

Learn more about Greenbelt legislation

Farmland preservation in Ontario's Greenbelt will be the focus of an expert panel discussion at a special forum this month.

"Greenbelt - Preserving Ontario's Farmlands, Emerging Issues" takes place Saturday, Jan. 27 at 1 p.m. at the Best Western Beacon Harbourside in Jordan Station.

The forum is designed to promote a clear understanding of the need and importance of Ontario's Greenbelt.

The program begins with the plenary speaker Burkhard Mausberg, executive director of the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation, who will discuss the lessons learned about the Greenbelt over the past two years. This will be followed by a panel discussion on the topic "Adjusting to the Greenbelt" moderated by Bill Hodgson, mayor of the Town of Lincoln. Panelists are Jim Bradley, MPP St.

Catharines and minister responsible for Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine Foundations, Dr. Norman Looney, president of the International Society for Horticultural Science, Debbie Zimmerman, Niagara regional councillor and CEO of the Grape Growers of Ontario and Elbert van Donkersgoed, P. Ag. (Hon.), executive director of the Greater Toronto Agricultural Action committee. The summary speaker is journalist Glenn Powell.

Farmers, farm leaders, community leaders, government personnel and concerned citizens will all benefit from participating in this forum, which has been endorsed by the Ontario Institute of Agrologists (OIA) and developed by a team of Ontario's Professional Agrologists from Niagara and Hamilton in conjunction with the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation.

There is no admission charge.

January 2007 Newsletter

Continued... Juice grapes squeezed

Ray Duc, chair of the grape growers as well as a large grower of wine grapes, said the drastic winter kill in 2003 and 2005 and a difficult year in 2004 taught a great deal about which grape varieties can survive tough winter conditions.

He said, "(Replanting) will help stabilize the entire industry with different varieties, different locations."

Dean Allison, Conservative MP for Niagara West-Glanbrook, said in order to get federal government support, the program needs to be national, to meet the needs of other grape growers in the rest of the country as well as Niagara.

But he also recognized the need for quick action and plans to meet with the grape growers in early January to discuss their proposal.

"I'd certainly fight for something like that. It's important to me."

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Meeting with local MP's on the Replant Program

Representatives from the Grape Growers of Ontario met with area MPs (Minister Rob Nicholson, Mr. Dean Allison and Mr. Rick Dykstra) to discuss moving forward with the Replant Program. The Grape Growers of Ontario continues to strongly advocate on behalf of our growers with both the Provincial and Federal governments on the need for the Replant Program.



Left to Right: Debbie Zimmerman (CEO, GGO), Minister Rob Nicholson (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada), Mr. Dean Allison (MP-Niagara West-Glanbrook), Ray Duc (Chair, GGO), Bill George (Vice-Chair, GGO), Matthias Oppenlaender (Grape King, GGO), Doug Hernder (Board Member, GGO), Steve Fernick (Board Member, GGO), Mr. Rick Dykstra (MP-St. Catharines)