



## NATURAL CHANNELS

Stream Corridor Management: Restoring our Natural Infrastructure

# 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Natural Channel Systems

Watersheds are a network of green infrastructure that include watercourses, wetlands, floodplains and uplands working together through diverse and intricate linkages to create and foster biodiversity. In these complex ecological systems, rivers and streams act as the corridor between important ecological spaces and are in themselves vital ecological features. The protection, restoration and naturalization of river corridors and their channel systems is a key component of any effort to manage watersheds and preserve biodiversity. Natural Channel Systems refer to the green infrastructure of river corridors themselves, including the active channel, riparian zone, floodplain and defined valley. Our understanding of the importance, complexity and interconnectedness of these natural channel systems continues to increase with the growing emphasis on protecting Canada's green infrastructure for both biodiversity and the quality of human life.

To promote the exchange of science and information on this important issue, we are pleased to announce a two-day symposium looking at the connections between biodiversity, stream corridors and watershed health, and the improved management of these interconnections through the practices of stream restoration and natural channel design.

This event is hosted by:

- Canadian Water Resources Association-Ontario Chapter
- Soil and Water Conservation Society
- Conservation Ontario
- American Fisheries Society-Ontario Chapter
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Date: **September 27 & 28, 2010**

Location: **Delta Meadowvale Resort and Conference Centre**

Website: [www.naturalchannels.ca](http://www.naturalchannels.ca)

## Who Should Attend?

This two-day Symposium is geared to practitioners, scientists, policy makers, and other stakeholders from government, conservation authorities, consulting firms and environmental organizations.

- Municipal staff from public works (development approvals, planning and operations) and community services such

as parks and recreation.

- Conservation Authority staff involved in stewardship, development approvals, and the design or approval of stream restoration projects.
- Consultants involved in development activities, and stream channel management projects on behalf of municipalities.
- Non-government organizations involved in community or other stream restoration projects.
- Provincial and federal staff involved in integrated watershed management and approvals/design of stream projects.
- Academics involved in the development of new science on streams and their corridors, relationships with watershed health and stream restoration.

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## Symposium Highlights

Presentations and interactive sessions that will:

- Feature **international speakers** who will provide insight into global initiatives regarding the management of Natural Channel Systems elsewhere.
- **Explore** Natural Channel Systems in the context of the larger watershed.
- **Discuss** various approaches to evaluating natural channels currently under stress as well as **examining** the potential for restoration of these systems.
- **Review** the relative success of completed Natural Channel System initiatives.
- **Showcase** tools for managing and designing Natural Channel Systems.

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International expert, Alastair Driver, National Conservation Manager for the Environment Agency, U.K. and expert on stream corridor restoration policies and programs will be one of our Keynote Speakers. We expect to be announcing other Keynote Speakers for the Plenary program shortly

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A “**Call for Abstracts**” will be distributed in January to enable us to fill the concurrent sessions with the best resources available.

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**PRELIMINARY PROGRAM AND REGISTRATION AVAILABLE SOON!**

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September 27 & 28, 2010 at the Delta Meadowvale Resort and Conference Centre in Mississauga, Ontario