

2009

for Local Solutions
GLOBAL CHALLENGES



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada



15th Anniversary

A.D. LATORNELL CONSERVATION SYMPOSIUM

2009



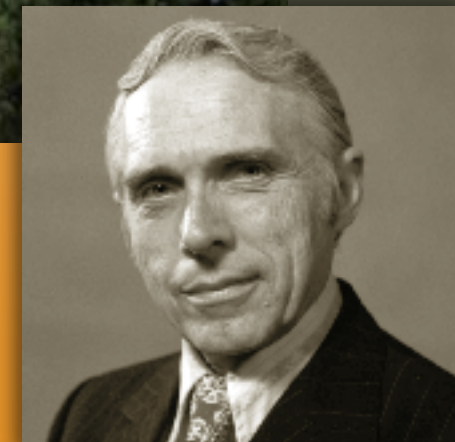
UNIVERSITY
of GUELPH

The theme of our 2009 calendar, *Local Solutions for Global Challenges*, looks at the impact that global environmental conditions are having on our local environment.

This calendar is printed in conjunction with the annual A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium, which recently celebrated its 15th Anniversary. This popular event offers a wonderful opportunity to people working within Ontario's environmental sector to network and share information about programs and policies in order to ensure a healthy environment and a better quality of life for people in Ontario.



2008 Young Conservation Professionals



**FORWARD THINKER &
DEDICATED CONSERVATIONIST**
(1923 - 1991)

The 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.



2008

DECEMBER

NOVEMBER 2008

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JANUARY 2009

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21 Winter Begins	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27 
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve			

 FULL MOON
  LAST QUARTER
  NEW MOON
  FIRST QUARTER

A GLOBAL LIFESTYLE – ADAPTING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AT HOME



Did You Know...

The **Canadian Youth Climate Coalition** is tackling the biggest challenge of our generation - the growing climate crisis. Acting locally, provincially, federally, and even on the global scene, these Canadian youth are campaigning for real action to be taken. Working in linked networks across the country, they are writing articles, making speeches and contacting politicians and other leaders to remind them of the important role they play in ensuring a healthy environment now and for the future. www.ourclimate.ca

There is an urgent need to explore new ways to help us and our environment adapt to the growing impacts of pressing global environmental challenges such as climate change, rapid growth, biodiversity and habitat loss, declining water resources and other critical stressors.

Everyone has the capacity to do something.

Conservationists deliver programs as well as track and monitor the conditions of our watersheds. Equally important, they communicate the science behind our environment so that we can make the important changes necessary to ensure our future.

At home, we can 'live smaller' by reducing how much we consume and by living more 'locally' (buying products and food that are produced closer to home).



Photo : Chris Lemieux, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

2009 JANUARY

DECEMBER

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FEBRUARY

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○ FULL MOON ☾ LAST QUARTER ● NEW MOON ☽ FIRST QUARTER

BENEFITS OF A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT



Photo: Chris Lemieux, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources



Did You Know...

Ecosystem services are “services that humans derive from ecological functions such as photosynthesis, oxygen production, water purification and so on” (Ontario’s Biodiversity Strategy 2005). The average value of all these goods and services, estimated world-wide, is **\$33 trillion US** per year. Some of the values are determined directly, e.g. sport fishing and others are determined by what it would cost to artificially replace the natural service, e.g. water storage and flood control.

The benefits of a healthy environment are obvious - clean water, clean air and better overall health.

But if we look closely we see these benefits multiply in sometimes unexpected ways. For instance, a healthy watershed can more easily adapt to extreme weather events – it can handle flooding, resist erosion and better protect the quality of drinking water sources. A healthy watershed is also able to store water for future uses such as agriculture and other natural resource economies. It improves opportunities for recreation and attracts tourism – which improves our health and our economy. These are only some of the many benefits we enjoy when we live in a healthy environment.



Photo: Chris Lemieux, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

2009 FEBRUARY

JANUARY

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1	2 Groundhog Day World Wetlands Day ramsar.org/wwd/wwd_index.htm	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 ○	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day Ontario Family Winter Fishing Weekend familyfishingweekend.com
15	16 ◐ Family Day Heritage Day	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 ●	26	27	28

PROTECTING OUR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE - WATER

We do not have an unlimited supply of water. All the water that has ever been, or will ever be available, is on the surface of the Earth, under the earth's surface or in the air as humidity and precipitation.

The water that we use today is recycled from the earth, to the air and back to earth in what is known as the water cycle. If we use too much water too quickly, before it can be replenished, we will face water shortages. Seasonal water shortages can become chronic water shortages if we don't take steps now to conserve.



Did You Know...

Drinking Water sources for Ontario's communities are protected under the *Clean Water Act*. By 2012, we will be required to have source protection plans in place that protect the quality and amount of water we have available in Ontario watersheds. Conservation Authorities and the Ministry of the Environment are bringing industry and the public together to find ways to protect this important resource.
www.cleanwaterforontario.ca

2009 MARCH

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15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 	19	20 Spring Begins	21
22 World Water Day worldwaterday.org	23	24	25	26 	27	28 Earth Hour earthhour.org
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 FULL MOON
  LAST QUARTER
  NEW MOON
  FIRST QUARTER

THE CHANGING ATTITUDE TOWARD CLIMATE CHANGE

All ecosystems and the people who live in them are being impacted by changes in our climate. Air pollution and greenhouse gases have significant long-term impacts to the health, social, economic and ecological well-being of Ontario.

The impacts of climate change include:

- Increases in average temperatures
- Drier conditions
- More frequent severe weather
- Lower Great Lakes water levels
- Greater evaporation rates creating water scarcities
- Decreased cold water fisheries
- Increased air pollution

Protecting our local watersheds can help to make our environment more resilient – tougher – and is one of the keys to adapting to climate change.



Photo: Adam McAllister, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources



Did You Know...

Allowing your shoreline vegetation to grow along a stream, pond or lake helps to keep the water clean and also provides important places for fish and other wildlife and insects to live. Plants such as cattails help to filter the water. Conservation Authorities, in partnership with other agencies such as Ontario Stewardship, work with landowners to protect the quality and supply of our water by helping them to implement easy, low cost solutions.

2009

APRIL

MARCH

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			1 April Fool's Day	2 	3	4
5 National Wildlife Week <i>nationalwildlifeweek.ca</i>	6	7	8	9	10 Good Friday	11
12 Easter Sunday	13 Easter Monday	14	15	16	17 	18
19	20	21	22 Earth Day <i>earthday.ca</i>	23	24 	25
26	27	28	29	30		

 FULL MOON
  LAST QUARTER
  NEW MOON
  FIRST QUARTER

LET'S CONSERVE OUR BIODIVERSITY, TOGETHER

We all benefit when we have a rich mix of wild plants, animals and their habitats in our environment. We call this natural variety "biodiversity". There is growing concern about the significant and rapid decline in biodiversity around the world - nature's "building blocks" are going missing at an alarming rate.

Although human activities play a big role in the disappearance of our natural biodiversity, we can also be part of the solution. The great thing about biodiversity is that everything is connected. We need to use our connections to make a positive difference in the fight to maintain biodiversity.

There are things we can do.

- Learn more about biodiversity and why it's important to a healthy environment.
- Provide a healthy habitat in your own backyard and neighbourhood by practicing 'good gardening'.
- Become a volunteer monitor - help us to keep an eye on the plants, birds and other wildlife.



Photo: Chris Lemieux, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources



Photo: Wasy Bakowsky, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

Did You Know...

Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy was developed by a broad spectrum of contributors in partnership with the Ontario government to help prevent the loss of diversity of Ontario's native plants, animals, birds, fish and insects, as well as the forests, wetlands, lakes and rivers they inhabit. Together these partners are working to protect and restore our rich biodiversity in the province. To learn more about biodiversity, visit the Ministry of Natural Resources' website at www.ontario.ca/biodiversity

2009 MAY

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3	4	5	6	7	8 	9 International Migratory Bird Day <i>birdday.org</i>
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 	18 Victoria Day	19	20	21	22 International Day for Biological Diversity <i>cbd.int/ibd</i>	23
24 	25 Energy Conservation Week <i>energyconservationweek.ca</i>	26	27	28	29	30
31						

STEP INTO NATURE



Did You Know...

More children today live in cities and away from our natural world. For many, a visit to a local nature centre for a formal instructor-led program is often their first encounter with the wonders of the natural environment. Conservation Authorities provide outdoor educational programming to approximately 400,000 students each year.

Conservation Areas are natural areas owned by Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities. There are over 400 Conservation Areas in Ontario altogether, and about 250 of these are easily accessible. Contained within them are a wide array of important natural features such as lakes, rivers and streams, wetlands, sand dunes, beaches, waterfalls, caves and forests – many that can easily be explored.

The vast majority of Conservation Areas offer family-friendly activities such as hiking, picnicking and fishing. Many have boating, sailing, canoeing, and a number offer swimming, camping, and mountain biking. Many are open year round and offer winter fun as well, including snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, downhill skiing and ice fishing.

Conservation Areas help connect people with their environment.

To find a Conservation Area near you, go to: www.ontarioconservationareas.ca



2009 JUNE

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31 National Environment Week <i>ec.gc.ca/cew</i>	1	2	3	4	5 World Environment Day <i>unep.org/wed</i>	6 International Trails Day
7 ○	8 World Ocean's Day <i>theoceanproject.org/wod</i>	9	10	11	12	13
14 Canadian Rivers Day <i>chrs.ca</i>	15 ◐	16	17	18	19	20
21 Father's Day Summer Begins National Aboriginal Day <i>ainc-inac.gc.ca/nad/</i>	22 ●	23	24 St. Jean Baptiste Day	25	26	27 Multiculturalism Day
28 Gay Pride Day <i>pridetoronto.com</i>	29 ◐	30				

FISH HABITAT IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS



Did You Know...

Canada is defined more by water than by land - we have extensive inland waterways, three vast oceans bordered by 244,000 km of shoreline and some of the largest aquatic ecosystems in the world. The Great Lakes support 25% of Canada's agriculture, 45% of Canada's industry and a fishery worth almost a half-billion dollars a year.

It is important that we protect the habitat that provides fish with clean water, spawning and rearing grounds, an adequate food supply and clear migration routes. In doing so, we safeguard sport and commercial fishing industries worth millions of dollars annually, provide aboriginal peoples a traditional source of food and income, and help protect our well-being by ensuring that the waterbodies around which we live, work and play are environmentally healthy and pleasant places to be. Fisheries and Oceans Canada works together with Conservation Authorities, Parks Canada, the Ministry of Natural Resources and other agencies to conserve and protect fish habitat across Ontario.






2009 JULY

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5 National Fishing Week <i>nationalfishingweekcanada.net</i>	6	7	8	9	10 Ontario Family Summer Fishing Weekend <i>familyfishingweekend.com</i>	11
12	13	14	15 	16	17	18 National Parks Day <i>parksday.ca</i>
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SPECIES AT RISK - NEED YOUR HELP

Wood Turtle - *Clemmys insculpta*



Photo: Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources



Did You Know...

The Ontario government's new *Endangered Species Act* is the gold standard in species protection. Under the new Act, the number of species receiving protection in Ontario has tripled. For example, many Provincial Parks, including Wasaga Beach are working to provide habitat for Species at Risk such as the Piping Plover. For more information about what the Ministry of Natural Resources is doing to protect species at risk and to learn what you can do to help, visit the Species at Risk website at: www.ontario.ca/speciesatrisk

A **species at risk** is a native plant or animal that is at risk of extinction or of disappearing from the province of Ontario. We are lucky to live in a province with lots of wild places and wild species. But there are signs that our natural systems - lands, waters, animals and plants - are in trouble.

The main threats to our native wild species and places in Ontario are:

- habitat loss;
- pollution;
- invasive species;
- over-harvesting.

As a result of the threats listed above, more than 180 of Ontario's wild species are at risk, that's over one-third of all the species at risk in Canada. The good news is that together, we can act now to protect and recover many of these species.

Piping Plover - *Chanadrius melodus*



Photo: enriquephotoart.com



2009 AUGUST

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SEPTEMBER

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9	10	11	12 International Youth Day	13 ◐	14 Black Out Day <i>blackoutday.ca</i>	15
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23	24	25	26	27 ◑	28	29
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THE NATURE OF STEWARDSHIP

Increasing temperatures associated with climate change create more drought and frequent severe weather resulting in flood and erosion problems as well as contributing to lower levels and flow in rivers, lakes, streams and groundwater.

Planting buffers and trees, setting land aside to protect important water recharge areas, protecting water quality through tree and shrub planting and protecting or restoring important wetlands are stewardship best management practices that can be implemented by organizations and landowners to make our environment more resilient.

Conservation Authorities, Stewardship Councils, landowners, and all levels of government work with many other local partners to plan and deliver a variety of stewardship initiatives.



Photo: Bob Florean



Did You Know...

Ontario Stewardship and its local community councils are involved in more than 600 projects each year, helping landowners manage natural heritage features, forests, wetlands, fisheries and wildlife habitat, and develop innovative agricultural practices. To become involved contact your local Stewardship Council or visit our website at www.ontariostewardship.org

2009 SEPTEMBER

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6	7 Labour Day	8	9	10	11	12 
13 Grandparent's Day	14	15	16 World Ozone Day uneptie.org/ozonaction	17	18 	19
20 Canadian Forest Week canadianforestry.com	21	22 Fall Begins Car Free Day carfreeday.ca Ontario Hiking Week hikeontario.com	23	24	25	26 
27 World Rivers Day worldriversday.bc.it.ca	28 Green Consumer Day	29	30			

WETLANDS ARE THE HEART OF OUR WATERSHEDS

The four main types of wetlands in Ontario are: marshes, swamps, fens and bogs. They are the most productive and biologically diverse habitats in the province. However, more than 70% of the wetlands in southern Ontario have been lost.

Wetlands are important because they:

- prevent flooding by storing water
- filter harmful contaminants out of water
- keep our water cycle flowing by recharging and discharging groundwater
- provide important habitat for animals and plants, including many species at risk
- provide recreational opportunities

How does Climate Change affect wetlands?

- wetlands shrink or disappear
- habitat for wildlife is degraded or lost
- the biodiversity of wetlands could decrease



Photo: Colin Jones, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources



Did You Know...

Wetlands found along the shores of the Great Lakes are part of a globally significant ecosystem that supports many globally rare species. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) and its wetland conservation partners such as Conservation Authorities, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and other organizations work to protect and restore wetlands.

To learn more about wetlands, visit: www.downatthepond.ca

2009 OCTOBER

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11 	12 Thanksgiving Day	13	14	15	16	17
18 	19 Waste Reduction Week www.canada.com	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 	27	28	29	30	31 Hallowe'en

 FULL MOON
  LAST QUARTER
  NEW MOON
  FIRST QUARTER

GREAT LAKES AND THE AMERICAN EEL

The American Eel is a “catadromous” species that spawns in the sea and lives in accessible freshwater, estuarine and coastal areas. Its Canadian range includes the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River system, up to Niagara Falls. This population has been in serious decline since the mid-1980s for many reasons, including barriers that block migration routes and cause turbine mortality, fisheries, and changing environmental conditions that threaten their habitat.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Ministry of Natural Resources, and Ontario Power Generation have implemented an action plan for reducing mortality at the Moses Saunders dam; one example of many inter-jurisdictional initiatives that are being implemented to address the decline.



Did You Know...

The American Eel ranges from northern South America to Labrador and Greenland and is considered to be a single population. American Eel migrate to a single area to spawn - the Sargasso Sea. Young larvae drift in ocean currents, then enter freshwaters to grow for up to 25 years. Every eel that migrates into the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario system matures into a female.





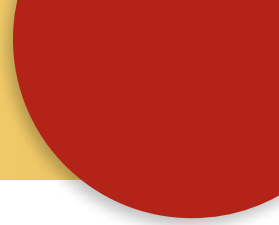
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DECEMBER

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8	9 	10	11 Remembrance Day	12	13	14
15	16 	17	18 A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium <i>latornell.ca</i>	19	20	21 World Fisheries Day <i>gdrc.org/doyourbit/21_11-fisheries-day.html</i>
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KEEPING AN EYE ON OUR WATERSHEDS



Did You Know...

Volunteers play a big part in watershed monitoring. For instance, Kawartha Weather Watchers, a volunteer group led by Kawartha Conservation, record temperature and precipitation at the same locations once every day. This group has been recording weather data for over ten years. The information is compiled in a database that reflects local weather patterns, and is used in subwatershed studies.

Monitoring the health of a watershed is important. It helps us to ensure a long-term supply of clean drinking water and healthy and diverse habitats for plants, insects, birds, fish and mammals.

In partnership, Conservation Authorities, Environment Canada, municipalities and the Province of Ontario monitor various watersheds throughout Ontario.

Monitoring helps us see early warning signs that the ecosystem is changing and helps us to adapt to the impacts of climate change - just another way we have of finding *local solutions for global challenges*.





DECEMBER

NOVEMBER

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				New Year's Eve		

 FULL MOON
  LAST QUARTER
  NEW MOON
  FIRST QUARTER



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Conservation Ontario Represents Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities
www.conservationontario.ca



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Protecting What Sustains Us
www.ontario.ca/mnr



Fisheries and Oceans
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Pêches et Océans
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The Ontario Stewardship Program represents 43 Stewardship Councils
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