

# HEDGELAYING IN ONTARIO'S GREENBELT

## A Multi-Criteria Assessment of Socio-Ecological Novelty and Novel Ecosystems

Funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), and hosted by the Waterloo Institute for Social Innovation & Resilience (WISIR), in Canada

The broad purpose of this initiative is to examine landscape planning and management practices, with reference to broader themes such as placemaking, rural economies, common grounds, collective stewardship, social innovation, and complexity. Over the first three years, a diverse group of stakeholders will work together to develop a partnership project, intended to draw out collaborative links and speak to sustainability and resilience mandates. In light of recent changes to global ecosystems, the project considers the challenge of reconciling competing land-use interests within densely settled regions.

Current growth pressures in Ontario's Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH) present ever more reason to explore this challenge. Housing Canada's largest metropolis, as well as protected areas such as the Ontario Greenbelt, the Oak Ridges Moraine, and the Niagara Escarpment, the GGH region is expected to satisfy a confluence of conservation, agricultural, recreational, and development interests. It also represents an unfolding of 'socio-ecological novelty', as the distinctions between urban and rural, natural and cultivated spaces are blurred.

To better understand how we might responsibly nurture socio-ecological novelty within settled regions, the team is looking to a traditional Anglo-Irish landscape management technique for inspiration. Hedgerows are naturalized but managed features, which are recognized for their provision of agro-ecological services, cherished as an emblem of rural identity, and serve as connectivity corridors across wild, pastoral, and developed lands.

Generally, in this initiative we celebrate landscape with all that it has to offer as habitat, heritage, source of livelihood, and connective ground.

Fall 2015

### People Inhabiting Landscape

What diverse interests are invested in landscape-based practices today, and how do these contribute to a collective 'sense of place'?

#### Develop a Multi-Criteria Assessment Framework

Fall 2016

### Socio-Ecological Complexity

To what extent do local landscapes (conservation, agricultural, developed, or otherwise) engender multiple social-ecological benefits?

#### Identify Socio-Ecological Novelty

Fall 2017

### Regional Ecosystems Resilience

How might landscape-based programs organize around regional resilience strategies, emphasizing connectivity and shared stewardship?

#### Plan a Landscape-Oriented Partnership

This project has been reviewed by and received ethics clearance through a University of Waterloo Research Ethics Committee. It is operating under the leadership of Dr Stephen Quilley, (519) 888-4567 x.38335, [squilley@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:squilley@uwaterloo.ca); Dr Daniel McCarthy, (519) 888-4567 x.33065, [dan.mccarthy@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:dan.mccarthy@uwaterloo.ca); and, Dr Stephen Murphy, (519) 888-4567 x.35616, [stephen.murphy@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:stephen.murphy@uwaterloo.ca). [uwaterloo.ca/waterloo-institute-for-social-innovation-and-resilience/](http://uwaterloo.ca/waterloo-institute-for-social-innovation-and-resilience/)



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# FALL 2016 PROGRAM

## Socio-Ecological Complexity

For questions, or to confirm  
your participation, contact:  
pruttonsha@uwaterloo.ca



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In last fall's research program, we met to discuss the diverse interests and values that shape landscapes in Southern Ontario and the United Kingdom. Building on the outcomes of this conversation, this year we will examine opportunities to diversify landscape-based practices, with reference to 'novel ecosystems' concepts.

This diversification could include anything from a renewal of countryside management approaches, to a rewilding of settled regions, to the development of green infrastructure. Through this year's three-part event series, we will collectively catalogue existing land-based practices, programs, and policies that help provide for multiple social, ecological, and economic benefits. We will also identify opportunities for further innovation. Ultimately, this will frame ideas for creating connectivity and mitigating against land fragmentation within the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH).

To continue the process of cultural exchange, we will be joined by a few international guest presenters.

**2:30-4:00pm EDT**

**WEB SEMINAR**

**Wednesday, September 28th**

**Balsillie School of International Affairs, Rm 1-42, 67 Erb St West, Waterloo**

### **Novel Urban Ecological Practices**

We know from novel ecosystems discourse that human activities have long had influence on the character of ecosystems, from meadows to rainforests. But how do we engage in co-creative ecological practices within urban spaces? Join us to discuss techniques for the cultivation of 'novel urban landscapes' as an approach to sustainability.

**9:00am-5:00pm**

**FIELD DEMONSTRATIONS**

**Thursday, September 29th**

**Mount Wolfe Forest Farm; 10054 Old Church Road, Caledon, Ontario**

### **Hedgelaying in Ontario**

Hedgerows are ubiquitous in European landscapes. They are commonly used as agricultural field boundaries; to reduce soil erosion and water runoff; as wildlife passageways; and, as buffers along walking paths, roads, or industrial corridors. Join European experts for a day in the field, to try your hand at the traditional craft of hedgelaying, and envision possible applications for Southern Ontario sites.

**10:00am-3:30pm**

**COLLABORATIVE WORKSHOP**

**Friday, September 30th**

**Albion Hills Chalet, 16500 Highway 50, Caledon, Ontario**

### **Diversifying Land Uses**

The basic premise behind the socio-ecological novelty concept, presented in this research, is that we can manage landscapes to produce diverse benefits. In this workshop, we will consider which existing land-based practices, programs, and policies support this approach, and where there is opportunity to expand this repertoire.

## **Who should participate?**

Anyone with a stake or interest in the planning and management of private or public lands is invited to attend, including landowners; farmers & CSAs; conservation authorities; property managers; planners & developers; municipal & regional representatives; policymakers; and, special interest groups.

# NOVEL URBAN ECOLOGICAL PRACTICES

## Web Seminar

Wednesday, September 28th

Balsillie School of International Affairs, Rm 1-42  
67 Erb Street West, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 6C2

Please RSVP by September 26th,  
to: pruttonsha@uwaterloo.ca



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**Join us live in Waterloo, or online.**

Light refreshments will be served.

**2:30PM-4:00PM EDT**

**Stephen Murphy, Professor, University of Waterloo**  
**Stephen Quilley, Associate Professor, University of Waterloo**  
**Perin Ruttonsha, PhD Candidate, University of Waterloo**  
**Jim Jones, Surrey Wildlife Trust, United Kingdom**  
**Jef Gielen, Landscape Management Consultant, The Netherlands**  
**Nigel Adams, Countryside Management Consultant, United Kingdom**

We know from novel ecosystems discourse that human activities have long had influence on the character of ecosystems, from meadows to rainforests. In many, if not most parts of the world, 'wild nature' is now giving way to landscapes that are increasingly molded by people. What novel ecosystems thinking also reveals is that even dense urban landscapes can become home to unique and resilient ecological communities. Join leading restoration ecologist, Professor Stephen Murphy, along with European landscape management experts, to examine how we might cultivate 'novel urban landscapes' as part of regional sustainability programs.

In this web seminar, we will consider how, as landscape designers, estates managers, sustainability planners, and urban ecologists, we might apply traditional landscape management techniques to develop urban regions that are diverse, livable, walkable, attractive, green, and resilient. Discuss implications for the design of naturalized spaces, public spaces, school grounds, bike paths, roadways, and green infrastructure; the remediation of brownfield sites; the enhancement of local downtown core(s); and, the nurturing of a culture of environmental stewardship.

**Tune in online at:**

**<http://livestream.com/itmsstudio/events/6310747>**

# HEDGELAYING IN ONTARIO

## Field Demonstrations

Thursday, September 29th

Mount Wolfe Forest Farm  
10054 Old Church Road  
Caledon, Ontario, L7E 0P4  
[mountwolfefarm.ca](http://mountwolfefarm.ca)

Space is limited. Please RSVP by September 21st,  
to: [pruttonsha@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:pruttonsha@uwaterloo.ca)



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**Begins 9:00am sharp** @ Mount Wolfe Forest Farm. Please come prepared for a day outdoors.

**9:00AM-9:45AM**

In the equipment shed with light refreshments

## An Introduction to Hedgelaying

Nigel Adams, Countryside Management Consultant, United Kingdom

Jef Gielen, Landscape Management Consultant, The Netherlands

Jim Jones, Living Landscapes Project Manager, Surrey Wildlife Trust, United Kingdom

Ever wonder what the traditional countryside management technique of hedgelaying is all about? Here, we will kick off the day with a brief overview of the history and management of hedgerows.

**9:45AM-12:45PM**

## Hands-On Workshop

They say that hedgelaying is an intuitive skill. Work with European experts in the field to try it out for yourself. In this hands-on part of the day, we will also discuss how to establish a hedgerow from the ground up.

**LUNCH @ 12:45PM**

**1:30PM-5:00PM**

## Site Visits

Albion Hills Community Farm, 16555 Humber Station Road, Caledon; 1:30-3:00pm

Millcroft Inn & Spa, 55 John Street, Village of Alton; 3:30-4:30pm

*\*transportation between sites will be provided*

During these afternoon site visits, we will envision a range of prospective opportunities for hedgelaying, land-use diversification, and/or landscape connectivity programs. For example, this could include the protection of natural heritage assets; the creation of buffer zones between ecological, agricultural, and development areas; the cultivation of ecosystem services within agricultural lands; trail enhancement; and/or, the installation of green infrastructure.

**CLOSING REMARKS @ 4:30PM**

Images by Nicola Ross





# DIVERSIFYING LAND USES

## Collaborative Workshop

Friday, September 30th

Albion Hills Chalet  
16500 Highway 50  
Caledon, Ontario

For directions, visit: [trca.on.ca/enjoy/locations/albion-hills-conservation-area-visitor-info.dot#direction](http://trca.on.ca/enjoy/locations/albion-hills-conservation-area-visitor-info.dot#direction)

Space is limited. Please RSVP by September 21st,  
to: [pruttonsha@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:pruttonsha@uwaterloo.ca)



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## Registration, 10:00am

Coffee, tea, and light refreshments will be served.

**10:30AM-11:15AM**

### Socio-Ecological Complexity

Stephen Quilley, Associate Professor, University of Waterloo  
Perin Ruttonsha, PhD Candidate, University of Waterloo

The basic premise behind the socio-ecological novelty concept is that we can manage landscapes to produce diverse benefits. Here, the research team will present a draft conceptual framework, which was developed as an outcome of last year's collaborative research program.

**11:15AM-1:00PM**

### Diversifying Land Uses

Gord MacPherson, Associate Director, Restoration Projects, TRCA  
Jim Jones, Living Landscapes Project Manager, Surrey Wildlife Trust, United Kingdom  
Lisa Brusse, Manager, Landowner Outreach, Credit Valley Conservation (CVC)  
Nigel Adams, Countryside Management Consultant, United Kingdom  
Haiqing Xu, Manager, Policy & Sustainability, Town of Caledon

In this panel and group discussion, we will consider which existing land-based practices, programs, and policies represent a social-ecological novelty approach, and where there is opportunity to expand this repertoire. For example, do we currently have sufficient cultural and institutional tools and capacity to manage for multiple functions and benefits within landscapes?

**BREAKOUT & LUNCH @ 12:20PM**

**1:20PM-3:30PM**

### From Diversity to Connectivity

Lisa Brusse, Manager, Landowner Outreach, Credit Valley Conservation (CVC)  
Jim Jones, Living Landscapes Project Manager, Surrey Wildlife Trust, United Kingdom  
Jef Gielen, Landscape Management Consultant, The Netherlands  
Haiqing Xu, Manager, Policy & Sustainability, Town of Caledon

After having the morning to catalogue a range of techniques for land-use diversification, in this afternoon session, we will discuss how these might influence our approach to wilderness protection, countryside management, or urban ecology initiatives. Further to this, we will consider how these various techniques could be integrated into existing landscape management strategies, and with a view to enhancing connectivity within densely settled regions.

**GROUP DISCUSSION @ 2:15PM**

**CLOSING REMARKS @ 3:00PM**