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# AGM & INVASIVE PLANT SYMPOSIUM



# Program

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## SPEAKER BIO'S AND PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

(in speaking order)

#### Welcome

Presented by: Tys Theysmeyer, Royal Botanical Gardens



**Tys Theysmeyer** obtained a B.Sc. from the University of Guelph (1994) and an M.Sc. from McMaster University (1999). After working for a period at the Great Lakes Lab for Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences in Burlington, Tys started working at the RBG in 1997 as a staff ecologist. Much of his work has focused on the restoration of the RBG's 300 hectares of coastal marshes, particularly Cootes Paradise, the environmental centerpiece of the region. Since 2008 he has been the Head of Natural Lands at the Garden's.

## **OIPC Year in Review**

Presented by: Iola Price, Ontario Invasive Plant Council President



**Iola Price** was a Wildlife Biologist with the Canadian Wildlife Service and the Director of Aquaculture and Oceans Science, Department of Fisheries and Oceans (now retired). She was the formerly Chair of Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee (committee disbanded by City of Ottawa) and Chair of the Rockcliffe Park Environment Committee. She has been a member of the OIPC since 2007 and President since August 2014.

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Session 1: Research and Policy Moderated by Iola Price, OIPC President

## An Update of the Ontario Invasive Species Act

Presented by: Jeremy Downe, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry



#### Abstract

This presentation will provide an overview of Ontario's proposed Invasive Species Act – Bill 37 and highlight provisions contained in the Bill which would enhance partnership and control opportunities should the Bill be enacted.

Jeremy Downe is the Invasive Species Policy and Program Advisor with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. Jeremy is currently

focused on supporting the enactment and implementation of Ontario's proposed Invasive Species Act. Jeremy holds a Masters in Environmental Studies degree from York University and is based in Peterborough.

## A Review of the Herbicide Registration Process in Canada Presented by: Michael Irvine, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry



#### Abstract

Herbicides are useful for invasive plant management. There are three main ways (and several variations) by which potentially useful herbicides can become available for use in invasive plant management:

- Registrant Submissions
- User Requested Minor Use Label Expansions
- Emergency Registrations

Herbicide registrations will be discussed from the

perspective of a Provincial Minor Use Coordinator (for Forestry), including some insights about how the registration system works using as examples some recent registrations of herbicides for important Ontario invasive plants.

As the Provincial Vegetation Management Specialist, **Michael Irvine** works with MNRF staff, industry, NGOs, stakeholders and government agencies to promote good vegetation management that enables forest renewal while protecting people and the

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environment. With his interest in invasive plant management he has worked on several teams focused on specific control projects in natural ecosystems. He is the Provincial Minor Use Coordinator (Forestry), a member of the Ontario Pesticide Advisory Committee and a founding member of the Ontario Invasive Plant Council.

## Terrestrial Invasive Plant Management Using Pesticides – Applying for a Letter of Opinion for the Natural Resources Exception to the Cosmetic Pesticides Ban

Presented by: Francine MacDonald, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry



#### Abstract

In Ontario, the use of pesticides is regulated under the provincial *Pesticides Act* and Ontario Regulation 63/09. A cosmetic pesticides ban was introduced in April 2009 as part of the Ontario government's plan to reduce public exposure to pesticides. The ban applies to the cosmetic use of pesticides including its use on lawns, gardens, school yards and parks.

Recognizing that the use of pesticides is necessary for many natural resource management projects, such as the control or eradication of an invasive species, there is an exception to the ban for the use of Class 9 pesticides for the

management of natural resources if certain conditions are met. There are also other exceptions including those for public health or safety, forestry, agriculture, research, and scientific purposes.

This presentation will provide an overview of the criteria and process for applying for a letter of opinion from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry for the natural resources exception under Ontario Regulation 63/09.

**Francine MacDonald** is a Senior Invasive Species Biologist with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and a graduate of Trent University. She has worked for almost two decades on prevention and management of invasive species in the province, both within the ministry and with several non-governmental organizations. At home, she is also an avid fighter of DSV, Garlic Mustard and Japanese Barberry in her backyard with varying degrees of success.

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## Working Towards an Invasive Plant Strategy for Royal Botanical Gardens' Natural Lands Presented by: Lindsay Barr, Royal Botanical Gardens



#### <u>Abstract</u>

Controlling invasive species is a topmost priority in maintaining and protecting RBG's 900 hectares of biologically diverse nature sanctuaries. An invasive plant strategy is necessary so that there is a uniform and well guided approach to managing invasive plants within RBG's natural lands. In this presentation Lindsay Barr, Terrestrial Ecologist, will describe RBG's method to developing an invasive plant strategy for RBG's terrestrial lands.

**Lindsay Barr** is the Terrestrial Ecologist for the Natural Lands department at Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) and has been working at the Gardens since 2007 when she started as an intern. She earned her honours degree in Environment and Resource Science from Trent University and continued her studies at Niagara College, earning a certificate in Ecosystem Restoration. Dedicated to sustaining the biodiversity of RBG's natural lands, Lindsay focuses her work on the restoration of important terrestrial ecosystems including tallgrass prairie and Carolinian forest. Invasive species control plays an important part in Lindsay's restoration work. She is a member of OIPC's Board of Directors connecting the council to horticultural science and botanical gardens.

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## Session 2: Education and Outreach Moderated by Dawn Sucee, OFAH

## Result of Community Action: Lambton Shores *Phragmites* Community Group

Presented by: Nancy Vidler, Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group



#### <u>Abstract</u>

In 2009, members of the Port Franks and Windsor Park Beach Homeowners Associations became concerned when monoculture stands of invasive *Phragmites* appeared on the Port Franks Beach and in the watersheds flowing into Lake Huron. The LSPCG was created as a result of this concern. We are a grassroots organization committed to working with other organizations and private landowners to restore wetland habitat and beaches and control *Phragmites*. Control efforts have been initiated on over 300 acres. At our request, consulting with a wetland ecologist, a Management Plan for the Municipality of Lambton Shores has been created and we continue to work towards our goal

of a "Phrag Free" municipality. We have offered 4 successful Community Information Sessions and created a training opportunity for front line staff where the Clean Equipment Protocol was introduced. Education and community outreach remains an important component of our work and this extends well beyond our municipal border. We initiated discussion with Lambton County and the OFA and have their support. Lambton County and MLS are now controlling their roadside ditches. With funding from the Grand Bend Community Foundation, we created a Fact Sheet for Controlling *Phragmites* on Agricultural and Rural Property. We have educated and engaged wind energy companies (NextEra and Suncor) and partnered with the MLS, 2 CA's, NCC, Lambton County, the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation, Optimist International, Scouts Canada and Kettle and Stony Point First Nations. Grants from the Great Lake Guardian Community Fund, Land Stewardship and Habitat Restoration Fund and COA have enabled us to continue our work. Recently we were recognized by the MOECC with an Honourable Mention for Environmental Excellence.

**Nancy Vidler** retired from Community and Social Services with the Regional Municipality of Halton to live in Port Franks, Lambton Shores and has become the driving force behind *Phragmites* management and habitat restoration in this lakeside community where she and her family have cottaged for many years.

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She is a member of the Ontario *Phragmites* Working Group and as Chair of the Lambton Shores *Phragmites* Community Group. This committee has successfully formed partnerships with the Municipality, local Conservation Authorities, The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation, Nature Conservancy Canada, cottage associations and private landowners. She has been recognized by Lambton County Museum and Lambton Wildlife Inc. for her environmental work and assisted Dr. Janice Gilbert with the creation of the Invasive *Phragmites* Management Plan for the Municipality of Lambton Shores. Recently the LSPCG has received an Honourable Mention for Environmental Excellence from the Minister of the Environment.

## Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) Network Ontario Presented by: Taylor Wright, Invasive Species Centre



#### <u>Abstract</u>

This initiative aims to systematically create, train and equip an Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) network to provide eyes on the ground to detect, track, respond to, and control invasive plants and insects in four pilot areas in Southern and Northern Ontario (Credit Valley Conservation Watershed, Conservation Halton Watershed, Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay). The concept behind this project is to build EDRR networks (one in each pilot area) by matching local experts with volunteers to help transfer knowledge from experts to citizens, and empower citizens to take action in local remediation and invasive species control projects within their communities.

This project is being co-delivered by the Invasive Species Centre (ISC) and the Ontario Invasive Plant Council (OIPC). Staff from the ISC and OIPC, located in Sault Ste. Marie and Peterborough, respectively, coordinate all aspects of this program including organizing and participating in Open Houses to recruit volunteers, running training sessions and ensuring that resource materials are up to date, consolidated and easy to access by volunteers. In September 2015, the ISC and OIPC organized and facilitated four EDRR training workshops across the pilot areas, drawing in more than 100 volunteers and stakeholders. Moving forward, the ISC and OIPC will work to fill gaps in resources by identifying specific needs of volunteers and stakeholders, as well as continuing to recruit EDRR volunteers and planning control events for the spring/summer of 2016.

We are building capacity for community members to become involved in local environmental stewardship, and with the guidance of experts, become engaged, trained and empowered in invasive species identification, tracking and control. This project is



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helping to move invasive species knowledge and action outside of expert circles by arming volunteers with awareness, knowledge and tools to undertake on-the-ground projects in their communities. The lasting impact of this work will be to increase the awareness of invasive species, develop a stronger environmental ethic at the community level and support practical hands-on work to more rapidly detect and reduce invasive species introduction and spread one community at a time.

**Taylor Wright** joined the Invasive Species Centre in 2014, and has taken on the role of Project Coordinator for the Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) Network Ontario project. Taylor completed her Honours BSc. in Biology at the University of Ottawa, and has several years' experience working with the public. Taylor is responsible for recruiting volunteers to partake in the EDRR project, and coordinating several events such as open houses and workshops to engage and empower community members in invasive species detection, control and management. Taylor is passionate about preserving Ontario's natural landscape, and promoting citizen science and science education through her work.

## Effective Early Detection & Rapid Response Protocols Presented by: Rob Williams, SLELO-PRISM



#### <u>Abstract</u>

Timing is critical when responding to the initial detection of an emerging invasive species in an area. Early Detection and Rapid Response – spotting and responding to the invasion of an unwanted plant, animal or other organism before it can become established – is often the key first step in effectively managing and possibly eradicating a newly-arriving invasive species. The amount of time we can realistically spend surveying our vulnerable waterbodies, wetlands and upland areas is often limited. When the sheer size of a land area or body of water makes it unfeasible to conduct a full survey of an area, it makes sense to focus investigative efforts on those areas where invasions are most likely to occur. In order to quickly, consistently and effectively monitor large areas for the

emergence of invasive species, the St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO-PRISM) has developed protocols for identifying Highly Probable Areas (HPAs) – locations where invasive species are most likely to arrive and/or establish themselves. This HPA protocol is complimented by conducting early detection surveys only in Priority Conservation Areas, PCA's. If a new and low abundance population of an invasive species is discovered, a rapid response team then follows a rapid response protocol to effectively respond to the situation.



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**Rob Williams** is educated as a freshwater biologist (Brockport State University) and has extensive experience in working with invasive species, water quality assessments, nonpoint source pollution abatement, natural resource management and strategic planning. Rob is one of the co-founders of the Finger Lakes – Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance and co-founder of the North Coast Initiative, a.k.a. Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative. Rob's professional experience includes work with the Dept. of Environmental Conservation, NYS Soil and Water Conservation Districts and New York State Sea Grant Extension. He has received over \$4 million in project funding from, US-EPA, USDA, USFW, New York State and private funding for work on water resources, nonpoint source pollution and invasive species. Currently Rob holds two titles; one as a Conservation Practitioner for the Central & Western New York Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and another as the Invasive Species Program Coordinator of the SLELO-PRISM. (**Rob's contact info, phone: 315-387-3600 ext. 7725, email: rwilliams@tnc.org)** 

## The Role of Education and Outreach in Combatting Invasive Plant Species in High Park, Toronto

Presented by: Nicole Grgic, University of Toronto



#### Abstract

The Black Oak Savanna is a valuable and rare ecosystem found in High Park, Toronto. There have been many efforts to restore the urban forest back to its naturalized state, where many native flora and fauna can thrive. At the south end of the park, the High Park Children's Learning Garden has aimed to restore a hillside from its pristine turf grass condition to a healthy and vibrant savanna. Unfortunately, in the process of naturalizing the area, many non-native and invasive plant species are in competition with native plant and tree species. As a Master of Forest Conservation candidate from the University of Toronto, I recognize the importance of educating the public and working with others to control the harmful spread of dog strangling vine,

Japanese hedge parsley and buckthorn among many other invasive plant species. I would like to provide a brief overview on the history of the hillside that is adjacent to an organic children's learning garden, in order to demonstrate how the city's approach to tackling invasive species is not always feasible. Instead, we must rely on the role of environmental stewards and conservationists, to educate the public on the importance of recognizing and controlling the spread of invasive species in Toronto's urban parks and our own backyards. I would like to speak about the exciting work and experiments that have been completed this summer season to control dog strangling vine with the help of many volunteers (i.e. children and adults). At the same time, it is important to recognize the

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challenges with managing an ecosystem restoration site in an urban park, but also highlight the many opportunities that can arise to better combat invasive plant species in order to protect our parks and the native plant species in them.

**Nicole Grgic** is a Master of Forest Conservation candidate from the University of Toronto. She is employed by the City of Toronto and enjoyed her summer by completing various tasks at the Children's Learning Garden located in High Park. Her summer internship allowed her to focus on environmental education and outreach to a wide audience ranging from young children to adults. Invasive plants species are of particular interest to her and as a resident in Toronto, she hopes to continue her work on conserving the urban forest using the knowledge and resources she has to educate others.

### **PlantWise: Then & Now**

Presented by: Danielle Toperczer, Invasive Species Council of BC



#### Abstract

The horticulture industry has been identified as a key pathway for the introduction and spread of horticulturally invasive plants in gardens, orchards, vineyards, hayfields, crops and wild lands across BC and beyond. Developed in 2012, PlantWise is a province-wide program designed by

the Invasive Species Council of BC to work with both the horticulture industry and home gardeners to prevent further spread and introduction of invasive horticulture plants. This dynamic program continues to evolve and grow to suit the needs of both industry and the consumers that support it.



**Danielle Toperczer** has worked with the Invasive Species Council of British Columbia since 2010, and develops and manages large ISC programs. She has a broad range of natural resources experience

including fisheries, range management and working with ENGO's. She is a Professional Agrologist and lives in Vernon where she enjoys hiking, skiing and gardening with her husband and children.

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## Session 3: Monitoring and Control Moderated by Diana Shermet, CLOCA

## Controlling *Phragmites* in Ontario: Challenges, Successes, Next Steps

Presented by: Janice Gilbert, Nature Conservancy of Canada and Ontario Phragmites Working Group



#### Abstract

The ability to control large, dense invasive *Phragmites* cells in Ontario's wetlands remains a challenge. Control options are limited for many sites and non-existent when water is present. For these situations there is a dire need to have available, on a restricted basis, safe and effective herbicides approved for overwater and aerial application capability. Without these options, 1000's of hectares of wetland habitat will be lost due to this aggressive invasive plant. The impact on wetland dependent wildlife, including *Species At Risk*, has the potential to be cumulatively devastating. In the interim, leaving *Phragmites* to expand and spread is not an ecologically or

economically responsible option. Despite numerous challenges, there are many sites that are being successfully managed and many more that could be managed using the tools currently available. Various control options will be discussed along with a plan for dealing with *Phragmites* throughout the province effectively, efficiently and environmentally responsibly.

Janice Gilbert has a Ph.D. and an M.Sc. in Wetland Ecology from Ohio State University, as well as an MES and BES from the University of Waterloo, a B.Ed. from Brock University and a Forest Recreation Technician diploma from Sir Sandford Fleming College. She is currently a private consultant, a *Phragmites* Advisor with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Founder and Co-Chair of the Ontario *Phragmites* Working Group, as well as a Scientific Advisor for the Great Lakes *Phragmites* Collaborative, a Research Associate with the University of Windsor/Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium and a Scientific Advisor for the Rondeau Provincial Park *Phragmites* Management Program. She has been researching/assessing wetland ecosystems for over 10 years and investigating invasive *Phragmites* for 8 years. Janice is also a member of the International Association of Great Lakes Research, Society of Wetland Scientists, Ecological Society of America, and Society for Ecological Restoration, Ontario Invasive Plant Council.

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## A Review of Some Invasive Plant Biological Control Programs Presented by: W.D. (Bill) McIlveen

#### **Abstract**

In cases where non-native plants have become established and spread invasively, various programs have been developed to bring those plant populations to a more acceptable level. Those programs have relied extensively on the introduction of biological control agents to curb the rate of spread and reproduction of the unwanted plants. The control agents are typically insects but sometimes plant diseases are also employed. The vast majority of agents are species that are indigenous to the places of origin of the invasive plants. It is possible that control agents are already present in North America but these are not much studied if they are inherently effective in limiting the introduced plant from spreading. The introductions are seldom as simple as one introduced agent resulting in effective control. Many programs have applied several control agents with mixed results. As well, the strategies can become very complicated with multiple factors including ecological agents that limit the effectiveness of the control agent and competing commercial interests. Examples of some successful biological control programs and some complicating factors will be discussed including those for Canada Thistle, St. John's Wort, Knapweeds, Docks, and Purple Loosestrife.

**W.D. (Bill) Mcllveen** received his B.Sc. (Agr.) and M.Sc. from the University of Guelph and a Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from the Pennsylvania State University. He was the Senior Terrestrial Toxicologist with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment for over 25 years and an environmental consultant, conducting biological inventories (flora and fauna) throughout Ontario. He is a member of many environmental organizations and has served as an advisor to environmental committees in Halton and Peel. He has authored or co-authored nearly 350 articles or reports relating to environmental matters ranging from naturalist club newsletters to government reports to refereed journals.

His professional career was mainly related to the investigation of effects industrial emission on vegetation and soil. During his recent career in environmental consulting, his work has included ecological land classification, rare and introduced species studies, and terrestrial toxicology projects. Bill has been involved in many monitoring projects and was a Regional Coordinator for the most recent Breeding Bird Atlas. He served as the Regional Coordinator (Halton/Peel) for the Ontario Tree Atlas. He is a member of 20 naturalist organizations and has served on the executive of the Field Botanists of Ontario, the Ontario Bird Banding Association, the Ontario Vernal Pools Association, and the Toronto Entomological Association. He sat for 9 years on the Ecological and Environment Advisory Committee and on the Lake Ontario Shoreline Algae Action Committee for the Regional Municipality of Halton. He was the Chairman of the Steering Committee for the Natural Areas Inventory completed in Halton and serves in a similar capacity with the current Natural Areas Inventory initiated in the Region of Peel.

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## Arsenal Powerline Herbicide for Control of *Phragmites* in Non-Aquatic Environments Presented by: Scott Hodgins, BASF



#### <u>Abstract</u>

- Examination of the environmental, social and financial impact of *Phragmites*
- Evaluation of current control measures
- Introduction of Arsenal Powerline as a new option for control of *Phragmites* in non-aquatic environments
- Discussion of Best Management Practices, including but not limited to, herbicides for control of *Phragmites* in non-aquatic environments

**Scott Hodgins** is BASF's Vegetation Management Brand Manager and Technical Specialist. In his role, Scott works with BASF's local vegetation management sales

representatives and customers across the country providing technical support and training with particular focus on BASF's newest innovations such as Overdrive and Arsenal Powerline for control of *Phragmites* in non-aquatic environments. He also coordinates BASF pre-registration research of new products for the vegetation management industry.

With a degree in Plant Science from the University of Guelph, Scott has been with BASF for 14 years working first in technical development where he was involved in the introductions of several innovative new products to the Canadian market and later as a regional business representative in Southwestern Ontario. He has been in his current role for 5 years.

Scott is based near London, Ontario where he lives with his wife, Lisa, and two children.

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## The Silent Invader: The Spread of *Magnolia kobus* within the Royal Botanical Gardens' Nature Sanctuaries Presented by: Katherine Moesker, Royal Botanical Gardens



#### <u>Abstract</u>

*Magnolia kobus* is a deciduous broadleaf tree native to Japan that was first introduced as an ornamental tree in North America in the 1860s. It has been recognized as an invasive species in areas within the United States including Delaware and Ohio. Thousands of *Magnolia kobus* plants were recently discovered throughout RBG's natural lands, with most of the plants located in ravines. The species was first introduced to the RBG gardens in 1958, but has only begun to invade surrounding natural areas within the past decade.

The recent invasion of *Magnolia kobus* into RBG's natural lands may be symptomatic of other changes. Some theories

regarding the reasoning behind the species dispersal include changes in climate (temperature, precipitation), the possible arrival of a previously absent pollinator, and increases in certain wildlife populations. Another theory is that wildlife associated with native magnolias may be using *Magnolia kobus* as a food substitute, due to similarities between the native and non-native magnolias, thereby distributing seeds. In this presentation, Katherine Moesker will review and discuss the reasoning behind some of the suggested theories.

The biology of *Magnolia kobus* and the possible threats that its invasion could pose toward ecological systems within and beyond RBG's natural lands will be discussed. Information regarding the species' growth rate, lifespan, phenology, ideal growing conditions, pollinators, and pests (both in North America and in its native range) will be required in order to design effective management strategies for the control of the species. The information will also assist in determining the need for adding *Magnolia kobus* to the list of invasive plant species in Ontario.

**Katherine Moesker** works at the Royal Botanical Gardens in the Terrestrial Ecology department. She is a graduate of Trent University where she obtained a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Resource Science. She also studied at Sir Sandford Fleming College School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences and received two diplomas in Ecosystem Management.

While completing her studies, Katherine worked with the Ontario Heritage Trust to assist in the development of a trail management plan for the Fleetwood Creek trail system in the Kawartha region watershed. She also worked with the Parks, Forestry, and Recreation of the City of Toronto to develop a forest restoration plan for Marie Curtis Park. These

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projects involved the management of numerous issues including ecological degradation due to unauthorized off-trail use and the spread of invasive species.

Prior to working at the RBG, Katherine was an instructor for Ontario Parks' Learn-to-Camp program. She incorporated her passion for the environment into the curriculum, and worked to connect participants with their surroundings as a way of encouraging an appreciation for the natural world.

In her current position, Katherine assists in the restoration and monitoring of terrestrial ecosystems through breeding bird surveys, ecological land classification, invasive species removal, and native plantings. In the future, she plans to continue to work in the field of ecological restoration.

## Closing Remarks – Invasive Species and Urban Natural Areas Presented by: Dr. David A. Galbraith, Royal Botanical Gardens



#### Abstract

With over 80% of Canadians now living in cities or urban areas, people are becoming more concentrated than ever in smaller areas, and many of those smaller areas are growing into large conurbations. Within the complex landscapes of urban Canada are important natural areas, exemplified by Cootes Paradise Marsh, and the surrounding natural areas, owned by Royal Botanical Gardens and other agencies. Rich ecosystems do not thrive when cut off and isolated. The arrival of introduced species and invasive species in such nature

sanctuaries are not surprises. Devising strategies for protecting such native ecosystems isn't easy, and the pace of biotic change can be rapid. One strategy for supporting natural biodiversity is to support biotic exchange between relatively isolated patches of habitat through corridors. The Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System is one response to such urban habitat fragmentation. Since being proposed in 2006 the EcoPark System has gone through intense research and program development, culminating in 2013 with the participating land-owning agencies signing a Memorandum of Understanding and declaring the EcoPark System to be in existence. Planning for further change and the conservation management of the lands owned by a diversity of agencies must include addressing invasive species amongst other considerations such as recreational use, management of at-risk species, and protecting and promoting ecological corridors.

**David Galbraith** is Head of Science at Royal Botanical Gardens, where he is responsible for the institution's research programs, non-living collections, and building relationships with outside organizations in science and conservation cooperation. He serves as the



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Chair of the Management Committee of the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System and has guided the development of the EcoPark System since its inception in 2006. David holds a B.Sc. and M.Sc. from University of Guelph and a Ph.D. from Queen's University at Kingston. His early scientific studies were focussed on demography and behavioural ecology of snapping turtles in Algonquin Park. Since joining RBG in 1995 David has been working on plant conservation and global biodiversity policy issues, cultural heritage, and environmental sustainability. He was part of the team behind the launch of the UN's Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and serves as Canada's National Focal Point for the GSPC today. He is also an adjunct professor in the Biology Department at McMaster University.



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## **Your Notes:**

