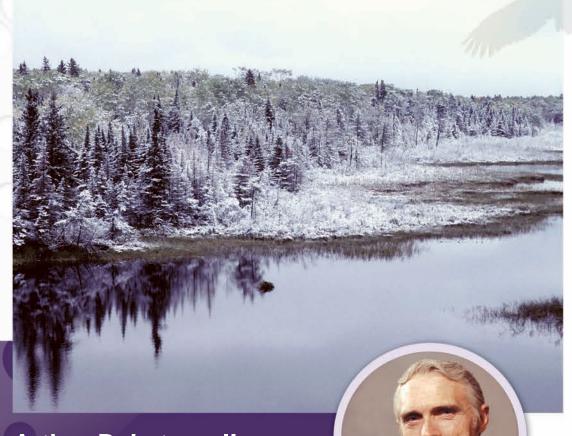
Connecting People, Land and Water

2011









Arthur D. Latornell
FORWARD THINKER &
DEDICATED CONSERVATIONIST
(1923-1991)

The A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium is held in the memory of Arthur Douglas Latornell (1923-1991), a leading conservationist whose tireless dedication to the grass roots conservation movement in Southern Ontario fostered a legacy of environmental milestones for years. Mr. Latornell was also a strong supporter of young conservation professionals.

The theme of this 2011 calendar, *Biodiversity: Connecting People, Land and Water*, looks at the rich mix of ecosystems and species that make up biodiversity found all across our province. With increasing competition for limited resources, we need to better understand what biodiversity represents, why it is important and how it is connected to human health.

This year's calendar explores the state of Ontario's biodiversity as well as some of the issues impacting it and what we can do, as individuals, to help protect and restore our natural world. It is produced in conjunction with the A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium, a popular annual event co-hosted by Conservation Ontario and the University of Guelph's Centre for Land and Water Stewardship.

BIODIVERSITY: CONNECTING PEOPLE, LAND AND WATER





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We share the planet with as many as 13 million different living species including plants, animals and bacteria, of which only 1.75 million have been named and recorded. This incredible natural wealth is a priceless treasure that forms the foundation of our human wellbeing.

The Ontario Biodiversity Strategy Report 2010, spearheaded by the Ontario Biodiversity Council, assesses 29 indicators providing a snapshot of pressures on Ontario's biodiversity and pinpointing areas where more protection and research is needed. The report highlights how Ontarians are placing large demands on the province's biological resources resulting in biodiversity losses, particularly in southern Ontario. The report lists 37 actions that, taken together, will enable Ontario to achieve its biodiversity conservation goals. Increased efforts and spending to protect and conserve biodiversity are needed by all of us NOW!

www.ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca

WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY? THE STATE OF ONTARIO'S BIODIVERSITY

Did You Know?

You are biodiversity. Most of the oxygen you breathe comes from plankton in the oceans of the world and lush forests around the globe. The fruit and vegetables you eat were likely pollinated by bees, and the water you drink is part of a global cycle involving you, clouds, rainfall, glaciers, rivers and oceans.





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Biodiversity needs to be conserved for its own sake and ours. It is our source of clean air and water, productive soils, and healthy food and renewable resources that help to sustain us and our economy.

- We are a part of biodiversity. The same things that affect bugs, trees and fish have an impact on us too the quantity of clean, fresh water or the quality of the air we breathe.
- Everything is connected. Everything we do either uses natural resources or returns them as waste.
- Natural systems based on healthy biodiversity provide all kinds of services for us.
 Things like cooling and filtering air, controlling floods, pollinating plants, controlling pests, aerating soil and filtering and storing water.
- We have to live with what's left. A wise saying states, "We don't inherit the earth from our parents, we borrow it from our children."



Did You Know?

The current loss of biodiversity and the related changes in the environment are now happening faster than ever before in human history and there is no sign of this process slowing down. Scientists estimate that between 150 and 200 species of life become extinct every 24 hours. www.greenfacts.org/en/biodiversity

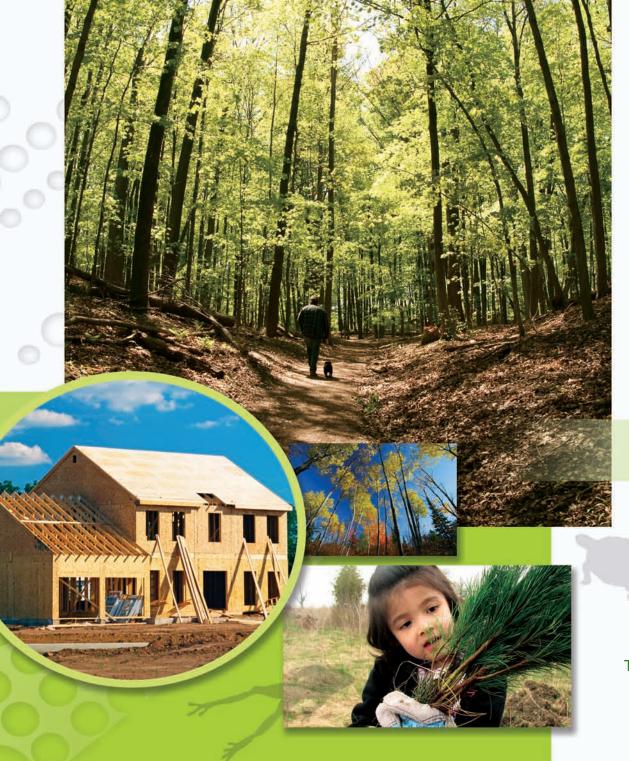


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13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18 0	Ontario Family Winter Fishing Weekend www.familyfishingweekend.com
	21 Family Day Heritage Day	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					





2011 marks the United Nations International Year of Forests, which offers a unique opportunity to raise public awareness of the challenges facing many of the world's forests and the people who depend on them. www.un.org/esa/forests

Our forests:

- provide important sources of food, medicines, energy and building materials
- sustain the livelihoods of and provides jobs for hundreds of millions of people worldwide
- offer aesthetic and cultural values
- contribute to a sense of cultural identity and provides spiritual enrichment in many indigenous and forest-dependent communities

INTERNATIONALYEAR OF FORESTS

Did You Know?

On behalf of our symposium speakers, the A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium has partnered with the Nottawasaga Foundation, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority and Trees Ontario to plant over 4,000 trees in the Nottawasaga River watershed. Together with these partners, the Symposium strives to combat climate change and help improve local forest conditions.



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13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19
20 Spring Begins	21	22 World Water Day www.worldwaterday.org	23	24	25	Earth Hour
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Most life on earth depends on soil. It provides a medium for plants to grow and habitats for animals and other micro-organisms. Soil can be damaged by many causes including contaminated runoff, wind and water erosion, and overuse.

Soil communities are among the most species-rich areas in terrestrial ecosystems with most of the organisms found in the top 10 cm of the soil profile. Soil organisms affect the functioning of entire ecosystems including nutrient cycling, development of soil structure, nutrient retention, disease suppression, carbon sequestration and pollutant degradation.

The extensive functions of soil, declining soil biodiversity and its consequences on soil food web interactions could have significant negative impacts on our ecosystem processes and all biodiversity.

LIFE BELOW OUR FEET

Did You Know?

The namesake of the A.D. Latornell
Conservation Symposium is
Arthur D. Latornell, one of Ontario's leading
conservationists and an active member
of the Soil and Water Conservation
Society for many years.



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National Wildlife Week www.nationalwildlifeweek.ca	11 •	12	13	14	15	16
17	Pitch In Canada Week www.pilch-in.ca	19	20	21	Good Friday Earth Day www.earthday.org	23
24 Easter Sunday	25 • Caster Monday	26	27	28	29	30







With habitat loss being one of the greatest threats to biodiversity in the world, backyard and neighbourhood habitats are important places for protecting local biodiversity. They can provide critically needed bird and wildlife habitat.

You can do your part!

- Compost your leftovers
- Naturalize your lawn and avoid pesticides
- Create a pond
- Create other types of habitats such as brush piles and rock piles
- Plant native species such as black eyed susans, prairie smoke, wild geranium, maple trees and bayberry
- Remove exotic plants
- Grow heritage varieties of fruits and vegetables and then save their seeds
- Build a water efficient garden

LET YOUR BACKYARD GO WILD!

Did You Know?

Raising your lawnmower blade to a height of three inches will prevent sun-loving weeds, encourage deep root development and keep soil cool and moist. At the same time replace some of your lawn with a native plant garden and watch your yard come alive with the sights and sounds of nature.



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8 Mother's Day	9	10	11	12	13	14. International Migratory Bird Day www.birdday.org
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22 International Day for Biodiversity www.cbd.int/ibd	23 Victoria Day	24	25	26	27	28
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One of the biggest threats to biodiversity is you and me!

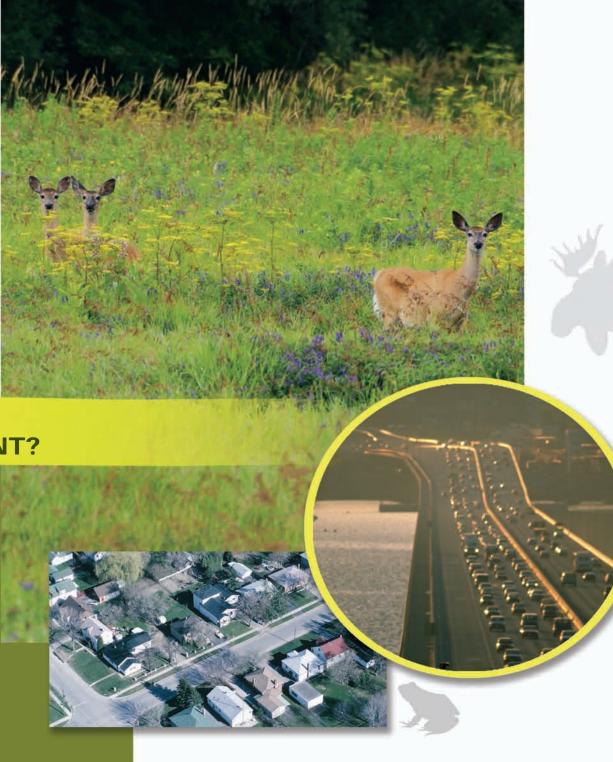
One way to determine how much of an impact your lifestyle is having on our environment is to calculate your ecological footprint. This analysis compares your demand on nature with nature's abilities to regenerate resources and provide services.

Global Ecological Footprint (*www.footprintnetwork.org*) data indicates that humans are using resources and producing carbon dioxide at a rate much greater than nature can regenerate and reabsorb. This results in the depletion of the natural capital that all species, including us, rely on.

HOW BIG IS YOUR ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT?

Did You Know?

The universal concept of ecological footprint and calculation methods were developed by Mathis Wackernagel while he was a student under Professor William Rees' supervision at the University of British Columbia. It was further detailed in their book, *Our Ecological Footprint: Reducing Human Impact on the Earth* published in 1996.





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Canadian Environment Week World Environment Day www.unep.org/wed	6	7	World Oceans Day and Clean Air Day www.chrs.ca	9 •	10	11
Canada Rivers Day	13	14	15 0	16	17	18
19 Father's Day	20	21 Summer Begins	22	23	24. St. Jean Baptiste Day	25
26	27	28	29	30		



Close to home and across the province, Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities own and protect over 350,000 acres of natural lands and offer more than 250 Conservation Areas for you to explore and enjoy.

Explore: Many Conservation Areas feature picturesque trails where you can hike, cycle, or ski.

Learn: Ontario's natural heritage and cultural history come to life in the Interpretive Centres, Museums, and Pioneer Villages found in some Conservation Areas.

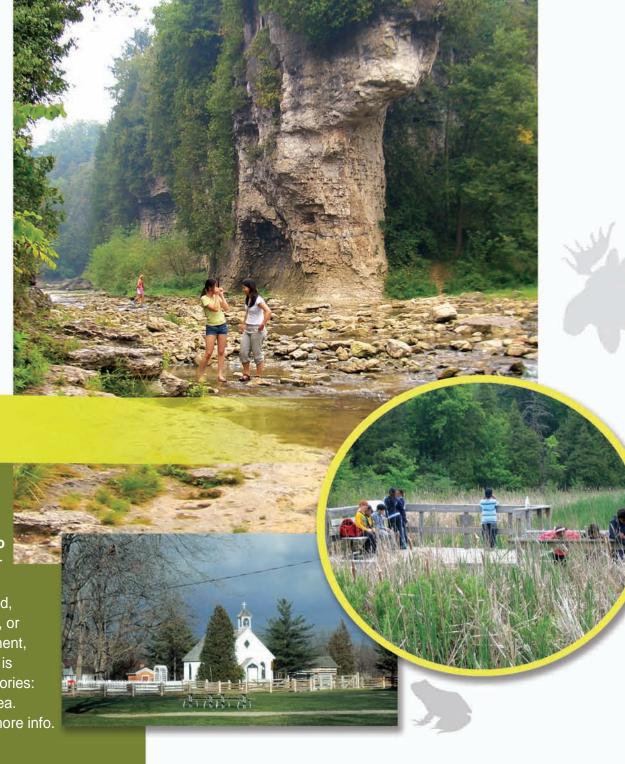
Enjoy: From waterfalls to beaches, sand dunes to wetlands, Ontario's Conservation Areas showcase some of the province's most breath-taking natural features. Come and enjoy Ontario's Conservation Areas, but please remember to leave only footprints.

Get outside and enjoy our Conservation Areas. Visit **www.ontarioconservationareas.ca** for more information.

STEP INTO NATURE

Did You Know?

Conservation Ontario is hosting a **2011 Ontario**Conservation Areas Photo Contest. Whether it's a close-up of a native flower, the view of a waterfall cascading through the Canadian shield, a shot an elusive white-tailed deer in the forest, or pictures of a family hiking the Niagara Escarpment, the Ontario Conservation Areas Photo Contest is looking for your best photograph in three categories: People, Wildife and Favourite Conservation Area. Visit **www.ontarioconservationareas.ca** for more info.





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						Canada Parks Day www.parksday.ca/eng/intro.html
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		1 Rest				



Economically, biodiversity helps to produce energy, supplies water to industry and our homes, contributes to timber, fisheries and recreation industries, provides food and much, much more. Clearly, biodiversity plays a direct and important role in rural and urban economies, and in our environment.

The term ecosystem services describes services that humans derive from ecological functions such as photosynthesis, oxygen production, and water purification.

The types of ecosystem services that forests, wetlands, plants, animals, birds and fish provide include:

- controlling flooding and erosion
- filtering water sources
- managing drought
- pollinating crops
- recharging our water sources
- providing valuable green space for us to enjoy
- storing carbon emissions

BIODIVERSITY CONTRIBUTES TO A **HEALTHY ECONOMY**

Did You Know?

Released in 2009, Natural Credit: Assessing the Value of Natural Capital in the Credit
River Watershed documents the millions of dollars in ecosystem services benefitting residents of the Credit Valley watershed each and every year and highlights the close connections between our economy and the environment.

www.greeneconomics.ca/natural-capital





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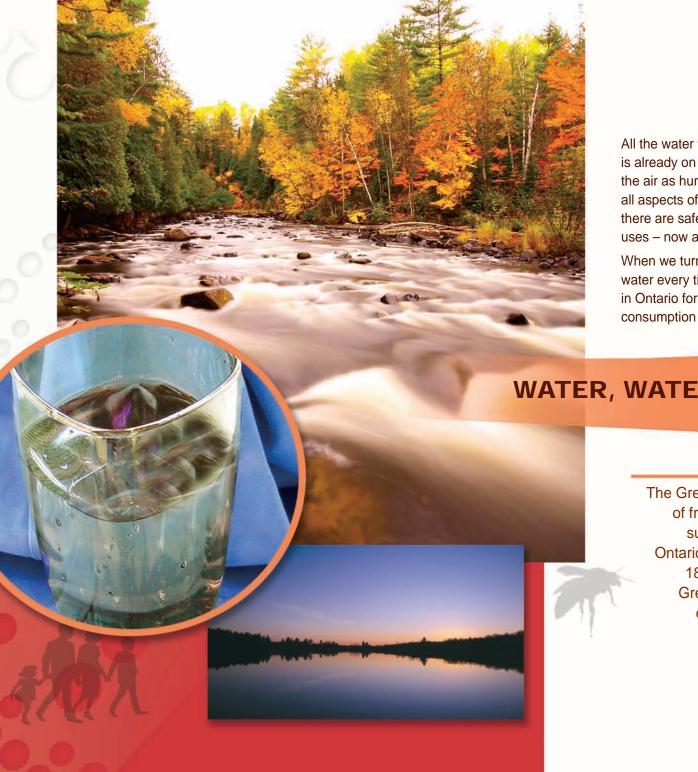
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All the water that has ever been or will ever be available, is already on the surface of the Earth, underground or in the air as humidity and precipitation. Water is critical to all aspects of our lives and it is important that we ensure there are safe and reliable sources of water for all our uses – now and in the future.

When we turn on our taps we expect clean safe drinking water every time. In reality water shortages are increasing in Ontario for a number of reasons including overconsumption and exploding population growth.

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE?

Did You Know?

The Great Lakes are the largest system of fresh, surface water on earth and supplies drinking water to most of Ontario's residents. It contains roughly 18% of the world's supply and the Great Lakes Basin is home to 90% of Ontario's population and 40% of Canada's economic activity.



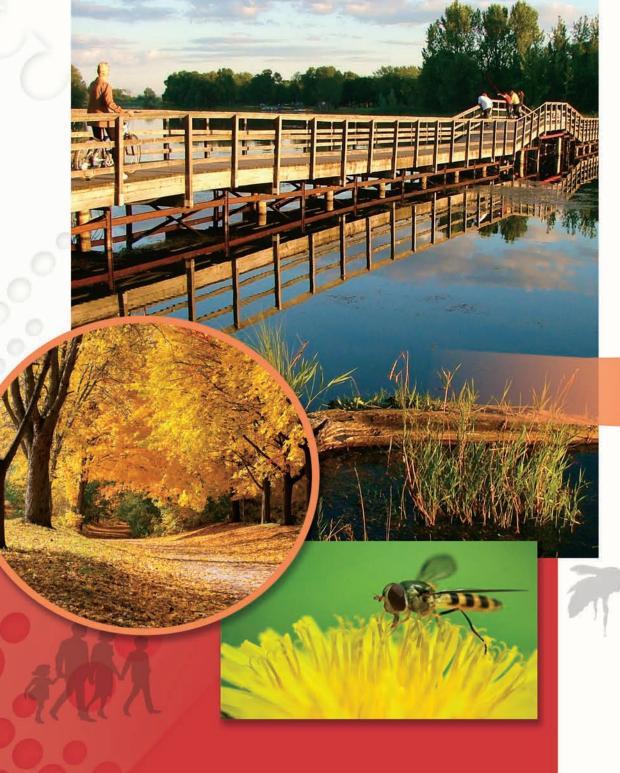
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4 ••	5 Labour Day	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 •	13	14	15	World Ozone Day	17
National Forest Week www.canadianforestry.com/html/ outreach/forest_week_e.cfm	19	20	21	Car Free Day www.worldcarfree.net/wcfd	23 Fall Begins	24
World Rivers Day www.worldriversday.bcit.ca	26	27	28	29	30	







Nature and biodiversity are everywhere including our cities and towns. We have parks, trails, wetlands, rivers, lakes, plants and wildlife to enjoy and appreciate. By connecting with nature around us we develop a greater appreciation for it, and desire to nurture and protect it. This is about living within a sustainable natural world.

How do we live sustainably with the natural world around us?

- get out and enjoy nature in our urban areas go for a hike!
- share your experiences with others
- support backyard initiatives, such as composts and wildflowers, that promote healthy biodiversity
- do your part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by walking and bicycling more
- get involved with organizations that protect nature
- support incorporating nature into urban planning

NATURE IN THE CITY

Did You Know?

Bees are the only insect in the world that make food for humans but to do so they must collect nectar from about 2 million flowers to make 1 pound of honey. Flowers in urban areas are one way to provide this resource for bees.



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A *species at risk* is any naturally-occurring plant or animal in danger of extinction or of disappearing from the province. Once classified as "at risk", species are added to the *Species at Risk* in Ontario List (*www.mnr.gov.on.ca*).

It is estimated that 30,000 species of plants and animals call Ontario home. With more than 190 of Ontario's wild species at risk, biodiversity is in trouble. Cumulatively, the loss of species can have a major impact.

Losing species destabilizes ecosystems and weakens their ability to deal with natural disasters such as floods, droughts and fire and with human induced stresses such as pollution and climate change. The good news is that together, we can protect and recover many of these species.

WHAT ARE **SPECIES AT RISK?**

Did You Know?

Nearly all Ontario's turtle species are at risk of becoming locally extinct, a tragedy that will severely diminish a once richly diverse community of reptiles. To get more involved or find more information about Ontario turtles, visit the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre's website.

www.kawarthaturtle.org



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20	World Fisheries Day www.gdrc.org/doyourbit/21_11-fisheries-day.html	22	23	24	25	26
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Climate change and biodiversity are closely linked. Climate change seriously threatens biodiversity – yet healthy and sustainable species and ecosystems can help us to adapt to climate change impacts.

In earlier times species had the flexibility to adapt their ranges to suit a changing climate. Today the adaptability of species is challenged by the speed of habitat loss and fragmentation all triggered by human activities. These cumulative impacts place biodiversity at risk and affect all living species, including us.

OUR CHANGING CLIMATE

Did You Know?

Conserving water, planting trees, shrubs and plants, restoring wetlands, and protecting natural areas are all simple actions that communities and landowners can take to strengthen local biodiversity and help to adapt to climate change impacts. Ontario's 36
Conservation Authorities (*www.conservationontario.ca*) ensure the conservation, restoration and responsible management of Ontario's water, land and natural habitats through programs that balance human, environmental and economic needs.



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25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve









CONSERVATION ONTARIO

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