

## 2008 Annual Policy Conference to Determine GPO Policy Priorities >

By Mike Schreiner, *GPO Policy Coordinator*

Here is your chance to help determine the policy direction of the Green Party of Ontario leading up to the 2011 election. The 2008 GPO Annual Policy Conference is on November 28 - 30, 2008 in Mansfield, Ontario (about 100 km north of Toronto).

A new collaborative policy process is in place this year designed to engage and empower party members in determining our next platform. Unlike previous years members will work together to develop and debate the GPO policy priorities for the 2011 platform.

The Green Party of Ontario is a recognized political force in Ontario. For the first time ever, leaders in green movements and the business community from key Green constituencies will give presentations and be available to interact with party members at the conference. **Keith Stewart of World Wild Life Fund (WWF) Canada** and, **Judith Andrews of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business**, are just two of the key speakers signed onto the 2008 Annual Policy Conference.

Our keynote dinner speaker on Saturday will be best-selling author and Canadian Environmental Award winner **Wayne Roberts** who will be available to sign copies of his newest book, ***The Nonsense Guide to World Food***. Interactive plenary sessions will be hosted by leading policy makers on the issues of: Sustainable Food and Farming, Small and Green Business, Policy Making at Queen's Park and Green Energy.

In addition to plenary sessions the conference will feature a number of member-driven policy workshops. The purpose of the workshops is to create space to empower party members to discuss, debate and ultimately determine the policy priorities for the GPO leading up to the next election. These workshops are the ground floor to the 2011 GPO platform.

The 2008 APC is hosted by the Simcoe Grey riding association, for \$250 (\$225 early registration before November 10), you can participate in this new and innovative GPO policy conference introducing a new and inclusive grassroots policy decision making mechanism, current issue plenary session and interactive workshops designed to directly lead policy for the next 3 years. Registration includes: meals, materials and two-nights accommodation at the beautiful [Mansfield Outdoor Centre](#).

**Register online at [www.gpo.ca](http://www.gpo.ca).**

I look forward to spending an enjoyable and inspiring weekend with you at the 2008 GPO Annual Policy Conference.

## Annual Policy Conference Logistics >

## **How You Can Participate**

The Annual Policy Conference is the first step in developing GPO policy priorities in a more inclusive and comprehensive process. This is a three-year, three-step process towards the 2011 platform. Members who participate this year are in on the ground floor to set the policy priorities.

In Year One (this year) members will work together to develop policy priorities in workshop settings. Members who have an interest in a broad policy area (e.g., child care, green jobs, energy, etc.) can develop and debate what the priorities in that issue area should be going forward.

In Year Two (next year) resolutions on these priorities will be brought forward for debate and further development. In Year Three (2010) all of the policies will come together on a large scale to prioritize the platform.

Those members who engage themselves now will set the direction for the GPO platform in 2011. If you have an issue that you urgently want the GPO to have clear and convincing policy on in the 2011 platform now is the time to engage.

Materials will be provided prior to the APC in order for members to be more prepared and informed to participate fully in the proceeding.

Please contact Hayley Easto ([hayley.easto@gmail.com](mailto:hayley.easto@gmail.com)) if you would like to volunteer as a policy recorder/researcher, or Bill Hewitt ([bhewitt@gpo.ca](mailto:bhewitt@gpo.ca)) if you would like to help out at the venue.

## **When and Where**

Friday November 28th, 2008 to Sunday November 30th, 2008

[Mansfield Outdoor Centre](#)

PO Box 95

Mansfield, Ontario L0N 1M0

## **Programming**

### **Friday Entertainment**

- **David Chernushenko**, “Be The Change” - GPO Green Screening

### **Saturday**

- **Keith Stewart**, Ontario Climate Change advocate, WWF Canada - Policy 101 - From good idea to deliverable provincial policy
- **John Fleming**, Retired Senior Public Servant & Guest Speaker - Policy 101
- **Bryan Gilvesy** ALUS and YU Ranch, - Policies for local sustainable food and farming.
- **John Clement**, Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario - Policies for local

sustainable food and farming.

- **Chris Lowry**, Green Enterprise Toronto - Sustainable Communities, Small Business and the New Green Economy.
- **Judith Andrew**, Canadian Federation of Independent Business - Sustainable Communities, Small Business and the New Green Economy.
- **Mary-Margaret Jones**, Introduction to the Canadian media environment and media training principles.
- **Judy Smith-Torrie**, Deputy Leader – Green Party of Ontario – Saturday Lunch

### **Saturday Dinner**

- **Wayne Roberts**, Keynote speaker - Strategic Directions for a Green Future
- **Frank de Jong**, Leader – Green Party of Ontario

### **Saturday Entertainment**

- **Chuck Baker**, Local musician - Live entertainment with local musician

### **Sunday**

- **Jack Gibbons**, Ontario Clean Air Alliance - Moving Ontario toward Clean Green Energy.
- **Shane Jolley**, Deputy Leader – Green Party of Ontario – Sunday Lunch

## **Policy Workshops >**

Thank you to our members who submitted valuable feedback and insight in helping us to determine this year's policy workshops. The workshops will be member led and are designed to provide members with the time and space to determine the policy priorities for the GPO.

- Child care
- Energy and infrastructure
- Electoral finance reform
- Northern development and mines
- Drinking water
- Arts
- Education [primary, secondary and post-secondary (tuition)]
- Green job strategy and support for small business
- Regional land use planning
- Energy supply
- Preventative health care
- Poverty alleviation/guaranteed liveable income
- Location value taxation
- Solid waste management strategy
- Regional transportation

- Aboriginal affairs
- Restructuring committee update
- Other – tbd

This list is in no way considered a final list of policy priority areas for 2011. Future policy conferences will address additional policy areas.

## Registration >

Register on line at [www.gpo.ca](http://www.gpo.ca)

Constituency Associations are strongly encouraged to assist individual members with fundraising efforts to cover expenses related to participation in the APC. Remember that the first \$336 in donations results in a 75% tax receipt for the donor.

## Fees >

### Full accommodation and meals

Weekend registration all inclusive	\$250	
Early bird discount before Nov. 10	\$225	
Youth rate all inclusive (16 to 24)	\$150	
Dependent children includes child care <u>that day, no accommodation</u>	\$95	<u>One-day only with meals for</u>
Friday evening only	\$40	
Saturday all day and evening	\$60	
Saturday evening only	\$35	
Sunday only	\$50	