

# 2021 Ontario Biodiversity Summit

## Opening Session: Nature-based solutions for the 21<sup>st</sup> century

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Wednesday May 26, 2021

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**10:00am**     **Greetings to summit participants** *Steve Hounsell, Chair, Ontario Biodiversity Council; Elder Dorothy Taylor, Curve Lake First Nation*  
**Opening message** *Oliver Hillel, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD)*  
**Opening message** *Hon John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources & Forestry*  
**Setting the stage: A roadmap for a sustainable future** *Steve Hounsell, Chair, Ontario Biodiversity Council*

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**10:30am**     **The importance of the Indigenous worldview** *Elder Marilyn Capreol, Shawanaga First Nation*

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**10:50am**     **Moderator** *Caroline Schultz, Ontario Nature*  
**Keynote address: Bending the curve of biodiversity loss: Towards a “nature-positive” world** *Harvey Locke, Chair of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas Beyond the Aichi Targets Task Force*

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**12:00pm**     **Lunch break**

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**1:00pm**     **Video:** *Nature Now, the climate crisis, with George Monbiot and Greta Thunberg [Courtesy: The Guardian]*  
**Video:** *What is ethical space? [Courtesy: Conservation Through Reconciliation Partnership]*  
**Panel session: The path forward - nature-based solutions that will achieve multiple wins for biodiversity, climate change and for people**  
**Moderator** *Caroline Schultz, Ontario Nature*  
**Panelists:**  
*Larry McDermott, Plenty Canada*  
*James Snider, World Wildlife Fund*  
*Stephen Woodley, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)*  
*Anne Bell, Ontario Nature*  
*Marilyn Capreol, Shawanaga First Nation*  
*Wendy Cridland, Nature Conservancy of Canada*  
*Justina Ray, Wildlife Conservation Society of Canada*  
*Risa Smith, Protected Areas Climate Change Specialist Group, (IUCN/WCPA)*  
**Q&A**  
**Closing remarks**  
**Closing ceremony** *Elder Marilyn Capreol, Shawanaga First Nation*

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## Opening Session: Speaker biographies

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**Oliver Hillel** is a Programme Officer at the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) in Montreal, Canada. He is responsible for stakeholder engagement, as well as island biodiversity, sub-national implementation, sustainable tourism, and South-South cooperation. A biologist with a master's Degree in Environmental Education and MBAs on Managerial Accounting and Hotel Management, Oliver has over 24 years' experience on international cooperation and negotiations on sustainable tourism, event organization, and training and capacity building programs across many themes and issues related to sustainable development. Previously, he was the team leader for a tourism development cooperation project in the Philippines, Tourism Programme Coordinator for UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics based in Paris, France, and Ecotourism Program director for Conservation International.



**John Yakabuski** was elected to the Ontario Legislature as MPP for the riding of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke on October 2nd, 2003. On June 7th, 2018, he was re-elected for his fifth term in office. John is currently serving as the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. He was raised on politics as his father, Paul Yakabuski, served as the Provincial Member for the riding of Renfrew South for 24 years. Formerly a real estate sales representative, John is best known locally as the former owner-operator of Yakabuski's Home Hardware in Barry's Bay, which he operated for 20 years. He is also known for his record of community service that has included service to the Royal Canadian Legion, Madawaska Valley Lions Club and the Boy Scouts. In addition, John sat on the steering committee of St. Francis Memorial Hospital's Capital Equipment Campaign and is very active in his church, St. John's Lutheran Augsburg. John grew up in a family of 14 children, just about enough for a quorum on its own. He and his wife Vicky have four children and eleven grandchildren.



**Dorothy Taylor** is a Mississauga Ojibwe Elder from Curve Lake First Nation. She is known for her work and traditional teachings about the sacredness of water. She shares traditional knowledge and ceremony within her community and various organizations throughout Ontario. She is a hand drummer and singer. Elder Dorothy Taylor is the founder of the Sacred Water Circle, inspired by traditional Indigenous teachings and leading with hope and spiritual courage, the Sacred Water Circle sees a restored relationship between human communities and water. She has served as a volunteer on the Petroglyph Advisory Council of Curve Lake for 12 years. Currently, Dorothy is the Co-Chair of the local United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6 on Clean Water and Sanitation sponsored through the Kawartha World Issues Centre. She lives in Curve Lake with her husband Mark and two sons.



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Elder **Marilyn Capreol** is Anishinaabe from Shawanaga First Nation in Ontario and is a founding member of the Conservation through Reconciliation Partnership (CRP) Elder's Lodge. Marilyn was raised on the waters of Georgian Bay, which is where she is joining us from today. Throughout her life she has been an active volunteer: for many years she was the President of the Circle of Directors for Na Me Res, a shelter for Indigenous men in Toronto. She is also involved with the Georgian Bay Biosphere reserve and is a member of the Indigenous Circle for the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association.

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**Steve Hounsell** is the Chair of the Ontario Biodiversity Council. Steve is a retired biologist who spent his career with Ontario Power Generation (OPG) and the former Ontario Hydro, where he managed their biodiversity programs. He was responsible for the development and implementation of a biodiversity policy, the first of its kind in the electricity industry. He also developed and managed an award-winning program linking climate change mitigation and adaptation with biodiversity conservation. Steve, an ardent supporter of sustainability and the conservation of biodiversity, is the Past President of Forests Ontario, and a Past President of Ontario Nature. Steve is a past director of the Algonquin to Adirondacks Collaborative and a founding director of the Natural Step Canada and the Canadian Business and Biodiversity Council.

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**Harvey Locke** is a conservationist, writer, and photographer. He is a recognized global leader in the field of parks, wilderness, wildlife and large landscape conservation. He is a founder of the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative, with the goal to create a continuous corridor for wildlife from Yellowstone National Park in the United States to the Yukon in Northern Canada. In 2017, Locke was appointed chair of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas Beyond the Aichi Targets Task Force, with the goal of ensuring the new global conservation targets set at the next Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2020 are meaningful for achieving the conservation of nature and halting of biodiversity loss.

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**Caroline Schultz** is the Executive Director of Ontario Nature. Caroline grew up in Ireland with a family that loved exploring nature, especially along the southwest's wild Atlantic coast. She has over 25 years of experience in developing and leading conservation initiatives involving science, land securement, stewardship and advocacy in Canada and the Americas. Caroline started her career as an ecologist, and quickly expanded her interests to organizational development and multi-partner collaboratives to achieve tangible on-the-ground conservation results. Caroline completed an M.Sc. in ecology at the University of Toronto and a Master of Management degree at McGill University.

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Elder **Larry McDermott** is Algonquin from Shabot Obaadjiwan First Nation, and is the Executive Director of Plenty Canada, an Indigenous NGO. Larry is currently a member of numerous organizations including the Indigenous International Forum for Biodiversity and the Eastern Ontario First Nations Working Group. Larry attended the 1992 Earth Summit that launched the treaty conventions on climate change and biodiversity, and subsequent meetings. Larry served as an Elder to the Canada Pathway to Target 1 process, under a system inclusive of Indigenous and Western knowledge systems and governance. Larry also served as a comprehensive claim representative for Shabot Obaadjiwan First Nation, is a certified tree marker and butternut assessor, and holds other environmental certifications. He has also received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the University of Guelph. Larry was a humble student for many years of the late Algonquin Elder, Grandfather William Commanda, who created the Circle of All Nations organization. Elder Larry is a founding member of the Conservation through Reconciliation Partnership (CRP) Elder's Lodge, is a member of the International Research Stream team, and Plenty Canada is partner on the CRP.



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**James Snider** is Vice President, Science, Knowledge and Innovation, World Wildlife Fund Canada. James leads WWF-Canada's Science, Knowledge and Innovation team, which provides the core science expertise underpinning WWF's work in Canada. A key function of James' work is to identify new technologies and areas of research so that our conservation efforts in Canada are at the cutting edge. Most recently, he led WWF-Canada's Wildlife Protection Assessment and was senior author of the 2017 Living Planet Report Canada. James has expert knowledge of conservation in Canada, including sustainable forest management, indicators and metrics of freshwater ecosystem health, and resilience of arctic ecosystems. He completed a B.Sc. at McGill University in 2005 with a specialization in conservation biology, and he has a post-graduate diploma in environmental impact assessment from Concordia University.



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**Dr. Stephen Woodley** is the Co-chair IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)-SSC Joint Taskforce on Protected Areas and Biodiversity, in conjunction with IUCN's Species Survival Commission. Stephen has over 30 years of experience in nature conservation in Canada. Stephen was formerly Chief Ecosystems Scientist with Parks Canada.



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**Dr. Anne Bell** has been directing Ontario Nature's conservation and education programs since 2007. She holds a Ph.D. in environmental studies and has almost 20 years of experience working as an environmental educator, researcher and advocate for government and non-profit organizations. Anne loves to go birding, camping, swimming, and skiing and to play hockey with her husband and two daughters.



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**Dr. Justina Ray** has been President and Senior Scientist of Wildlife Conservation Society Canada since its incorporation in 2004. In addition to overseeing the operations of WCS Canada, Justina is involved in research and policy activities associated with land use planning and large mammal conservation in northern landscapes. Having worked for years in African and Asian tropical forests, North America has been her predominant geographic focus over the past two decades. Justina has been appointed to numerous government advisory panels related to policy development for species at risk and land use planning in Ontario and Canada. She was the co-chair of the Terrestrial Mammals Subcommittee of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) from 2009-2017 and is currently a member of the IUCN Taskforce on Biodiversity and Protected Areas. She has been editor or author of 3 books and numerous peer-reviewed articles and is Adjunct Professor at the University of Toronto (Faculty of Forestry) and Trent University (Biology Department) and Research Associate at the Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Biology at the Royal Ontario Museum.

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**Wendy Cridland** has been with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) since 2006. She is currently Senior Director of Conservation, overseeing conservation work within NCC's priority natural areas, providing guidance and support to sub-regional staff and ensuring resources are focused on protecting and expanding critical natural landscapes through securement and stewardship. Prior to that, she spent five years as NCC's Program Manager for southwestern Ontario, where she was responsible for land securement, stewardship and associated conservation planning.



**Dr. Risa Smith** is the Chair, Protected Areas Climate Change Specialist Group, an expert group of the IUCN/WCPA. She also represents WCPA on the IUCN Climate Change Task Force. Over the past 25 years Risa has reported on the State of Environment for both the BC government and Canada. She was manager of the International Biodiversity Policy Program in the Canadian Wildlife Service until 2017. Risa is well-known for her leadership on environmental reporting, including Canada's response to the 2010 global biodiversity target: Canadian Biodiversity: Ecosystem Status and Trends 2010. Risa's most recent publications are on Protected Areas and Climate Change for the Protected Planet Report and "Ensuring Benefits for Biodiversity, Climate Change and Sustainable Development". Risa is active in her community as a founding director and board member of both the Galiano Conservancy Association and the Salish Sea Renewable Energy Coop. Her community work centres around climate change education and deployment of solar photovoltaic systems on the islands of the Salish Sea.

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To learn more about the **Ontario Biodiversity Council** please visit:

[www.ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca](http://www.ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca)

To register for other **2021 Ontario Biodiversity Summit** sessions please visit:

[www.ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca/summit](http://www.ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca/summit)

## Program at a glance

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<b>TUESDAY MAY 25</b>		
6:00pm – 8:00pm	<b>Youth round table: A call for the future</b>	<a href="#">Register now!</a>
<b>WEDNESDAY MAY 26</b>		
10:00am – 3:30pm	<b>Opening session: Nature-based solutions for the 21<sup>st</sup> century</b>	<a href="#">Register now!</a>
<b>THURSDAY MAY 27</b>		
9:00am – 12:00pm	<b>A decade of biodiversity: Successes and challenges in biodiversity education and awareness</b>	<a href="#">Register now!</a>
<b>MONDAY JUNE 3</b>		
7:00pm – 8:00pm	<b>How do I do this? An environmental career podcast live panel discussion</b>	<a href="#">Register now!</a>
<b>THURSDAY JUNE 17</b>		
9:00am – 4:00pm	<b>Restoring aquatic biodiversity</b>	<a href="#">Register now!</a>
<b>THURSDAY JUNE 24</b>		
10:00am – 5:00pm	<b>Restoring biodiversity and ecological connections</b>	<a href="#">Register now!</a>
<b>FRIDAY JUNE 25</b>		
10:00am – 5:00pm	<b>Enhancing protection and resilience: Indigenous ways of knowing</b>	<a href="#">Register now!</a>
<b>JULY</b>		
<i>video series</i>	<b>Community science: A tool for biodiversity education and engagement</b>	<a href="#">Register now!</a>
<b>AUGUST</b>		
<i>video series</i>	<b>Prioritizing biodiversity education in a changing world</b>	<a href="#">Register now!</a>
<b>THURSDAY AUGUST 12</b>		
10:00 – 2:00pm	<b>Reducing threats to Ontario's biodiversity</b>	<a href="#">Register now!</a>
<b>THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16</b>		
9:00am – 12:00pm	<b>Mainstreaming biodiversity within agriculture</b>	<a href="#">Register now!</a>
1:00pm – 4:00pm	<b>Mainstreaming biodiversity within forestry</b>	<a href="#">Register now!</a>
<b>THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 23</b>		
9:00am – 12:00pm	<b>Mainstreaming biodiversity within business</b>	<a href="#">Register now!</a>
<b>THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 30</b>		
10:00am–12:00pm	<b>Funding biodiversity and nature-based climate actions</b>	<a href="#">Register now!</a>
1:00pm – 3:00pm	<b>Investing in natural infrastructure for biodiversity and climate resilient communities</b>	<a href="#">Register now!</a>