

Canada's Waterscapes—Yours to Enjoy, Explore and Protect is the newest travelling exhibition that reveals Canada's diverse, complex and beautiful aquatic ecosystems. It is touring, during 2010 and beyond, to other museums and venues across Canada. The exhibition was produced by the *Canadian Museum of Nature* and its partners: *Parks Canada, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, RBC Blue Water Project, and Canadian Water Network.*

Canada is a nation of water. Each of the five types of Canada's aquatic ecosystems is represented through a special model where visitors can spot different aquatic animals and learn about the "featured creature". Audiences are encouraged to find out what it takes to understand and take care of Canada's aquatic ecosystems and to be inspired to take action to protect our ecosystems.

The exhibition highlights some of the Canadian Museum of Nature's scientific expertise. Kathy Conlan's underwater research examines ice scour effects upon benthic (bottom-dwelling) creatures in the Arctic Ocean. Jean-Marc Gagnon's studies of life in the depths of the St. Lawrence River reveal fascinating invertebrates that create burrows and tubes in which to live. Paul Hamilton explores what tiny organisms called diatoms can tell us about environmental change in lakes. And mussel expert André Martel lends his expertise to ensure a perfect re-creation of mussels that he studied in the Rideau River.

The exhibition also shares numerous stewardship stories about efforts being made by agencies such as Parks Canada, as well by individuals to help protect our delicate aquatic ecosystems.

The Canadian Museum of Nature's RBC Lecture Series is presented in conjunction with the Waterscapes travelling exhibition.

For information about Waterscapes and other exhibitions and programmes of the Canadian Museum of Nature, visit **nature.ca**.