



## **Keynote Speaker, Moderator and Panelists:**

We are delighted that our keynote speaker and moderator is **Steve Paikin**, co-host of *Studio 2*, TVOntario's highly acclaimed current affairs program now in its ninth season. He also hosts *Diplomatic Immunity*, a weekly foreign affairs program in its fifth season. A graduate of the University of Toronto and Boston University, Paikin began his career as a city hall reporter for CHFI and CFTR in Toronto. He spent seven years at CBC-TV working as a news reporter, Queen's Park correspondent and eventually anchor of the six o'clock news.

Our panel consists of key leaders and stakeholders from both rural and urban sectors, bringing local and global perspectives. Our panel includes:

- **Janet Ecker**, a well-known name across the landscape of provincial politics, Janet has built a formidable portfolio in the arenas of public policy, public affairs and government relations. A former MPP for Pickering-Ajax-Uxbridge, Ms. Ecker spent seven years as a senior cabinet minister in the governments of Mike Harris and Ernie Eves, serving as minister of finance (2002-03), minister of education (1999-02), Minister of community and social services (1996-99) and as government house leader (2001-02). Currently, Ms. Ecker is an advisor to the firm LeDrew Laishley Reed (LLP), serves as a weekly panelist on TVO's public affairs show, *Fourth Reading*, and sits on numerous boards, and is vice chair of Rouge Valley Health.
- **Dr. Wayne Caldwell**, PhD, MCIP, RPP, holds a joint appointment with the University of Guelph as associate professor at the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development, and with the County of Huron (Goderich) as a senior planner in the department of planning and development. An esteemed speaker and recipient of numerous awards of excellence and commitment, Dr. Caldwell is a champion of healthy, vibrant rural communities and an active participant in the related issues of agriculture, environment, land preservation, regulation and governance.
- **Howie Herrema**, a lifetime resident of Uxbridge and graduate of the Ridgetown College of Agriculture Technology and a member of the Durham Federation of Agriculture, which he was president of from 1996 to 1998. He has served on Uxbridge Township council since 2000, serving as chair of the Planning Committee and Works Committee and is also serving on the Greenbelt Council of the Ontario Government. Mr. Herrema has been a full-time farmer his whole life.
- **Kamiel S. Gabriel**, P. Eng., Ph.D., M.B.A., Associate Provost, (Research and Graduate Programs) University of Ontario Institute of Technology. Since 1982, Professor Gabriel's research has concentrated on developing new applications in the area of thermal transport systems. His research efforts in the area of energy conservation and heat recovery systems has led to an innovative heat exchange design for which he holds a U.S. patent. Dr. Gabriel has published extensively in the area of energy transport systems for earth and space applications, and has been a guest speaker at numerous national and international conferences and workshops. Listed in the "*International Who is Who*" book series under "*Most Outstanding Scientists*" category in the U.K.

