Frontenac Arch Biosphere

Going Forward, 2013-2017

A UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve in the heart of Eastern Ontario
The Frontenac Arch is the ancient backbone of eastern North America—a bridge from the Canadian Shield to the Adirondack Mountains in New York State. It is the quintessential Canadian landscape of pine-topped, windswept ridges and lake-jeweled valleys. In First Nations tradition, the Frontenac Arch is “The Bones of the Mother”.

The fantastic story of the Frontenac Arch began a billion years ago, when early continental plates collided and heaved massive, towering mountains skyward. The mountains eventually weathered down to their roots—the landscape we see today.

After glaciers bulldozed the basins for the Great Lakes, the lakes filled to their brims with rivers and runoff. On their eastward race to the sea, the waters of the last lake, Ontario, rose against the western flanks of the Frontenac Arch, and the St. Lawrence River began to spill between the granite hilltops. A thousand hilltops, the roots of ancient mountains, became the Thousand Islands. A thousand more islands grace a thousand lakes, inland.

This intersection of the Frontenac Arch and the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Valley form a great crossroads of the continent. The Arch connects the Canadian Shield boreal forest to the forests of the Adirondack and Appalachian Mountains—a south to north/north to south migration route. The river valley is a route from the Great Lakes forest heartland of the continent to the forests of the Atlantic Coast. The Frontenac Arch Biosphere is at the very centre of that intersection, where five forest regions merge, creating a tremendous wildlife diversity.

Shortly after the last ice age, these natural migration routes became trade and migration routes for First Nations peoples. Discoveries of copper knives from the far north, shells from the southern coasts, stone for projectile points from further east and west, and pottery types from several regions tell that story. In historic times, this was a land of Canadian ‘firsts’—first glassworks, first iron works in Upper Canada, oldest railway tunnel, oldest daily newspaper, oldest stone grist mill in Delta, Ontario—and so much more, with so much of the built heritage still on the landscape, for the world to see.
Enough for all, for all time.

Quality of life and land, and a true sense of place are at the heart of all of the projects and programs of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network. This is about you, and your community. In simplest terms, “sustainability” means enough for all, for all time, weaving a harmony and balance of nature, livelihood, wellbeing and culture.

Sustainability:
“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Brundtland Commission, at the United Nations, March 20, 1987 or more simply, Enough for all, for all time.

The Four Pillars of Sustainability

**Nature**
We will work with the community to care for and protect the natural environment of the Frontenac Arch

**Livelihood**
We will work with the community towards its long-term and equitable economic well-being

**Wellbeing**
We will work with the community towards everyone’s health, education and quality of life

**Culture**
We will work with the creative community towards interaction and expression in arts, heritage and innovation.

We frequently refer to “community”, as well as “communities”. Community is a way of thinking about everyone, every interest and every place that together become this special place where we live, work and play.

UNESCO Biosphere Reserves: A Global Approach

All UNESCO World Biosphere Reserves pledge work to protect their globally significant natural and cultural heritage through sustainable development. In 2002, the Frontenac Arch Biosphere became one of 16 Biosphere Reserves in Canada, among 610 in 117 countries. The Frontenac Arch is one of a handful of places in the world to receive two UNESCO designations. In 2007 the Rideau Canal—across the north boundary and running through the heart of the Biosphere—was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network is a non-profit corporation, with a Board of Directors and working committees comprised of committed volunteers, and representatives of organizations, governments and agencies with similar goals and interests. Our Vision and FAB: Going Forward belong to the community.

**Vision**
The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network will be known as a champion for world-class sustainable community development that celebrates **nature, livelihood, wellbeing** and **culture**, and forges a better way of living and growing together.

**Mission**
The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network’s Mission is to encourage people to work together toward a **sustainable community**.

**Enough for all, for all time.**

Biospheres are nominated by the community, not by UNESCO, and carry no laws, powers or authority. In Canada, all UNESCO Biospheres are non-government, community-lead organizations, without ongoing financial support by federal or provincial governments. Instead, each celebrates its world heritage through community commitment to work towards a more sustainable way of life.

**Going Forward 2013-2017**

The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network looks back on our first decade with a great feeling of accomplishment. During the first ten years, the FAB Network’s programs have expanded considerably and have matured in approach. In this next decade, we look forward to further expanding our programs to cover all sectors of the community.

The UNESCO Frontenac Arch Biosphere is a globally significant and unique treasure, and yet widespread knowledge of its identity and the role of the FAB Network remains a challenge. Going forward, we will meet the identity challenge, and engage local residents, all levels of governments and other organizations in this region in collaborative programs and projects to build a sustainable community.
Going Forward, our suite of programs will engage the community in becoming a global model for sustainable development. Each FAB program will reflect the four pillars of sustainability: nature, livelihood, wellbeing and culture.

Ongoing FAB Programs

FAB Conservation: Central to the mandate of all 610 UNESCO World Biospheres is the protection of globally important natural environments. The Frontenac Arch Biosphere’s ecology is an international treasure. With 40% forest cover, and over 30% in lakes, streams and wetlands, it hosts a fantastic wealth of wildlife, and species at risk—ultra-remarkable because it is within a five hour drive of over half of the population of Canada. We will work with partners to ensure that visitors and residents can share this natural experience for lifetimes to come.

FAB Local Flavours: This is a land of fields nestled in ridge-sheltered valleys—fields tilled in every type of soil imaginable, giving flavour to niche crops and nurturing livestock. Local producers bring an outstanding variety of produce to the tables of dedicated restaurants, inns and B&Bs. FAB Local Flavours connects food producers, food outlets and consumers, inspires healthy eating, encourages best practices, creates a regional food identity, and grows the local economy.

FAB Arts: The world sees the Frontenac Arch Biosphere through the eyes of the creative community—the hundreds of creative, enterprising people inspired by the history, nature, rural landscape and sense of place. The vision of FAB Arts is to have an artistic identity in the region and economic growth among the arts. The artistic community will continue to share their inspired work with the world.
FAB Trails: Very few places can offer FAB’s variety of trails and experiences. Paddle the routes used by First Nations peoples over thousands of years. Hike the rugged ridges and forest valleys, rich in wildlife and rewarding vistas. Heritage walking trails explore communities, heritage and architecture dating to Loyalist roots. Cycle winding country roads in fresh and fragrant air. Explore the many national and provincial parks and conservation authority areas. FAB Trails, an Ontario Trails Council member, is creating an outstanding trails destination region, connecting people to experiences with maps and trail descriptions.

FAB Education Network: Understanding the interconnections of nature, livelihood, wellbeing and culture are key to building a sustainable community. The Education Network will accomplish this through dialogue among parks, museums, conservation authorities and other heritage educators. Sustainability and environmental education programs will be integrated into the curricula of schools and institutions such as the annual Earth Day event. Such dialogue leads to building capacity and financial sustainability of program providers.

FAB Nature Camp: The Biosphere Nature Camp provides children with an active, enjoyable and safe summer program, to nurture an environmental ethic and respect for nature.

FAB Sustainable Tourism: Rich in heritage, and with innovative programs to build a sustainable community, the Frontenac Arch Biosphere is ideally positioned to become an outstanding sustainable tourism destination. The program will expand sustainability in the region’s tourism industry businesses and organizations through education and projects.

FAB Experiences: The goal of FAB Experiences is to create unique visits tailored to individual interests. The Frontenac Arch Biosphere has a wealth of heritage and cultural experiences. FAB Experiences connects visitors to our community, and creates rewarding and meaningful authentic experiences.
Emerging FAB Programs

FAB Heritage: So much of Canada’s story begins, and lives here! This is a land of “firsts”—Canada’s first glassworks near Mallorytown, Upper Canada’s first iron foundry at Lyndhurst, the first parliament in Kingston—and so many more. History is real and ready to experience here. **History is the fabric of every community.** FAB Heritage encourages collaboration among heritage organizations and institutions. It will communicate the stories and values of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere to protect cultural heritage, in all its forms.

FAB Woods: Over 40% of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere is forested, a major reason for its great biodiversity. Through wise planning, education and management, forests can be both superlative habitat and an economic resource. Through networking with landowners, and conservation and community organizations, with workshops and innovative projects, we will encourage **sustainable forest-related programs.**

Potential FAB Programs

FAB Sustainable Business: In a sustainable community everyone, including businesses and industry, contributes to the health of nature, wellbeing and culture. By directly engaging the community in well-rounded economic strategies and sustainable practices, business will achieve sustainable economic development.

FAB Eco-Offsets: Through energy conservation and energy innovation programs, the Frontenac Arch Biosphere could integrate carbon offset strategies into sustainable community development. The FAB region could also benefit conservation programs through ecosystem services replacement costs in development projects.
This is about you, and your community.

Quality of life and land, and a true sense of place are at the heart of all of the projects and programs of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network.

In simplest terms, “sustainability” means enough for all, for all time, weaving a harmony and balance of nature, livelihood, wellbeing and culture.

Each of us an essential part of the community. The FAB Network can help all who live and visit here to become part of a vibrant and thriving sustainable community, for today and tomorrow. Become involved – everyone has their something special to offer!

Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network
19 Reynolds Road
Lansdowne, ON, K0E 1L0
CANADA
613-659-4824
info@fabn.ca