



**Natural Channel Systems Conference 2023**  
**Balance – Balancing Driving and Resisting Forces to Achieve**  
**Project Goals**  
**June 25-28, 2023**  
**University of Guelph**

<https://naturalchannels.ca/>

**We are only 107 days away from our in-person 7<sup>th</sup> Natural Channels Conference**

Natural Channels is Canada's premier conference on natural channel systems. We bring together all those who assess, study, plan, manage and regulate river corridors; this includes consultants, academics, constructors, NGOs and all levels of government agencies. We come together to share and learn from each other so that we improve how we restore and enhance river corridors with respect to functions and habitat.

**Abstracts Submission Reminder**

Please complete your abstract submission by **March 31, 2023**. Refer to the [conference website](#) for further details. **We are unable to offer any extensions to this deadline.**

**Conference REGISTRATION to open at the end of March**

[Registration](#) for the conference will open at the end of March along with registration for training opportunities. There are limited spaces for training. For information on registration costs, please refer to the [conference website](#).

## **Meet one of our Conference Key Note Speakers: Cynthia Graham, Landscape Architect, Public Works, Environmental Services, City of Hamilton**



### ***What does Balance mean to you in your work (balance is our conference theme)?***

*Balance is about understanding all of the options, impacts, opinions and considerations – considering them, and working towards an end result that meets as many as possible. Critical to this is ensuring all of the voices are heard- the people are at the table. A key role of the landscape architect on a project team is to hear from the scientists (technical experts) the other designers (architects, engineers) and the people (residents, users, special interest groups) and somehow mash that all together into a design that tries to meet the needs of everyone. Balance means to do the best job of designing to all of those different and sometimes conflicting inputs. Balance is always about putting ego or predetermined ideas aside, and actively listening. At the end of the day, it's amazing if we can meet everyone's goals and needs, but if we can't at least we will have done our best to mitigate the worst and amplified the benefits.*

### ***What's something you wish you knew/understood better when you started your career?***

*Something that I was never taught in school but has been a major influencing factor in my career that I wish I knew about before I started, was how much politics plays into what gets built, what gets funding, how projects proceed. In school, we are all encouraged to design in Utopia, where the best design is one that fixes the problem at hand. But what is left out is why that is the problem to solve – why is that project being funded? I have learned so much about this process in my time as a municipal landscape architect, and there are so many factors – what grants are available and what are the criteria for eligible projects? What pots of money can the city collect, and how is it able to be spent? What are the priorities of the council term, and what projects are prioritized because of those? If you want to know more about why certain projects are happening across the province, you should start with where is the money coming from.... Often you will find political support for that project, one way or another. I co-wrote an article about this in a recent issue of Ground Magazine, outlining the role of the municipal landscape architect in understanding funding sources, policies, and planning. Found here: <https://www.oala.ca/ground-58-the-impact-of-a-municipal-landscape-architect>*

Speaker bios for all our key note speakers can be found on the [conference website](#).

## Upcoming Training

Please refer to the [conference website](#) for details on the potential training opportunities associated with the Natural Channels Conference. Training registration opens with conference registration at the end of March.

## Key Natural Channels Conference 2023 Dates to Note

Registration Opens: End of March 2023

Abstract Submission Deadline: March 31, 2023 (**no extension**)

Notification of Acceptance of Abstracts: End of April 2023

Conference & Training Registration opens: Spring 2023

Early Bird Registration Closes: June 1, 2023

Conference Days: June 25 to June 28, 2023

## Natural Channels Quiz#1

Take our Natural Channels Quiz! Over the next few newsletters, we will be featuring a few quiz questions. Try your hand at answering these questions for your chance to win exciting prizes in a draw during the conference. Take the quiz and submit your answers here:

<https://forms.gle/CyPaNCNWBjnvUjH7>

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## What to watch for in the next few Natural Channel Conference newsletters

Information on Upcoming Training during the Conference

Highlights on the Keynote Speakers

Natural Channels Quiz#2

## Natural Channels is now on Twitter!

You can now find us on twitter [@NaturalChannels](#)

Follow us and spread the word!

NCC 2023 Organizing Committee