

Foresight

The seeds of our future are taking root right now, for better or worse. This page shares better, forward-thinking ideas and celebrates significant environmental achievements that can help us lead the way in creating a healthy, sustainable example of a thriving World Biosphere Reserve.

RIGHTS FOR NATURE “Ecuador has become the first nation on Earth to put the rights of nature in its constitution so that rivers and forests are not simply property but maintain their own right to flourish. Under these laws a citizen might file suit on behalf of an injured watershed, recognizing that its health is crucial to the common good. Other nations may follow Ecuador’s lead. Just as legal systems once reeled to comprehend women or former slaves as fully entitled, law schools in the U.S. are now reforming their curricula with an eye to understanding and acknowledging nature’s rights.”

From “Water is Life,” by Barbara Kingsolver, in *National Geographic*, April 2010

HALTON REGION FIRST TO COMMIT TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD

In April, Halton Region became the first region in Canada to adopt sustainable food procurement practices for its municipal food services. Fresh vegetables that have been certified by Local Food Plus (LFP), specifically peppers, onions, carrots and tomatoes, are being used in the Halton Region cafeteria. LFP certifies Ontario farmers and processors who follow such sustainable practices as reduced pesticide use; safe, fair labour conditions; humane care of livestock; reduced on-farm energy use. LFP then connects certified farmers and processors with food service contractors, restaurants and grocery stores. LFP hopes that providing local produce will support Ontario farmers and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT VALUED IN WISCONSIN

The Niagara Escarpment is beginning to be acknowledged for its location in Wisconsin. The State of Wisconsin has proclaimed the year 2010 as the “Year of the Niagara Escarpment” to foster awareness and recognize the Niagara Escarpment’s significance as a geologic and natural resource in the state. On Sept. 27, “Rocks, Roots & Revenue: A Symposium on the Niagara Escarpment and Geotourism” will take place in Menasha, Wisconsin.

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT LANDS ADDED

In June, the Niagara Escarpment Commission celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Niagara Escarpment Plan, and also had 750 hectares (ha) of land added to the Niagara Escarpment Planning Area:

- 93 ha: The Cootes Paradise Link in Hamilton between properties of the Royal Botanical Gardens
- 411 ha: The Pleasant View Survey in Hamilton near Hwy. 403
- 108 ha: The 407 Gap Lands in Burlington north of Dundas St. and west of Hwy. 407
- 70 ha: The Dufferin Quarry addition in Milton
- 80 ha: The Weinberg Property in Grey Highlands along the Beaver Valley

20 YEARS A UNESCO WORLD BIOSPHERE RESERVE

In July, Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment celebrated the 20th anniversary of the southern portion of the Niagara Escarpment having been designated a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve in 1990.