

Spotlight on Sustainability

Your Green Team



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An a-maize-ing study

Do you remember the April 2012 frost that wiped out 80% of Ontario's apple crops? What about the 2013 ice storm that ruined mature trees and caused hundreds of millions of dollars in damages? Climate events are becoming more frequent, and scientists are looking to the past to help us better prepare for and mitigate them.

Paleoclimate scientists, such as Dr. Elizabeth Webb from the Department of Earth Sciences, study soils up to 10,000 years old! Analyzing the phytoliths (or plant residues) in these soils reveal the time and location at which the plants were present, and even the climate at the time. Part of Dr. Webb's research involves the maize crops relied on by the ancient Maya in Belize. With much determination and collaboration, scientists may be able to determine whether ancient Maya civilizations collapsed due to drought or changes in climate.



Such research sheds light on the historical impact of climate change on vegetation and may provide insight for scientists who are trying to develop resiliency strategies for our ecosystem in the current climate change cycle.

From mountains to prairies to forests, Canada's Boreal Zone stretches coast to coast with 75% of the world's Boreal forest, residing in Canada!



Ontario's 2016 Climate Action Plan is improving sustainable forestry practices and investing in forests as carbon offset projects for a cleaner future.
Happy Canada Day!

No sweat!

This *Spotlight on Sustainability* focuses on the conservation strategies of Applied Mathematics, Mathematics, and Statistical and Actuarial Sciences. If you have ever taken the pedestrian tunnels from Middlesex College to Western Science Center, you have felt the heat. Well, sweat no more! This summer, the steam and condensate lines which run parallel to the tunnels are being insulated, saving energy and creating more comfortable walking conditions. The departments are not stopping there; Green Team Leader Cinthia MacLean has her eye on conserving water and reducing paper usage, too.



Let's all support Cinthia's vision!