

# Road Ecology

## A National Agenda for Canada

### Speaker Bios

#### Moderators



#### Dave Ireland

Dave is the Managing director of the Centre for Biodiversity at the Royal Ontario Museum. He is responsible for developing programs, projects and partnerships that help people understand and conserve biodiversity. His role is help internal teams work with each other toward unified and focused goals, and to represent the Centre of Discovery in Biodiversity with all external partners. He is also the Chair of the Ontario Road Ecology Group (OREG), and has been instrumental in building the program since its inception in 2009.



#### Brad Steinberg

Brad Steinberg has worked in Ontario Parks for over 15 years, and is currently the senior conservation ecologist for parks and protected areas with the MNR. He has designed ecopassages, worked on several road ecology projects, and is developing protected area policy that will guide road management and use within Ontario Parks and conservation reserves.



#### Jackie Scott

Jackie Scott is the Terrestrial and Wildlife Resources Analyst with the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority, and has been with this organization since 2005. She has been actively involved in road ecology since 2006 with her work on the Victoria Road Widening Project and most recently in developing a Wildlife Corridor Action Plan for CLOCA.

#### Keynote Speaker



#### Harvey Locke

Harvey Locke is a recognized global leader in the field of parks, wilderness and large landscape conservation. He is a founder and strategic advisor to the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative and to conservation organizations around the world. He is a member of the IUCN World Commission on Protected. In 2013 he received the J. B. Harkin Medal and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

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## Panel I - Perspectives on Road Ecology



**Jochen Jaeger**

Jochen A.G. Jaeger received his PhD in Environmental Sciences from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich, Switzerland in 2000. He worked as a postdoctoral fellow with Lenore Fahrig at Carleton University in Ottawa 2001-2003 and again in Zurich at the ETH 2003-2007. He joined the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment at Concordia University in Montreal as a professor in 2007. He is working in the fields of landscape ecology, road ecology, urban sprawl, ecological modeling, environmental indicators, environmental impact assessment, and trans-disciplinary research concepts.



**Jeremy Guth**

Jeremy Guth is a Trustee with the Woodcock Foundation in New York and a Founding Sponsor of the 2011 ARC International Wildlife Crossing Infrastructure Design Competition and is a sponsor and member of the steering committee for its current iteration, ARC Solutions. Since 1999, Jeremy has been actively funding initiatives to reconnect large landscapes: in west - with Yellowstone to Yukon, in the east - with the Open Space Institute's Transborder Fund.



**Trevor Kinley**

After 23 years as a consulting wildlife biologist in southeastern British Columbia, Trevor began working for Parks Canada in 2010. His main responsibilities have been the planning, construction and monitoring of wildlife crossing projects in Kootenay National Park.



**Shawn Taylor**

Mr. Taylor is an aquatic biologist by training and a member of the Ontario Road Ecology Group. Shawn is a Registered Professional Biologist who has developed specialist design skills in the area of road-way mitigation, ecosystem restoration, natural channels, constructed wetlands, sediment and erosion control and soil bioengineering. With 24 years of hands-on experience with Dillon Consulting, Shawn has conducted, coordinated and supervised numerous aquatic & terrestrial resource assessments, and integrated the results into multi-disciplinary environmental assessments for a variety of linear infrastructure needs.

## Panel II - On-the-Ground Research & Design



**Jeff Bowman**

Jeff is a Research Scientist with the Wildlife Research and Monitoring Section of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and an Adjunct Professor in the Environmental and Life sciences Graduate Program at Trent University. Jeff has been with MNRF since 2001 and has been involved in research projects on many different species.



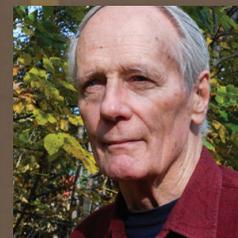
**Kari Gunson**

Eco-Kare's principal, Kari has worked for the past sixteen years as a contract road ecologist on road mitigation projects throughout North America, including Banff National Park, Montana, New York, Vermont, and Ontario. She is currently synthesizing her expertise into several best management practice documents at a municipal, regional and provincial level.



**Namrata Shrestha**

Namrata is a Senior Landscape Ecologist at the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and an Adjunct Professor in the School of Environment at the University of Toronto. She has been active in fostering research collaborations and applied research so as to provide science based guidance to policy, planning, and practice of ecosystem management within TRCA.



**Cameron Smith**

Cameron Smith is the Secretary of the Adirondacks Collaborative, an environmental organization dedicated to improving biodiversity and habitat connectivity in and around the Frontenac Arch, an area that is the critical link for maintaining landscape connectivity in Northeastern North America.



**Mandy Karch**

Mandy has been the coordinator of the Ontario Road Ecology Group since its formation in 2009. Her interest in Road ecology stems from a love for turtles and turtle conservation, and initially got involved in OREG through her work at the Toronto Zoo. She is proud to work with OREG's members and partners to help resolve road ecology issues across the province.



## Panel III - Public Engagement in the 21st Century



**Elena Kreuzberg**

Before moving to Canada in 2006, Elena participated in the conservation and management of Central Asian biodiversity in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, first as a student and later as a senior researcher at the Institute of Zoology in Tashkent. In 2008, Elena began her work in Canada at Nature Canada as a conservation manager, and also obtained her Master of Science degree in landscape ecology. She currently works as a conservation biologist for the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society's Ottawa chapter.



**John McDonnell**

John was born in rural west Quebec and he continues to reside in the municipality of Mayo north of Gatineau where his family originally settled almost 200 years ago. His interests include conservation, community development and connecting people with nature. Prior to his joining CPAWS Ottawa Valley as Executive Director, John was director of the Forêt La Blanche Ecological Reserve in western Quebec.



**Kim Barrett**

Kim Barrett is a graduate of the University of Guelph, where she completed her MSc on wood turtles in Algonquin Provincial Park. For the past 10 years, she has been the Senior Terrestrial Ecologist with Conservation Halton. Kim is a member of the Jefferson Salamander Recovery Team.



**Tracy Lee**

Tracy is a senior project manager at the Miistakis Institute, a research institute affiliated with Mount Royal University. Tracy acquired her M.Sc. from the University of Calgary, Resources and the Environment Program. Tracy's graduate work, in association with the Miistakis Institute, focused on the development and assessment of a citizen science project to monitor wildlife movement across a major highway.

## Panel IV - Towards a Canadian Road Ecology Group



**Harvey Locke**

Harvey Locke is a recognized global leader in the field of parks, wilderness and large landscape conservation. He is a founder and strategic advisor to the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative and to conservation organizations around the world. He is a member of the IUCN World Commission on Protected. In 2013 he received the J. B. Harkin Medal and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.



**Kent Prior**

Kent works for Parks Canada where he leads the Ecological Restoration Division in Gatineau, Quebec. Coincidentally, roads played an important role in Kent's PhD research on the conservation genetics of snakes - during which a distressing wealth of DNA samples were provisioned by the intersection of rubber tires, asphalt, and serpents. Otherwise, Kent lives on a dirt road and rides a bike to work.



**Yves Bédard**

Working as a road ecology specialist for thirty-three years, Yves Bedard has been involved in many impact studies on major road projects in Quebec. He has been the lead scientist on numerous research projects that relate to road ecology, including the control of invasive species like Phragmites and ragweed, the restoration of borrow pits, vegetation management along highways, the construction of restoration wetlands, the impact of major roadworks on brook trout, and the fragmentation of habitat by roads.



**Christie Spence**

Christie Spence is the Senior Manager for Natural Resources and Land Management for Gatineau Park in Quebec. She has been with the National Capital Commission for the last three years, working towards the conservation of Gatineau Park as well as overseeing the corporate research program for natural resources on federal lands in the broader Capital Region. Christie is particularly focused on determining and mitigating the effects of habitat fragmentation in Gatineau Park.

