

# TGIF Taking Great Ideas Forward

Improving Northern Capital - Sustainable Development in the Northern Tier

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author and do not reflect positions of organizations with which he is affiliated.

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***“The clash of ideas is the sound of freedom .”***

**-Lady Bird Johnson -**

## MEETINGS and EVENTS:

Links will provide additional information. Dates for new additions are in **bold**.

<i>What</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Where</i>
Maple Syrup Pancake Breakfast	SATURDAY, MARCH 31 <sup>st</sup>	8:00-10:30 AM	Mt.Ashwabay Ski Chalet
<b>VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!</b>	<b>April 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>Your Northern Wisconsin Polling Place</b>
Inventors & Entrepreneurs Club	April 5 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 pm	Iron River Community Center
BCEDC Board Meeting	April 9 <sup>th</sup>	10 AM – noon	Washburn Library
<a href="#">Herbster Smelt Fry</a>	April 14 <sup>th</sup>	3:00-7L00 PM	Historic Gymnasium Herbster, Wisconsin~
Earth Day	April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	All Day	Everywhere
<a href="#">Wisconsin Lakes Convention</a>	April 26-28	All Day	Green Bay
UW Founders Day Dinner	April 30 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	Elks Club - Ashland
WIB <a href="#">Business Development Conference</a>	May 3 & 4	All Day	Lakewoods Resort, Cable
<a href="#">Future of Farming</a> Statewide Conference	May 14 & 15	All Day	Madison, Monona Terrace
<a href="#">2007 Entrepreneur's Conference</a>	June. 12-13	All day	Milwaukee
<a href="#">Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference &amp; Workshops</a>	June 21 & 22	All Day	Telemark Lodge, Cable

# BUSINESS UP NORTH

The **Ontario Government** of Canada has proposed budgets that reflect a cluster of values embracing clean air, clean water and green business. A [backgrounder paper](#) published on the Ontario Budget Web site provides details. The Ontario Premier, **Dalton McGuinty**, has proposed a 2007 budget that provides several initiatives focused on the auto industry that intend to reduce the impact of fossil fuels on climate. A \$15 million item intends to encourage greater linkage between academics and business to promote innovation in low-carbon technologies. An intriguing reference to a Bioauto Council led to a [dead-end](#) Web search. Apparently the council will look for uses of agro-forestry feedstocks for automobile parts manufacturing. \$6 million provided to the Bioauto Council is a serious initiative. I hope the Web site is a priority. I would like to learn more.

Building Green Communities is expressed with budget initiatives in Sustainable Transportation, Brownfields Reform, Energy and Climate Change, Waste Diversion and Greenbelt Places to Grow. The later attempts to grapple with urban growth to preserve open spaces. A big allocation of \$25 million will support the [Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation](#). The Greenbelt, focused in Southern Ontario, emphasizes the importance of building the agriculture economy as a mechanism for farmland preservation. Research is a central consideration. Building a wine industry is cited as one potential research outcome. A locally produced liter of wine is expected to add over \$2.00 to the local economy while a liter of imported wine adds just \$0.46.

Ontario and Wisconsin share much more than Great Lakes borders. We can learn a lot from each other. Both Dalton McGuinty and Wisconsin's Governor **Jim Doyle** are looking to the biobased economy for future prosperity.

A few weeks back, **Jon Hamilton**, owner of **White Winter Winery** in Iron River, told me about a "northern grape" developed by the University of Minnesota. Bayfield blueberry grower, **Rick Dale**, has been an articulate advocate of how our Lake Superior-influenced micro climate supports unique agricultural opportunities. The orchards of the Bayfield peninsula are a conspicuous testimony. We need to pursue the vision of building a knowledge base to support new and expanded agricultural ventures. Moving that "northern grape" from St. Paul to Bayfield County won't happen without a research effort to establish that knowledge base. Where is that **Chequamegon Institute**?

Absent income opportunities, the open spaces of farm and forest land everywhere is vulnerable to the pressures of development. The intensity is most acute in para-metro areas but our rural northland is also liable.

The **Bayfield Regional Conservancy**, led by Executive Director, **Ruth Oppedahl**, has done wonderful work sustaining our Bayfield County orchards and other special places. Tomorrow morning their annual **Maple Syrup Pancake Breakfast** at Mt. Ashwabay will bring a crowd of supporters. I hope to see you there.

Take care and have a great weekend!

/BRUCE

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*In addition Bruce maintains the following affiliations:*

[Bayfield County Economic Development Corporation](#), (BCEDC) Director

[Inland Sea Society](#), (ISS) Director

[Lake Superior Binational Forum](#), (LSBF) US Delegation Co-Chair

[Raindrop Garden Gallery](#), (RGG) Co-owner

[IDEA Consortium LLC](#), Owner

[Chequamegon Institute, Inc.](#) Initial Registered Agent

[Coalition for Eco-Industrial Development](#), (CEID) Work Group Member

[Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board](#), (WIB) Member

*The encircled fractal triangle represents an integrated cluster of seven ideas – economics, ecology, equity, ethics, education, experience and energy – that may be considered a core for sustainability studies. Bruce is available to present illustrated lectures and facilitate discussions about Industrial Ecology, Sustainable Development and the Sustainability Revolution.*