (deceased)*

A recipient of the Latornell Leadership Award (2013) for outstanding contributions to conservation, Russell ("Russ") was an avid environmentalist and leader in the path to protecting and stewarding the Oak Ridges Moraine, having been the inaugural Chair of the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation. In 2003, Russell and his wife, Dawn, donated a conservation easement from their land to Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust to preserve and protect the property in perpetuity. Russell's ongoing commitment to protecting the Oak Ridges Moraine – an area of great ecological significance and a key part of Ontario's Greenbelt – will not be forgotten.



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"Russ was known for his ability to mentor young conservationists, myself included," says Kim Gavine, Director of Conservation Ontario. "He encouraged people to be bold, he encouraged them to be independent, he encouraged them not to be afraid to speak up and say their mind."

J. Russell Powell's Bio

For over 50 years, Russ was an influential and critical figure in natural resources. He spent most of his career serving the people of Ontario through the Conservation Authorities program at both field and provincial levels. Russ was known for his leadership, dedication, insight, passion, and mentorship. In 2003, Russ and his wife, Dawn, donated a conservation easement from their land in Pontypool, Ontario to Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust to preserve and protect the property in perpetuity. Conservation has always been a labour of love they shared. On October 23, 2019, Russ passed away unexpectedly at the age of 77, while enjoying a perfect fall day in the bush near his home.

Please visit our website to read Russ' full bio: https://www.greenbelt.ca/greenbelt_award

5. The Restoration and Enhancement of the Niagara Escarpment – Philip Gosling, Founder the Gosling Foundation

Dr. Philip Gosling, a successful entrepreneur, avid naturalist, birder, and member of the Order of Canada, has supported the protection of nature in Canada for over 60 years. He was an initial founder of the Bruce Trail Conservancy and has worked to protect the Niagara Escarpment – an area of unique ecological significance within Ontario's Greenbelt. His outstanding achievements have created and preserved some of the Greenbelt's greatest features (i.e., the Bruce Trail) and his ongoing support of ecological research – specifically through the University of Guelph – continues to support our region's ongoing conservation efforts.

"Philip Gosling is one of the early adopters of the conservation movement in Canada and one of our great conservation heroes," says Michael McDonald, CEO of the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

Dr. Philip Gosling's Bio

As one of the four founders of the Bruce Trail Conservancy, Dr. Gosling applied his organizing skills to help put the trail on the ground in 1962. He acted on his concern for birds and nature by founding the Gosling Foundation. In recent years, together with his wife, Susan, an expert in plant science, he initiated the formation of the Gosling Research Institute for Plant Preservation (GRIPP) at the University of Guelph.

Please visit our website to read Philip's full bio: https://www.greenbelt.ca/greenbelt_award