



A.D. LATORNELL CONSERVATION SYMPOSIUM MEDIA RELEASE

LATORNELL PIONEER AWARD WINNERS

November 15, 2011

For Immediate Release

Four People Are Celebrated at the A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium for their Remarkable Lifetime Achievements to Conservation in Ontario

Conservation Ontario - Newmarket (Nov 15, 2011) Four remarkable people are being recognized for their significant achievements to Ontario's environmental community at the 18th Annual A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium on Thursday, November 17th at the Nottawasaga Inn & Conference Centre in Alliston.

Paul Aird (Pembroke), Jim Anderson (Renfrew), Tom Taylor (Newmarket) and Liette Vasseur (Sudbury) have had a profound impact on conservation in Ontario, both locally and on a provincial scale.

- Spanning his 57 year, Paul Aird promoted conservation in industry and while teaching at the University of Toronto. Mr. Aird has made significant long term contributions to the study and protection of endangered birds, specifically the Kirtland's Warbler.
- Working in both government and non government agencies, Jim Anderson has been very instrumental in helping to shape conservation policy in Ontario. A strong mentor of young conservationists, Mr. Anderson worked diligently to build important partnerships between agencies in order to foster wetland protection and to bring economics to the environmental policy debate.
- A long time resident and politician in Newmarket, Ontario, Tom Taylor has demonstrated environmental leadership, community environmental initiatives, and inspiring young people in conservation activities. Mr. Taylor is still active today in the Board rooms of local organizations.
- Working locally and researching globally, Liette Vasseur continues to work diligently in Sudbury fostering community-based ecosystem management, decision-making and sustainable development. Ms. Vasseur is a past board member of the Nickel District Conservation Authority and continues to volunteer on climate change initiatives in the north.

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Award winners will be celebrated at a special Pioneer Luncheon on Thursday, November 17, 2011 at the Nottawasaga Inn & Conference Centre.

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More Background on the A. D. Latornell 2011 Pioneer Award Recipients

The Award winners, in alphabetical order, are:

Paul Aird - Nominating Agency: Ministry of Natural Resources/Pembroke District

Paul is a Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto in the Faculty of forestry; 35 years of activity in forest conservation research, forest policy and law, forest geography and history; conservation education as well as parks, wilderness and nature preservation; has been a champion and guardian of the globally rare bird - the Kirtland's Warbler and its' habitat for 35 years, with extensive field work in Renfrew County, with much of this work done in a volunteer capacity; he is also an accomplished writer of children's nature books, ecological fables and nature tales as well as other books on Canada's natural heritage.

James (Jim) Anderson - Nominating agency: Ducks Unlimited Canada

Jim has had an extensive career in the federal and provincial governments, as well as conservation authorities and Ducks Unlimited Canada; he was part of project teams for the original watershed reports prepared in the 1960's in Ontario, upon which many conservation authority programs originated; his strengths centre around building and maintaining relationships, which made him ideal as a former GM of Conservation Ontario; an active member and volunteer of the Soil Conservation Society of America; developing policy and administrative procedures still in effect today at the Ministry of Natural Resources guiding conservation authority programs; giving voice and forging partnerships for Ducks Unlimited Canada to move wetland protection to the forefront of government agendas and to bring economics to the environmental policy debate; his mentorship of young conservationists and others in the field is substantial.

Tom Taylor - Nominating agency: Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

Tom is described as a humanitarian, an environmentalist and a generous, community-minded gentleman who is dedicated to leaving this planet a better place; through his 45 year career as a politician and a community volunteer throughout his life, he has demonstrated environmental leadership (founding director of the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust; chair and founding member of the Holland River Improvement Committee; member of the Board of Directors of the LSRCA), community environmental initiatives (river clean up days, tree planting projects, public purchase of significant woodlots and wetlands), and inspiring young people in conservation activities (volunteer in a non-profit student tree planting initiative to connect students to nature and restore our ecosystems).

Dr. Liette Vasseur - Nominating agency: Nickel District Conservation Authority

Liette is a professor in the Dept. of Biological Sciences at Brock University and former Associate Vice President of Research at Laurentian University; her research is focused on interdisciplinary approaches at the ecosystem level focusing on community-based ecosystem management, decision-making and sustainable development; her research is

global; she is a past board member of the Nickel District Conservation Authority and continues to volunteer on climate change initiatives in Sudbury and in Niagara Region; her work with youth goes beyond university students, with her work on the Sudbury Mayor's Children First Round Table, established to identify ways that youth can become productive members of the community with partial focus on the natural environment.

Quick Facts about the A.D. Latornell Conservation Pioneer Award

The first A.D. Latornell Pioneer Awards were presented in 1999. Since then, a total of 71 women and men have been celebrated for their lifetime achievements to conservation in Ontario.

Who is Eligible?

An individual who has made long-term contributions and achievements, through either their work, career or volunteer efforts in the conservation field is eligible.

These contributions can include but are not limited to:

- Conservation legislation/policy development/reform
- Conservation innovation i.e. best management practices in forestry, agriculture, etc.
- Habitat enhancement – restoration/rehabilitation projects
- Conservation research/field work/studies
- Environmental education/communications
- Natural resource management/planning | Advocacy/Leadership
- Community organization

Who Can Nominate an Individual?

Nominations are typically made by organizations and agencies involved in conservation such as Conservation Authorities, non profit organizations, government agencies, and universities. An organization or agency can make one nomination per year.

How Are the Recipients Chosen?

A committee is appointed each year by the A. D. Latornell Conservation Symposium and typically includes representatives from the organizing committee, the General Manager of Conservation Ontario and the Chair of the Land and Water Centre for Stewardship, University of Guelph.

What do Successful Recipients Receive?

Conservation Pioneer Award recipients are recognized at the Pioneer Luncheon held during the A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium in November of each year. A gift and/or plaque

is presented to each recipient. In addition, a plaque with all the recipients' names is displayed at the Centre for Land and Water Stewardship, University of Guelph .

How Many Successful Recipients Have There Been in Total?

Including the 2011 recipients, there has been a total of 71 Conservation Pioneer Award recipients. A list of previous successful pioneers can be found on the Latornell Website: <http://www.latornell.ca/pioneer/pastaward.html>

Where Should Completed Nominations be Sent?

A.D. Latornell Symposium
c/o Steering Committee
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