



Possibility grows here.

Greenbelt Foundation

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Allan Elgar

2020 Friend of the Greenbelt Recipient for Municipal Leadership



Allan Elgar was raised on a farm on the Oak Ridges Moraine near Peterborough, which is now also part the Greenbelt. After graduating with a business degree from McMaster University, he enjoyed a 30-year career as a financial/administration manager with Bell Canada, which provided opportunities for him to live and work in various locations in Canada and abroad.

As a resident of Oakville, Elgar became concerned about the community's plan to hugely expand its urban boundaries. Convinced of the need for a greener vision for Oakville's future, and more careful research to support decisions and actions. In early 2000 he became the Founding President of Oakvillegreen Conservation Assn. Inc. This grassroots organization was formed in response to residents' concerns about the sprawling development that was swallowing up forest and natural habitats around Oakville, jamming the roads, and polluting the air. Allan attended many meetings of Oakville Council and its committees and he concluded that the only way to influence the decisions being made was to become one of the decision-makers. So, he decided to run for an Oakville and Regional Council seat and has represented Oakville and Halton ever since. In addition, he served on the Niagara Escarpment Commission (2003-2016), Credit Valley Conservation Authority (2000-2007) and Halton Region Conservation Authority (2001-present).

In the early 2002 Allan connected with Markham Councillor Erin Shapero, Save the Rouge Environmentalist Glenn De Baeremaeker and Ajax Mayor Steve Parish who all shared a common belief that Ontario needed a system-based approach to environmental protection. As a result, they created The Greenbelt Alliance which has helped to protect approximately 2 million acres of environmentally sensitive land. Allan is very proud of what this organization has been able to achieve for future generations. Allan received the prestigious Carolinian Canada Award, "in recognition of an outstanding contribution towards the protection of natural diversity and habitats".

He was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, which paid tribute to the creation of Oakville's natural Heritage System, Ontario's first municipal system of its kind.

