



GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE
CITIES INITIATIVE
L'ALLIANCE DES VILLES
DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

2025 Ontario Water Leaders Summit

Thursday, November 13
Bronte Boathouse - 2340 Ontario St, Oakville, ON L6L 6P7

Hosted by



Program

Emcee

Mayor Mat Siscoe, City of St. Catharines &
Co-Chair, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

9:15 am	Registration Opens
9:30 am	Water Ceremony – led by Valarie King , Knowledge Keeper/Educator/Elder Member, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
10:30 am	Land Acknowledgement Water Leaders Summit Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mayor Mat Siscoe, City of St. Catharines• Coun. Sean O'Meara, Halton Region (Oakville)• Councillor Fawn Sault, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valarie King, Knowledge Keeper/Educator/Elder Member, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
11:10 am	<p>Session 1 – For the Good of the Great Lakes Region: Building Stronger First Nation-Municipal Relationships</p> <p><i>In collaboration with Biinaagami</i></p> <p>Moderated by: Former Grand Chief Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer, Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke and CEO and President, Sky-Deer Consulting</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige, Anishinabek Nation • Mayor Sandra Easton, Town of Lincoln • Warden Andrea Matrosovs, Grey County • Chief Duncan Michano, Biigtigong Nishnaabeg (Pic River First Nation)
11:55 am	Introduction to the Biinaagami giant floor map
12:00 pm	<p>Networking Lunch</p> <p><i>Guests are invited to explore the Biinaagami giant map during the lunch break</i></p>
12:30pm	<p>Session 2 – Building the Fresh Coast Economic Corridor: Opportunities and Challenges on the Horizon for Ontario’s Great Lakes Region</p> <p>Introduction by: Mayor Bill Steele, City of Port Colborne and Chair, Cities Initiative Ontario Regional Advisory Committee</p> <p>Moderated by: Mayor Lucas Cleveland, Town of Cobourg and Co-Chair of the Cities Initiative Mayors Commission on Economic Transformation</p> <p>Speaker: Vance Badawey, President and CEO, Council of the Great Lakes Region</p>
1:10 pm	<p>Special Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Karina Gould, MP, Burlington
1:15 pm	Partner Remarks – Geosyntec Consultants

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hannah Chessell, Hydrogeologist • Isabelle Hemmings, Senior Water Resources Engineer
1:25 pm	<p>Session 3 – Building Resilience Together: A Fireside Chat on the Lake Ontario Coastal Resilience Pilot Project</p> <p><i>Presented by Halton Region</i></p> <p>Introduction by: Bonnie Fox, Policy and Planning Director, Conservation Ontario</p> <p>Moderated by: Lisa Kohler, Executive Lead, Climate Change and Reconciliation, Halton Region</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leilani Lee-Yates, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority • Chandra Sharma, CEO, Conservation Halton • Scott Peck, Deputy CAO/Director Watershed Management Services, Hamilton Conservation Authority
2:10pm	<p>Networking Break</p> <p><i>Guests are invited to explore the Biinaagami giant map during the networking break</i></p>
2:30pm	<p>Partner Remarks – Nuclear Waste Management Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dakota Kochie, Director of Government and External Relations
2:40pm	<p>Session 4 - Water-Tech Solutions: Cutting Costs, Enhancing Resilience, Driving Growth</p> <p>Moderated by: Phil Murphy-Rhéaume, Chief Operations Officer / Canadian Managing Director, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Palmer, Executive Director, GREENLAND® Engineering & Technologies Group • Matys Tessier, Co-Founder and Director of Finance, Ozero Solutions • Mehrdad Varedi, Founder and CEO, Waterlix

3:10pm	Partner Remarks – Canadian Beverage Association <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Dekker, Vice-President, Sustainability, Scientific and Regulatory Affairs
3:15pm	Session 5 – Transforming and Building Resilient Waterfronts <i>Presented by Halton Region</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kristen Delong, Manager, Corporate Performance & Analytics, Halton Region • Charles Priddle, Senior Manager, Regulations and Coastal Management Programs, Conservation Halton • Marion Rabeau, Manager, Design & Construction, Parks, City of Burlington • Diana Michalakos, Project Leader – Capital Projects, Town of Oakville
3:45pm	Special Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sima Acan, MP, Oakville West
3:50pm	Partner Remarks – Green Infrastructure Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Harris, Manager, Business Development
3:55pm	Ontario Water Leaders Summit Closing Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Rob Burton, Town of Oakville • Councillor Sean O’Meara, Halton Region • Mayor Mat Siscoe, City of St. Catharines
4:15pm	Water Leaders Networking Reception <i>Presented by:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geosyntec Consultants <i>In collaboration with:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian Beverage Association • Green Infrastructure Partners

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GIP
Green Infrastructure Partners

 Canadian Beverage Association
Association canadienne des boissons

