

Celebrating 25 years of community activism on  
the **Oak Ridges Moraine**



Sunday, September 27, 2015  
Sheppard's Bush  
11:30 am–3:30 pm

**Masters of Ceremony**  
**Debbe Crandall & Graham Whitelaw**

### **To our Oak Ridges Moraine friends:**

On behalf of Save The Oak Ridges Moraine Coalition (STORM) we'd like to welcome you to our 25th anniversary celebration. The visionary insight and determination that our STORM founders possessed 25 years ago is truly commendable. This vision has continued to sustain the organization and has been shared over the years by numerous caring STORM volunteers. STORM volunteers and staff demonstrate exceptional creativity and innovation, and these qualities have resulted in 25 years of leadership in ecosystem planning and protection. The moraine has this ability to bring together like-minded people who have a genuine concern for its protection — deep connections are formed when people are drawn together working for common cause. We may not win each battle on the moraine, however the friendships developed and learning that occurs have led to a community of kindred spirits and connections that are with us for a lifetime. We truly appreciate the tremendous amount of time, strength and energy that you have all given to help protect Ontario's ecological and hydrological gem. We would like to sincerely thank our 2015 Greenbelt review partners—Earthroots, EcoSpark, Ontario Nature and the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation for making this a truly memorable celebration and for their continued support of Ontario's Oak Ridges Moraine. We are optimistic that the provincial government will uphold the spirit and intent of the Oak Ridges Moraine Plan through the Greenbelt Review for future generations. We sincerely thank you all for sharing this special day with us and caring about our marvellous moraine!

Kind regards,

STORM Board of Directors—Sylvia Bowman, Dave Farlow,  
Josh Garfinkel, Ian McLaurin, Cindy Sutch & Graham Whitelaw



## Our Special Day

The Oak Ridges Moraine Partnership for 2015 promotes appreciation of the Oak Ridges Moraine, a unique landscape in southern Ontario, and civic engagement in the current review of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. This partnership, consisting of four committed organizations — Earthroots, EcoSpark, Ontario Nature and STORM Coalition, has been preparing for the plan review for many years by monitoring issues that threaten the hydrological and ecological integrity of the moraine, and encouraging civic engagement in moraine protection.



The ORM Partnership has been and continues to be actively involved in the 2015 review process to ensure the protection of the moraine for generations to come.

Discover the beauty and importance of the Oak Ridges Moraine at [marvellousmoraine.org](http://marvellousmoraine.org). Developed by the Oak Ridges Moraine Partnership for 2015, this website is your doorway into moraine history, culture and ecology.

11:30 am–11:45 am — Registration

11:45 am–12:45 pm — Interpretive hike led by Dr. James Hamilton, Laurier University

1:00 pm — Masters of Ceremony Debbie Crandall & Graham Whitelaw Welcoming Remarks

1:00 pm–1:30 pm — Catered BBQ Lunch

1:30 pm–2:30 pm — Award Ceremony and Speeches

2:30 pm–3:30 pm — Entertainment Provided by Northern Roads

## Our Heroes

Save The Oak Ridges Moraine Coalition has hit a quarter-century milestone of protecting and preserving Ontario's environmentally sensitive Oak Ridges Moraine. We have selected some very special people based on their strong connection to the landscape and regional planning. Their strong support of grassroots activism has inspired many people across the moraine.

## 25th Anniversary Award Recipients

Don Alexander	Gloria Marsh
Jen Bedford	Dan McCarthy
Lois Brown	Tom Meininger
David Burnett	Rob Messervey
Joyce Chau	Joseph O'Neill
David Crombie	Linda Pim
Victor Doyle	Gloria Reszler
Dave Farlow	John Riley
John Fisher	Christina Sharma
Josh Garfinkel	David Lewis Stein
Kim Gavine	Cindy Sutch
Debbie Gordon	Anna Tilman
Dorothy Izzard	Steve Varga
Frederick Johnson	Joshua Wise
Ene Leivo	

The criteria and final compilation of names are the sole responsibility of Debbie Crandall and Graham Whitelaw and we apologize upfront for any omissions. Funding for the awards component comes from STORM's operating budget.



## In Memorium

We would like to honour these dear friends/teachers/mentors who have passed before us. Each of these people contributed so much to the areas of good planning and ecosystem protection within the Oak Ridges Moraine and Niagara Escarpment landscapes. It must be remembered that the model of success during STORM's formative years was CONE (Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment) and the ideal the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act and Plan. Lyn MacMillan was to CONE what Kathy Guselle and Niva Rowan were to SAGA (Save the Ganaraska Again) and STORM. David McQueen and Gretchen Harris were worthy torch-bearers. We are fortunate to have known them.

Kathy Guselle

Niva Rowan

Gretchen Harris

Lyn MacMillan

David McQueen



Photo: Ron Pitts

*To be inspired is great, to inspire is incredible....*

## Our History

### STORM'S FIRST DECADE

It started with a phone call. It was 1988 and Kathy Guselle, president of SAGA (Save the Ganaraska Again) called the Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee (EAAC) looking for help to ensure planning protection for the headwaters of the Ganaraska River. The response was “ask for an environmental assessment.” The request was made and the EAAC held a hearing (chaired by Dr. Robert Gibson) on September 7, 1989; the room was packed with SAGA delegates and supporters. The EAAC Report No. 38 recommended that the province undertake a review. While the request was subsequently denied by the Ministry of the Environment, this process laid the foundation for a fundamental shift in citizen engagement and traditional planning on the moraine and beyond. At this meeting, two graduate students calling themselves S.T.O.R.M., talked about the ecology of the Oak Ridges Moraine (ORM) and the need for citizen engagement as part of an ecosystem approach to watershed planning. Don Alexander and John Fisher were flooded with phone calls. One of these was from Dorothy Izzard, chair of Concerned Citizens of King Township's subcommittee called STORM. In October 1989 S.T.O.R.M. (east) and STORM (west) met in King City and the Save the Oak Ridges Moraine (STORM) Coalition was born. Six months later STORM was incorporated as a not-for-profit organization, its mission (to force protection of the ORM and leading edge planning for consistent application across the 30 municipalities that made up the moraine), goals and objectives, organizational structure and guiding policies put in place. The founding board comprised Don and Dorothy as co-chairs and directors John Fisher, Kathy Guselle, Gloria Reszler, Tom Meininger and Ene Leivo. The October meeting was a catalyst for a frenzy of activity; talking with David Crombie, Commissioner for the Toronto waterfront, Liberal MPP Ron Kanter, who headed up the Greater Toronto Area open spaces taskforce, members of parliament and conservation authorities. A seminal conference, *Greenways and Green Space on the Oak Ridges Moraine*, was held at Trent University with Randal Arendt, and his ideas of alternative development, as keynote speaker. This proved formative as the nascent





Photo: Mark Carroll

moraine movement began to be taken seriously; people weren't only talking about their own issues but were advocating for broader ecosystem-based planning principles.

Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority created a moraine taskforce and the Crombie and Kanter commissions identified the ORM as a significant ecological landscape and called for provincial intervention. It was a heady time and change was in the air. In March 1990, the government responded. Liberal Cabinet Minister Greg Sorbara announced, at the eve of the election, provincial interest in the moraine accompanied by interim planning guidelines. In 1991, the new NDP government announced a three-year planning study and a technical committee to oversee the commission of 15 background studies. Over the next three years STORM volunteers continued to advocate for provincial legislation for protection of the entire moraine and in 1994 the final report was delivered to Minister Hampton. The effort had been worth it; the planning strategy included as one of the implementation options an Oak Ridges Moraine Act and land use plan. Without STORM, Ontario Naturalists and the Conservation Council at the table, moraine protection in place today would not

have been possible.

The next four years was a reflective time for STORM. The new conservative government under Mike Harris had a singular agenda to deregulate environmental protection. Fearful lest the movement lose what little protection it had in the moraine guidelines, STORM went 'underground' focusing on education and awareness. A committee, chaired by David McQueen, produced the Oak Ridges Moraine book. In 1996, it was short-listed for the Trillium Award and sold out in its second printing. David Lewis Stein from the Toronto Star was writing articles about the moraine. A 1997 conference on the moraine's hydrogeology showcased five years of work headed up by the Geological Society of Canada.

### STORM'S SECOND DECADE

In 1999, Debbe Crandall, STORM's Executive Director and past chair, called every ENGO she could think of. Bolstered by a bold new strategic plan, it was time for STORM to re-emerge. Mike Harris' government had just been re-elected and development on the moraine was out of control. The interim guidelines were toothless; King City was mired in conflict over Big Pipe planning, the community of Oak Ridges had just emerged from a year-long OMB hearing, Richmond Hill was opening the gates to development on its remaining wild areas, Uxbridge council and citizens were facing off against Gan Eden, and Stouffville was tripling its urban footprint. Within a few months, an informal partnership was forged between STORM, Federation of Ontario Naturalists (now Ontario Nature), Earthroots, Save the Rouge Valley System and Richmond Hill groups. The 'Kettle Lakes Coalition' started organizing a campaign against Richmond Hill's OPA 200, which purported to 'protect' the environment by planning for many 1000s of new homes in its remaining non-urban moraine lands. That October, the Kettle Lakes warriors; Linda Pim (FON), Debbe Crandall (STORM), Lea Anne Mallet (Earthroots) and Glenn de Baeremaeker (SRVS) held a press conference at Queen's Park to deliver the moraine message. It was almost derailed by the news that UDI head, Steve Kiesser, had charged Minister Steve Gilchrist with bribery (this was later proved to be false). Suddenly, the



moraine was in the news and the groups were able to leverage this scandal into moraine awareness. The next year and a half was a whirlwind of activity. Bruce McKenzie joined Debbe at STORM. The STORM/FON/Earthroots campaign shifted and adapted in response to media reporting and polling data. There were monthly press conferences; town hall meetings co-organized with Liberal MPP Mike Colle (creator of the Save Don't Pave and Hike the Moraine campaigns); GTA-wide Take Action events; frequent trips to Queen's Park to support a bevy of private members' bills: two Liberal (Colle), one NDP (Martel and Churley) and one Conservative (Gilchrist); radio ads; request for reviews under the Environmental Bill of Rights and numerous demonstrations.



Meanwhile, a February 2000 public meeting saw 1,500 people force Richmond Hill to abandon OPA 200 and in May, one of the most closely watched OMB hearings began. SRVS, with funding from the City of Toronto, had standing, STORM and others sent in observers and the Toronto media had daily moraine coverage. As the hearing progressed into 2001, the province had no recourse but to strongly intercede; if ever there was an indictment of the inadequacies of the planning system, this was it. By sheer serendipity, a by-election in the heart of the moraine and Tory Blue country provided STORM and others with the platform to test the political waters of protection for the moraine. On May 17, 2001 the province acted. Chris Hodgson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, ordered a six-month

moratorium on all moraine matters. On June 28, Liberal Greg Sorbara was elected and within the month, the Oak Ridges Moraine Advisory Panel (on which STORM's request to sit was accepted) was in full swing. By August, public meetings on the panel's draft recommendations were held across the moraine. The response was unprecedented; overwhelmingly the public demanded nothing less than full and legislated protection with no more urban development on the moraine. By December 14, 2001 the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act was brought into law with unanimous three-party approval and on April 22, 2002, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan was approved. A year later the ORM Foundation was created with \$15 million from the province. On December 15, 2001 STORM held an internal victory dinner to celebrate 12 years of single-mindedly pursuing and achieving its primary goal; provincial legislation for the moraine.

The question was, should STORM now hang up its hat? Drawing upon lessons from other groups, STORM shifted strategic gears away from advocacy to monitoring the ORMCP. In 2004, STORM's *Loose Threads of the ORMCP* workshop identified the 10-year review of the Plan as a significant milestone and that community-based monitoring (Monitoring the Moraine) could help drive the process. In 2004 STORM, Citizens' Environment Watch (now EcoSpark) and the Centre for Community Mapping began designing a new project. A year later the Monitoring the Moraine project received significant multi-year funding from the ORM Foundation and others and a new chapter in STORM's role in moraine governance had begun. STORM also partnered with the ORM Foundation and many other organizations on The Moraine. For Life. and Caring for the Moraine initiatives. This Foundation funding — ENGO delivery partnership with STORM and others proved incredibly successful leading to educational, recreational, academic, monitoring, land acquisition and stewardship successes across the moraine, demonstrating the critical role of the ORMF in implementation of ORM planning and management.





*Members come together to celebrate Ontario's Oak Ridges Moraine*

### STORM'S THIRD DECADE and BEYOND

There is one thread that runs through STORM's core; the fundamental belief that citizens are drivers of change and that without an engaged and informed citizenry, sustainability is not achievable. This was true in 1989 when STORM volunteers shared their knowledge and understandings of 'ecosystem-approaches to planning' with downstream politicians. The same vision guided STORM into the third decade of its advocacy, resulting in leadership on opposing industrial scale infrastructure development on the ORM including green energy developments that are scale inappropriate (Note: STORM strongly supports appropriately scaled green energy projects). STORM has also aggressively fought inappropriate dumping of fill across the moraine and is a first line of defence against these illegal practices. STORM's recent efforts alongside Earthroots, EcoSpark and Ontario Nature have focussed on the 2015 Greenbelt Review designed to improve planning and management, increase protection measures within and beyond the Oak Ridges Moraine and Greenbelt and to complete ecosystem-based management for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. The Coalition is also committed to greater fairness through ORM planning especially associated with agriculture. And so it will be that concerned and knowledgeable citizens will continue moraine protection for another 25 years. Over the next decade, the public will be called upon to defend the Oak Ridges Moraine and its protection framework. STORM will be there because what hasn't changed is the passion, commitment and dedication of the citizen volunteer. These days there's just more of them.

Debbe Crandall



Photo: Barb Campbell

### Greenbelt Youth Charter

We were fortunate to be able to coordinate our 25th anniversary celebration with EcoSpark's Greenbelt Youth Charter, a project funded by Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation to recognize the 10th anniversary of the Greenbelt. Following a two-day Greenbelt bus tour on September 26th and 27th, 20 high school students from across the Greater Toronto Area will take part in STORM's anniversary and awards ceremony before heading out to Sheppard's Bush to create the first-ever Greenbelt Youth Charter. This perfectly represents the spirit of the Oak Ridges Moraine and STORM Coalition and it bodes well for our future.

For more information about EcoSpark's Greenbelt Youth Charter, please visit: <http://www.ecospark.ca/greenbelt-youth-charter>



## Introduction to Why This Country is So Nice



Starting in 1934, Lyman Chapman and David Putnam, under the auspices of the Ontario Research Foundation, began the process of surveying and mapping southern Ontario. What they weren't able to cover on foot, they traversed by automobile. Their work, published as *The Physiography of Southern Ontario* is still the definitive work from which all physical geographers and geologists start.

They have been credited with being the first to identify and

name the Oak Ridges Moraine — the opening line in the chapter reads “The Oak Ridges interlobate moraine stands out as one of the most distinctive physiographic units of southern Ontario.”

While Lyman Chapman was recognized as one of the world's experts on soils, little did his colleagues realize that he was an aspiring poet. Unpublished, but shared with friends, is a delightful poem he wrote called “Why This Country is So Nice, A Poetic Interpretation of the Physiography of Southern Ontario.”

Mr Chapman was born and raised on a farm in the Humber watershed, close to where Humber College now sits. He graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph and received an Honorary Doctors of Laws from the University of Waterloo. He was married to Edith, had one daughter and retired to Thornbury where he became an avid apple-grower. He was in his eighties when he died, sometime in the late 1990s.

He and Mr Putnam are an inspiration to all friends of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

## Why This Country Is So Nice — Abridged\*

(A Poetic interpretation of *The Physiography of southern Ontario*) by Lyman Chapman

The reason, I assure you, why this country is so nice  
Is that it once was buried under many feet of ice.  
It snowed and snowed in Labrador and piled up high and higher;  
The glacier then moved southward right to southern Ohio...

The north of Lake Ontario it happened once again;  
Two lakes split apart to build the Oak Ridges Moraine.  
The sandhills tend to blow about in any little breeze  
So maybe they should never have been cleared of all the trees.

North and south of this moraine the lands are highly prized;  
The soils are full of limestone, the surface drumlinized.  
Two glacial lakes on either slope which were short-lived we feel  
Left varved clay at Schomberg and in Halton, York and Peel.  
Two long-lived lakes which these two tribes of Indians probably saw  
Are named for the Algonquins and their foes the Iroquois...

\*For the full version, please visit [www.stormcoalition.org](http://www.stormcoalition.org)



Thank you for sharing our special day with us and we look forward to another 25 years with you.

Many thanks to the following organizations and people for their contributions:

Buckingham Gallery of Fine Art Ltd.

Kawartha Conservation

Northern Roads

Pine Farms Orchard

Pineneedle Farms

Sarah Crandall Haney

William Lishman

Many thanks to the Oak Ridges Moraine Partnership for 2015, a project funded by the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation for helping to make this 25th anniversary celebration a success.



Possibility grows here.