

**THE
Rural
Development
Conference**

**April 10–12, 2006
Blue Mountain
Resorts Ltd.
Collingwood, ON**

**Presented by:
AAFC (Rural Secretariat)
OMAFRA (Rural
Development Division)
The Ontario Rural
Council**

THE ONTARIO RURAL COUNCIL

TORC Fall 2005 Update

TORC Welcomes New Executive Director

TORC is pleased to announce the addition of Joseph Dubonnet as Executive Director. Joseph accepts this position as a secondment from his most recent role as Lead Project Analyst with the Rural Investments Branch of Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). He will work with TORC for the next six months, until March 31, 2006.

"It is with great pleasure and anticipation that I join The Ontario Rural Council at what I think will be an exciting time in the life of TORC," notes Joseph.

"The next 6 months will be critical in the institutional

development of the organization. My role will be to provide leadership in creating an environment that will lead to a renewed vision by delivering on a sustainable governance model."

In order to accomplish this, the new Executive Director plans to be "attentive to the most impor-

tant voice: the members'!" Joseph will be spending the month of October meeting with TORC Members and listening to the advice, concerns and issues they bring to the table.

"I look forward to getting to know everyone on a face-to-face level!" jdubonnet@torc.on.ca

TORC....on the Move

The Ontario Rural Council has relocated its main office. Moving Day was Tuesday, October 11, 2005 as we packed up our boxes and headed across the street to our new location. Though our phone/fax numbers have remained the same, please

allow for possible communication delays during this readjustment period. Our new address is:

**TORC @
Ontario AgriCentre
100 Stone Road West, Ste. 109
Guelph, Ontario, N1G 5L3**

New Conference Partnership for TORC

It is with great anticipation and excitement that TORC enters into an innovative new partnership with our federal and provincial funders in presenting a new rural development conference on **April 10-12, 2006**. The two and a half day event is to be held at **Blue Mountain Resorts Ltd.** in Collingwood.

A planning committee has been struck with representation from TORC, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (Rural Development Division) and Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (Rural Secretariat). All partners are coming to the table in a quest to create something unique and relevant to the concerns and issues faced by rural Ontario.

"It really is all about creating synergies, most notably an opportunity to bring together



those at the community, grass-roots level with the policy- and decision-makers," notes TORC chair Al Lauzon.

"It opens both sides up to a broader audience, with greater

possibility to learn and initiate true progress."

The agenda has not yet been set, but an inaugural brainstorming session held in late August confirmed all partners are aiming for the same outcomes by conference end: concrete, useful, effective responses to the current state of rural in Ontario. Stay tuned for regular updates!

Environmental Green Paper Now Available

Thanks to the kind support of TORC Member Pioneer Hi-Bred Limited (Canada) and its member rep Art Stirling, a "Green Paper" has been produced from the TORC April 2005 Forum: "*Environmental Services: The Other Countryside Products.*"

To obtain a copy of the full report or the Executive Summary, please contact Michele Walter at: mwalter@torc.on.ca

New Rural Youth Working Group Named

One of the most progressive outcomes from the June 2005 TORC Youth Forum has been the call to establish a Rural Youth Working Group.

New TORC member Melanie Gorka has enthusiastically answered that call, agreeing to step up as Chair of this inaugural youth group for TORC.

A native of Northumberland County, Melanie is familiar with rural life and the great resources it has to offer.

She brings to her new post an already-impressive record of youth and community involvement to date.

In addition to being a fulltime student at the University of Toronto, where she is seeking a specialist degree in International Development and a major in Political



Science, Melanie served for two years as the Ontario rep for the National Rural Youth Network, and a six-month term as vice chair.

Currently, Melanie is a member of the federal Network and Dialoguing Committee of Rural Team Ontario.

As she takes on the role of Chair for the TORC Rural Youth Working Group, we applaud Melanie for her interest in TORC

and youth in rural communities.

Any members interested in offering up potential contacts/event details for Melanie, or interested in joining the working group, should forward contact information to: Michele Walter, TORC Communications, mwalter@torc.on.ca.

No set schedule has yet been established for the working group's inaugural meeting.

TORC Board of Directors 2005/2006

SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES	WORKING GROUP REPRESENTATIVES
Aaron McIntosh <i>Economic and Infrastructure</i>	Elbert van Donkersgoed <i>Environmental</i>
Tom Prout (Vice Chair) <i>Resource and Environment</i>	Jim Whaley <i>Rural Health</i>
Al Lauzon (Chair) <i>Community and Human Services</i>	Evelyn Chambers (Secretary) <i>Capacity Building</i>
Eleanor Renaud <i>Government</i>	BOARD NOMINEES
Jim Nubel (Treasurer) <i>Individual and Regional Members</i>	Melanie Gorka
EX-OFFICIO Pat Smith (Past Chair)	Frances Shamley

Rural/Urban Summit Update: Durham and Ottawa take their lead from TORC

TORC's Rural/Urban Summit Model is forming the basis for two dynamic events this fall in the province of Ontario.

The regions of Durham and York will jointly host a Rural/Urban Summit on **November 29, 2005** at the Mill Run Golf Course in Uxbridge.

Under the chosen theme of *Discovering Strengths in Our Differences*, keynote speaker and moderator Steve Paikin—co-host of TVO's Studio Two and former TORC conference presenter—will lead the afternoon of discussion, dialogue and debate.

The local Summit planning committee—upon which TORC sits in an advisory and support role—has targeted to attend an audience of

200 residents and stakeholders who share a concern for rural-urban issues. Some 90% of Durham's population resides on just 10% of the region's land mass.

In fact, it is the same population/land ratio currently faced by the newly-amalgamated City of Ottawa. Perhaps not surprisingly, then, the city has adopted the TORC Model to host *Ottawa's Rural*

Summit, two days of panel discussion and workshops.

TORC Board Member Jim Nubel has been asked to chair the Steering Committee for Day One of the Summit, which will take place **Tuesday, November 15, 2005** at the Nepean Sportsplex. For more info contact: mwalter@torc.on.ca

