



Erosion and Sediment Management in the National Capital Region

PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

WELCOME TO OUR CONFERENCE

Welcome to the CANIECA Erosion Solutions Ottawa Conference 2026

Dear Attendees,

On behalf of the Canadian Chapter of the International Erosion Control Association (CANIECA), we are pleased to welcome you to the 1st Edition Central Erosion Solutions Conference in Ottawa.

This event gathers industry leaders, innovators, and environmental professionals committed to advancing sustainable practices in erosion and sediment control, stormwater management, and ecological resilience.

Our objective today is to explore the latest technologies, real-world case studies, and effective strategies that tackle challenges related to climate change, urban development, and habitat preservation. Through a variety of presentations, discussions, and networking sessions, we aim to encourage collaboration and spark innovation in our field.

During breaks, please take the opportunity to network with peers and build meaningful partnerships. Our goal is for you to leave this event equipped not only with new insights but also with valuable connections to support your professional growth.

Thank you for joining us and contributing to the success of this conference. Our team is available throughout the event should you have any questions or need assistance.

We wish you a productive and enjoyable conference!

Warm regards,

Chris Thomson
President, CANIECA

SCHEDULE (UTC-5)

8:00 - 8:45 *Registration and Breakfast*

8:45 - 9:00 *Welcome & Opening Remarks*

Chris Thomson – President, CANIECA

9:00 - 9:45 *From Armouring to Adaptation: The Evolution of Erosion Control and Watercourse Management*

Keynote Speaker: **Paul Villard**, GEO Morphix Ltd.

9:45 - 10:30 *Creating Space for Nature: Lessons from the Kizell Wetland Restoration Project*

Jennifer Lamoureux, NCC-CCN

10:30 - 11:00 *Morning Break & Networking*

11:00 - 11:45 *Erosion and Sediment Control in Canada's Arctic: Challenges, Solutions, and Lessons Learned*

Nick Schulz, Kilgour & Associates Ltd

11:45 - 12:45 *Lunch & Networking*

12:45 - 1:30 *Vegetated Wall Systems for Flexible, Permanent, Green Solutions for Slope Stabilization, Erosion Control, Retention/Detention, and Waterway Installations*

Joel Kennedy, Flex MSE

1:30 - 2:15 *Erosion & Sediment Control – A Real World Tour of Ontario*

Meaghan Dustin and **Emma Schiller**, Aquafor Beech Limited

SCHEDULE (Cont.)

2:15 - 3:00

*Engineered Scour Protection with Solmax PROPEX® Scourlok®:
Resilient, Vegetated Bank Stabilization*

Laurent Darveau, ing, MBA, Solmax

3:00 - 3:30

Afternoon Break & Networking

3:30 - 4:15

Sustainability of 'Geo-Synthetics' Versus 'Natural' Aggregates

Eric Blond, Eric Blond Consultant Inc.

4:15 - 5:15

*Building Living Soils: The Hidden Drivers of Successful
Vegetation Establishment*

Mark Myrowich, ECBVerdyol

5:15 - 5:20

Closing remarks

5:20 - 6:30

Happy Hour Social & Networking

SPEAKERS



Chris Thomson

President, CANIECA

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Chris Thomson is the second-generation owner of Maritime Hydroseed, a green-industry leader in vegetation establishment and preventative solutions for erosion, sediment, stormwater, and dust control. Maritime Hydroseed, based in Saint John NB, is a diverse company providing landscape, ESC and reclamation services throughout New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada.

Chris is factory-certified by the leading industry-manufacturers in the application and installation of HECP (hydraulic) and RECP (rolled) erosion control products. And he has extensive experience in biotic soil amendments (BSAs) and hydraulic growth mediums (HGMs) as topsoil alternatives.

Chris has over 25 years in the environmental field and received his Certified Hydroseed Professional or CHP designation in 2013 from the IAHP - the International Association of Hydroseeding Professionals, becoming the first certified in Canada. Chris is the current President of CANIECA – Canadian Chapter, International Erosion Control Association. He is also President of the IAHP - International Association of Hydroseeding Professionals. And Chris is serving as President of the Atlantic Chapter of the CLRA - Canadian Land Reclamation Association.

Paul Villard

Geo Morphix

From Armouring to Adaptation: The Evolution of Erosion Control and Watercourse Management

Over the past 20 years, approaches to erosion and sediment control and watercourse management have shifted from largely static, prescriptive designs toward more adaptive, outcome-based practices. Early efforts often focused on fixed controls and structural solutions intended to resist change. Experience in the field has shown that construction sites and river systems are inherently dynamic, and that successful management depends on understanding and working with evolving conditions rather than attempting to lock them in place.

For over thirty years, Dr. Villard has been involved in research related to geomorphology in fluvial, coastal and estuarine systems. His research has covered fundamentals of sediment transport, bedform and channel evolution, turbulence and hydrodynamics, field measurement techniques, urban impacts on rivers, and the evolution and habitat benefit of restored river systems.

Dr. Villard has applied his knowledge of sediment transport, hydrodynamics and geomorphology to hundreds of projects in Ontario. He has also been involved in projects in Manitoba, Alberta, California, and the northeastern United States. Projects included sediment transport studies, geomorphic assessments, stream and shoreline restoration, erosion assessments for stormwater management and dewatering projects, hazard assessments, and site remediation.

He is a member in good standing of the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia, and the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

SPEAKERS (Cont.)

Jennifer Lamoureux

NCC-CCN



Creating Space for Nature: Lessons from the Kizell Wetland Restoration Project

The Kizell Wetland Restoration Project focuses on restoring natural wetland function and habitat within the Kizell Drain area. Using a nature-based design, the project recreated wetland cells with varied water depths, native vegetation, and habitat structures like root wads and fallen trees. These features support diverse species and promote long-term ecological resilience.

Construction was phased to minimize environmental impact, protect sensitive species, and manage invasive Phragmites. The wetland relies on natural water sources such as precipitation, runoff, and shallow groundwater to function.

Ongoing monitoring tracks vegetation growth, wildlife use, and hydrological performance, guiding adaptive management. Once fully established, the restored wetland will enhance habitat, improve natural water storage, and strengthen ecological connections across the National Capital Greenbelt.

Jennifer Lamoureux is an Environmental Construction Manager with the National Capital Commission, where she brings energy, precision, and ecological insight to some of the Capital Region's most dynamic public-realm projects. Based in Ottawa, she leads environmental oversight for shoreline infrastructure, bridge rehabilitations, wetland restoration, and habitat-sensitive construction across National Capital Commission lands.

Jennifer works hands-on with project teams, providing practical guidance on water quality protection, fish habitat considerations, and ecological mitigation so that every design supports both public access and long-term environmental resilience. With over 25 years working in the industry, her collaboration with external partners has ensured that projects move forward efficiently while remaining rooted in compliance and best practice.

Known for her expertise in nature-based solutions, Jennifer applies tools like bioengineering, live staking, and naturalized shoreline techniques to strengthen habitats and enhance the region's green infrastructure. Colleagues know her for her ability to translate complex environmental requirements into clear, actionable strategies—and for the enthusiasm and teamwork she brings to every challenge.

SPEAKERS (Cont.)



Nick Schulz

Kilgour & Associates Ltd

Erosion and Sediment Control in Canada's Arctic: Challenges, Solutions, and Lessons Learned

As demand for critical minerals rises, Arctic development in Canada grows, posing unique erosion and sediment control (ESC) challenges. From 2023-2026, Kilgour & Associates Ltd. supported mining infrastructure in Nunavut's Kivalliq Region. This talk covers ESC challenges, solutions, and lessons from building roads, effluent lines, and deep-water ports, offering guidance to minimize environmental impacts in northern projects.

Nicholas Schulz is a Biologist with a background in aquatic ecology and applied land development consulting. He joined Kilgour & Associates Ltd. in 2019 and has since completed both his B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Environmental Science at Carleton University. His graduate research focused on evaluating the ecological performance of urban wetlands, using algal communities as bioindicators of water quality and system function. This work strengthened his expertise in surface water assessment, nutrient dynamics, and biological monitoring in constructed and natural systems. Nicholas holds CAN-CIS-EC certification and conducts erosion and sediment control inspections for active construction sites. His work centers on assessing and managing the effects of land development on receiving environments, including creeks, streams, and wetlands. He supports land development projects throughout the Ottawa region and contributes to environmental monitoring programs for mining operations in Nunavut.



Joel Kennedy

Flex MSE

Vegetated Wall Systems for Flexible, Permanent, Green Solutions for Slope Stabilization, Erosion Control, Retention/Detention, and Waterway Installations

Leveraging proven retaining wall construction methods with vegetation expertise – Flex MSE provides strength, longevity, natural benefits, and beauty. Developed and manufactured under strict quality control, Flex MSE takes vegetated retention and erosion control to the next level.

Joel Kennedy is the Business Development Specialist for Flex MSE. With over 12 years of experience in the civil geosynthetic industry, Joel Kennedy brings a wealth of technical expertise in roads, drainage, slope stabilization, and MSE/RSS systems. Having worked on global projects across diverse and challenging conditions, Joel understands the unique demands of each site and how to deliver practical, long-lasting solutions. Originally from the Greater Toronto Area, Joel now resides in central Canada, continuing to support innovative and sustainable infrastructure projects worldwide.

SPEAKERS (Cont.)

Meaghan Dustin P.Eng

Aquafor Beech Limited



Erosion & Sediment Control – A Real World Tour of Ontario

After 40 years in business, with 12 CAN-CISEC certified staff, Aquafor Beech Limited will present real world examples of erosion and sediment control for river and creek projects, to stormwater management infrastructure including LIDs. Examples will include city-wide erosion hazard assessments, extensive creek works, innovative flow management, SWM pond and LID phasing, shoreline and marine works, and asset management; with an emphasis on established National Capital projects.

Emma Schiller, P.Eng

Aquafor Beech Limited



Erosion & Sediment Control – A Real World Tour of Ontario

After 40 years in business, with 12 CAN-CISEC certified staff, Aquafor Beech Limited will present real world examples of erosion and sediment control for river and creek projects, to stormwater management infrastructure including LIDs. Examples will include city-wide erosion hazard assessments, extensive creek works, innovative flow management, SWM pond and LID phasing, shoreline and marine works, and asset management; with an emphasis on established National Capital projects.

Meaghan Dustin P.Eng., CAN-CISEC and Emma Schiller, P.Eng lead the Ottawa office of Aquafor Beech Limited working on a variety of municipal, private, and public sector water resources and engineering projects in addition to contract administration and site inspection. Meaghan's specialization in stormwater management and municipal infrastructure using Low Impact Development (LID) practices and Emma's specialization in channel rehabilitation, restoration, flood and erosion risk mitigation, and infrastructure protection complement each other allowing them to provide a complete overview of ESC in the National Capital Region and across Ontario.

SPEAKERS (Cont.)

Laurent Darveau, ing, MBA

Solmax



Engineered Scour Protection with Solmax PROPEX® Scourlok®: Resilient, Vegetated Bank Stabilization

The Solmax PROPEX® Scourlok® system addresses growing challenges in hydraulic environments where traditional hard-armoring solutions often fail to deliver long-term scour resistance or ecological enhancement. Scourlok is engineered to withstand extreme hydraulic stresses through its rigid interlocking cells armored with Pyramat® 75 High Performance Turf Reinforcement Mat (HPTRM) and internally lined with MIRAFI® nonwoven geotextile, providing durable erosion control while supporting sustained vegetation establishment.

The system accepts a variety of infill materials—including reused on-site soils—and can be installed below or above water, offering adaptable, cost-effective protection for shorelines, streambanks, and hydraulic structures. Design considerations such as hydraulic loading, infill selection, and integration with complementary geosynthetic armoring solutions will be discussed. Field performance will be demonstrated through real-world case studies highlighting Scourlok's successful application in demanding erosion and scour conditions.

Laurent Darveau is a professional engineer with over a decade of dedicated experience in the geosynthetics industry. As Engineering Business Manager at Solmax International—a global leader in geosynthetic manufacturing—Laurent specializes in advanced solutions for roadway and railway infrastructure reinforcement, erosion control, slope stabilization and retaining wall systems. His career has been marked by a deep technical understanding and hands-on expertise across a wide range of geosynthetic products. Laurent holds a Bachelor's degree in Engineering Physics and a Master of Business Administration (MBA), both from Laval University. He is based in Québec City, Québec.

Eric Blond

Eric Blond Consultant Inc.



Sustainability of 'Geo-Synthetics' Versus 'Natural' Aggregates

Geosynthetics are typically made of 'plastic' resins; hence, they are sometimes wrongfully considered an environmental threat because of the risk of degradation and dissemination of microplastics. However, geosynthetics are much more than plastic films or textiles. They are two-dimensional, functionalized construction materials, which can quickly cover very large surfaces with very small weight to provide an essential function on a geotechnical project. Key benefits of using geosynthetics are a steep reduction of carbon emissions, and, equally important, the reduction of high-quality aggregate consumption.

Eric Blond is an independent consultant with 30 years' experience in geosynthetics and building materials. He has chaired key ASTM and ISO committees and served three terms on the International Geosynthetics Society Council. Eric has authored over 100 technical papers and teaches geosynthetics at École Polytechnique de Montréal. A registered professional engineer in Quebec and Alberta, he provides expert consulting and training worldwide, with extensive project experience across North and South America, Europe, and the Middle East.

SPEAKERS (Cont.)

Mark Myrowich

ECBVerdyol



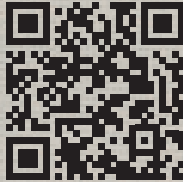
Building Living Soils: The Hidden Drivers of Successful Vegetation Establishment

Successful vegetation establishment is often blamed on poor seed or weather conditions, but the real limitation is frequently the condition of the soil system itself. This presentation explores the biological and physical processes that allow vegetation to establish and persist, particularly in disturbed environments such as construction sites and reclaimed landscapes. Attendees will learn how plants obtain nutrients, why soil biology plays a critical role in nutrient cycling, and how factors like oxygen availability, organic matter, and water retention influence plant success. The session also explains why conventional approaches that rely solely on fertilizers often produce short-term results but fail to create long-term vegetation stability. By understanding how living soil systems function, practitioners can make better decisions that support resilient, self-sustaining vegetation.

Mark Myrowich has been a key figure in erosion control since 1995, starting with Mid Canada Hydroseeding and founding ECBVerdyol (ECBV) in 2001 in Riverton, Manitoba. ECBV is now Canada's largest manufacturer of erosion and sediment control products. Mark has served as a Directing Member of the Erosion Control Technology Council since 2002 and held leadership roles with the International Erosion Control Association, including Global Development Vice President. He also contributed as Treasurer and Board Member for IECA's Canadian Chapter. With certifications like CPESC and CISEC, Mark is recognized for his expertise. He focuses on innovation and biomimicry to improve reclamation methods, aiming to transform erosion control worldwide and enhance environmental management.

SPONSORS

Thanks to our sponsors who are making this event possible!



At GEO Morphix, we are a team of professional geoscientists and environmental experts focused in geomorphology, earth surface processes, and watershed science.

geomorphix.com



At Silt Sock Canada, we stand out by combining innovation, sustainability, and a deep commitment to supporting local communities. As a 100% Canadian-owned company, we prioritize using locally sourced materials and partnering with Canadian suppliers, ensuring our products are tailored to the unique environmental conditions across Canada.

siltsockcanada.com



For almost 50 years, FIBRAMULCH has provided our customers with the knowledgeable advice, service and products that help ensure the success of their Erosion Control and Land Reclamation work.

fibramulch.com



FLEX MSE is a sustainable vegetated wall system designed to outlast its hardscape predecessors, including concrete and steel. Its simple geobag and interlocking plate facing adapts and moves with the land, enduring events that destroy traditional wall systems.

flexmse.com



Solmax is a world leader in sustainable construction solutions, for civil and environmental infrastructure. Its pioneering products separate, contain, filter, drain and reinforce essential applications in a more sustainable way.

solmax.com



Founded in 2000 by Mark Myrowich, a contractor turned entrepreneur, ECB set out to revolutionize erosion control with innovative products like the 16-foot erosion control blanket machine, setting new standards for efficiency.

ecb.ca

SPONSORS

Thanks to our sponsors who are making this event possible!



Back in the 70's, a major Canadian company saw the need to create a solution for subsurface drainage clog prevention and loss of efficiency. That's when the original Sock filter was born – and that was the beginning of our journey. Since then, we created several different, specialized textile products that helped protect the environment, optimize water management in companies, bring more safety to drivers, and more comfort to countless homes.

carriff.com



White Cap Canada has been part of the Canadian construction industry since the 1930s, consistently supporting builders, contractors, industrial and manufacturing professionals. Over the decades, we have grown and evolved, but our commitment to supporting builders, contractors, and industrial professionals hasn't wavered.

whitecapsupply.com



Founded in 1990, Aquafor Beech is a Canadian company that provides engineering and environmental services to public and private sector clients. Since its inception, Aquafor has applied a multi-disciplinary, adaptive management approach that has placed us at the leading front of our industry.

www.aquaforbeech.com



Since 1888, American Excelsior Company has manufactured and distributed products for packaging, cushioning, engineered foam specialties, erosion control, and a wide variety of engineered wood fibers.

americanexcelsior.com

Thank You!

We extend our sincere gratitude to all our **sponsors, speakers, and attendees** for making Erosion Solutions Ottawa Conference 2026 a success. Your support, knowledge, and commitment to advancing erosion and sediment control are truly appreciated.

Together, we're building resilient landscapes and stronger communities.

— CAN-IECA Canadian Chapter



canieca.org