

Launch of second Greenbelt Photo Contest with McMichael

The Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation, the McMichael Canadian Art Collection and the Professional Photographers of Canada (PPOC) are teaming up again to launch a second photo contest to celebrate the proposed addition of 21 urban river valleys and seven coastal wetlands to Ontario's permanently protected Greenbelt.

From the rivers that clean and protect the water, to the wetlands that are home to so many wild animals, to the lakes that invite people to relax and play, the water resources in Ontario's Greenbelt are vital to the future. This year, the Greenbelt Photo Contest invites photographers to share their favourite water moments, whether it's the scenic beauty of a waterfall in the Escarpment or a peaceful moment paddling on a still lake, or any of the many iterations and forms water takes in the Greenbelt.

Amateur and professional photographers are invited to get snapping and submit their photos and view entries from other individuals electronically through an online web portal at www.greenbelt.ca/photo_contest

Entries are already being accepted, with the deadline to submit entries Jan. 10, 2017. Winners will be announced in February. The winning photographs will be showcased at the esteemed McMichael Canadian Art Collection in Kleinburg before touring the Greenbelt as a travelling exhibit. Photo entries will be judged by a jury of professional photographers and creative employees from the three organizations sponsoring the contest.

Entries must be the property of the photographer on whose behalf the photo(s) are submitted and celebrate the watersheds and waterways that bring the Greenbelt to life. Photos can include recreational water activities, natural beauty or wildlife, and must adhere to contest rules and conditions.

"This photo contest has produced breathtaking results, and showcased the work of aspiring and accomplished photographers to new audiences," said Jean Chartrand, chair of the Ontario Region of the Professional Photographers of Canada. "Photography is an accessible way to showcase the beauty of the Greenbelt."

"Being in the heart of the Greenbelt, the McMichael is committed to celebrating the connection between art and the natural world," said Rachel D'Oliveira, manager of art and special programs at McMichael. "This partnership with the Friends of the Greenbelt invites photographers to think about the importance of our water resources and share the beauty that can be found in the Greenbelt."

"Protecting our water resources is vital to the health and well being of the region," said Burkhard Mausburg, CEO of Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation. "This contest celebrates the steps the Province has taken to protect our water, and the photos will capture what is at stake when we talk about this vital resource."