



A.D. LATORNELL CONSERVATION SYMPOSIUM MEDIA RELEASE

2011 Theme: Water – the Future of the Source

November 15, 2011

For Immediate Release

2011 A.D. LATORNELL CONSERVATION SYMPOSIUM GETS UNDERWAY, FOCUSING ON ONTARIO'S WATER – NOV. 16-18TH, ALLISTON, ON

Conservation Ontario - Newmarket (Nov 15, 2011) One of Ontario's most prestigious environmental conferences, the A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium kicks off this week with over 1,000 delegates, speakers, sponsors and exhibitors converging in Alliston, Ontario on Wednesday, November 16th. This year, delegates will be talking about Water.

Water is our most precious resource, yet it is undervalued and overestimated. Participants at this year's Symposium will discuss the state of Ontario's water – the stresses and pressures on it and the impact this has on our ability to ensure its sustainability. The conference runs from November 16-18th at the Nottawasaga Inn & Conference Centre and features a number of local and international experts on key issues around water.

The A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium provides an important forum for Ontario's practitioners, policy makers, non-government organizations, academics and businesses to network and discuss the challenges and opportunities impacting our conservation field. This year's event welcomes a special sponsor - the **RBC Blue Water Project**.

The RBC Blue Water Project is a wide ranging, multi-year program designed to foster a culture of water stewardship so that we have enough clean water today and tomorrow. Under this initiative, RBC has committed to provide \$50 million in charitable grants, over ten years, to not-for-profit organizations that protect watersheds and provide or ensure access to clean drinking water.

Since 2007, RBC has pledged more than \$20 million to more than 200 organizations worldwide. RBC also 'walks the talk' promoting responsible and sustainable water use in-house implementing practices and education programs that reduce their own corporate water footprint. As well, RBC has taken an important business and global leadership role and the Symposium supports them in their efforts.

Over three days, delegates will have the opportunity to choose from 48 sessions in 9 themed streams featuring over 160 expert speakers including many world-renowned leaders from various environmental fields. This year's keynote speakers are:

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- Charles Fishman, Journalist and Author (*The Big Thirst*)
- Dr. Rob de Loe, University of Waterloo Chair in Water Policy and Governance
- Dr. Doug McKenzie-Mohr, Pioneer and Leader in Social Marketing
- Josh Fox, Filmmaker, *Gasland*
- Alexandre Cousteau and Jonathon Smith, Blue Legacy

Water issues will be explored through the various sessions including:

- Watershed Management
- Water, Source Protection
- Inspiring Sustainability
- Natural Heritage
- Green Infrastructure
- Community Stewardship
- Fish and Fish Habitat
- Geospatial Technology
- Environmental Communications
- Year of Forests

The A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium also supports the mentoring of future conservationists and the recognition of men and women who have dedicated their lives to conservation efforts. Each year, the Conservation Pioneer Awards honour individuals who have contributed significantly to the conservation movement in Ontario.

Quote from Symposium Chair:

“The A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium is a very unique event. When it comes right down to it, Ontario’s environmental community really isn’t that big and there are lots of opportunities for us to work together to share expertise to develop practical solutions to Ontario’s issues. The Latornell Symposium is a great place for a wide range of people from government, non government, business and academia to put their heads together and strategize for a better tomorrow.”

– Jennifer Howley, A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium Chair

Program details can be found on the website: www.latornell.ca

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For More Information:

The various sessions will present an excellent opportunity to explore local environmental issues in detail. Media passes and interview opportunities are available by contacting:

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