

## Appendix B SNO Forum 2012 – Speaker Biographies

**Donna Havinga**, MES, brings combined expertise in ecological restoration/landscaping, facilitation/mediation, education and management to her position as Supervisor of Credit Valley Conservation's (CVC) new Urban Outreach programs. Prior to her work at CVC, she was a well known leader, practitioner, facilitator and educator in private practice. She is co-author of the widely acclaimed *Restoring Nature's Place* and, with the CVC team, is currently developing programs and resources tailored to CVC's watershed. Among other programs, Donna created the Greening Corporate/Institutional *Grounds* Program with input from partners, and is now supporting expansion of the program. Donna is also working with the landscape industry, residential and public landowners and promoting green economy and freshwater strategies for climate change.

**Philip Holst** is active in Trees Ontario's Green Leader Program, which aims to plant 50 million trees in southern Ontario by 2025. Philip has been a member of Stewardship Oxford for six years and is currently its Vice Chair. He has volunteered with Ducks Unlimited Canada and participated in wetland conservation projects and tree planting projects in Oxford, Waterloo and Grey Counties. Philip and his family live on a farm north of Woodstock and they are currently naturalizing a second farm in Grey County. He has habitat and tree planting projects on his properties and he promotes reforestation projects to other landowners. Since 2010, he has personally planted over 11,000 trees on his properties. Philip respects the value and role of agriculture and believes that conservation can be achieved effectively in ways that benefit the landowner and the landscape.

**Jo-Anne Rzakki** has been involved in the research, development and implementation of conservation services and stewardship initiatives in Ontario for over 25 years. This has included working in the public and private sectors, academia, locally with Conservation Authorities and most recently with Conservation Ontario as Watershed Stewardship Coordinator. Her current professional interests include understanding and developing ways to translate science and economic information for strategic action by watershed communities, stakeholders and landowners. Her involvement in the SNO Leadership Committee over the past number of years has also fueled her continued interest in seeking innovative ways to collaborate with different organizations and individuals to effect that action on the ground.

**Mark Stabb** has enjoyed a 25-year run in conservation, including stints as a biologist and park planner with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and as a freelance writer and educator. He has helped deliver stewardship programs such as the Community Wildlife Involvement Program and the Ontario Wetland Habitat Fund, and has played roles with the Natural Spaces Leadership Alliance and the Ontario Biodiversity Council. For the past six years Mark has been Central Ontario Program Manager for the Nature Conservancy of Canada. In his role at NCC, he has significant Oak Ridges Moraine conservation projects underway in the Happy Valley Forest and in the Rice Lake Plains of Northumberland County. Mark now lives in Uxbridge with his wife Caroline Schultz and their two daughters.

**Martin Streit** has spent the last five years working for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources as the Stewardship Coordinator for Leeds-Grenville Stewardship Council. He works with a Council of 18 community volunteers to carry out approximately 25 projects each year including stream restoration, conservation land acquisition, tree planting and classroom education. Martin is a Registered Professional Forester with 25 years experience working in eastern Ontario and upstate New York. He has also worked with Domtar, South Nation Conservation and as a private consultant. He is the owner of a woodlot property in Dundas County.

**Lisa Turnbull** has been the Program Manager at the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation for the last five years. The Foundation distributed approximately \$14 million in grants from 2002 to 2009 in support of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. In 2010/2011, the Foundation began their Measuring Success on the Oak Ridges Moraine Project - a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of the Plan along with the work undertaken by the Foundation. Nine reports were completed under the Measuring Success banner including two reports that assess the ecological health of the Moraine. Lisa previously worked at Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and held various progressive positions within this organization. She holds a B.Sc. in Biology and an Integrated Resource Management Technician diploma.

**Sid Vander Veen** is the Drainage Coordinator for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, a position he has held for the past 21 years. He is responsible for the provincial administration of the *Drainage Act* which includes providing guidance and training to interested parties, administering a grant program and interacting with resource agencies. Sid was raised on a dairy farm in eastern Ontario. He is a professional engineer, graduating from the University of Ottawa in 1985. He began his career working with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in Kemptonville and later Timmins, Ontario.

**Julie Welker** graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in Physical Geography from the University of Western Ontario in 2001. After graduating, she began working at the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) as an Environmentally Significant Areas assistant where she was responsible for determining risk management and encroachment inspections consistent with the directions of established UTRCA policies and procedures. She later went on to become a Community Partnership Specialist. In this current role, Julie liaises between the UTRCA and watershed communities, particularly Middlesex County communities, by facilitating the identification of environmental needs, the implementation of restoration projects and the organization of community involvement in UTRCA projects. Julie particularly enjoys working on projects that involve removing small dams and weirs that no longer serve their original purpose.