

# News Release Communiqué



Ministry of Public  
Infrastructure Renewal

Ministère du Renouvellement  
de l'infrastructure publique

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## **PROVINCE EXPANDS ONTARIO'S PROTECTED GREEN SPACES**

*Part Of The McGuinty Government's Plan For A Cleaner, Greener Ontario*

TORONTO — The McGuinty government is giving families more opportunities to enjoy the outdoors by donating more than 200 acres of natural heritage land to communities and organizations across the province, David Caplan, Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal, announced today.

“We are helping create a cleaner, greener, healthier Ontario, now and for years to come,” said Caplan. “By increasing parkland and protected natural areas across the province we are demonstrating our commitment to the environment and to building better communities for Ontario families.”

The McGuinty government is transferring 10 parcels of land to communities and organizations stretching across southern Ontario to protect and expand parkland and promote healthy living and wellness for Ontario residents. The dedication of these lands expands on the government's creation of Ontario's Greenbelt, which protects 1.8 million acres of green space for families to enjoy for years to come.

“Conservation Authorities have long played an important role in the protection of Ontario's natural heritage, collectively owning some 300,000 acres of forests, wetlands, river valleys and publicly accessible recreation areas,” said Dick Hibma, Chair of Conservation Ontario. “This contribution by the province will add to this public trust and further protect important natural and cultural heritage values.”

“The safeguarding of green spaces near our urban centres is critical to our quality of life as Ontarians,” said Dr. Rick Smith, Executive Director, Environmental Defence. “The permanent protection of these 10 properties in the most densely populated part of our province is a great gift to this and future generations. We look forward to more such dedications.”

Today's announcement is just one of the ways the McGuinty government is preserving green space for Ontario families. Other initiatives include:

- Protecting 5,500 acres of ecologically significant land in Rouge Park and the new Bob Hunter Memorial Park
- Delivering 650 acres of ecologically significant lands in the Town of Oakville into the care of Conservation Halton
- Protecting 180 acres of provincially significant natural heritage lands to create Hamilton's newest conservation area – Eramosa Karst

- Expanding city parks in Hamilton and Oakville by close to 50 acres.
- Providing tools to encourage voluntary efforts to conserve and restore natural areas on private land through the Natural Spaces program.

All Ontarians have a role to play in making our province greener. The government has already taken action by protecting a Greenbelt that stretches across southern Ontario from development, introducing tough new laws that protect our drinking water, producing more renewable energy and doing more to conserve electricity. But we know more needs to be done. That's why our next step will be the announcement of a climate change plan – a step that will help all Ontarians do their part to make our province cleaner and greener while keeping the economy strong.

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**Contacts:**

Amy Tang  
Minister's Office  
416-325-4048  
*Disponible en français*

Lori Theoret  
Communications Branch  
416-325-181

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