

Registration for the 78th Annual Couchiching Conference • August 6-9, 2009 • Lake Couchiching, Ontario

Fax completed form to 416.495.8723.

Personal Information

Ms. Mrs. Miss Mr. Dr.

Name: _____

Position: _____

Company: _____

Mailing Address: Residence Business

Street: _____

City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone (Residence): _____

Telephone (Business): _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Emergency Tel. Number: _____

Accommodation

Part of Couchiching's charm is the informal atmosphere. Friendships abound during the weekend; from experience, we recommend sharing a room. For more information, contact the Couchiching National Office: 416.642.6374.

- Geneva Court (near dining hall / private bath)
- Geneva Lodge (next to Court / private bath)
- Alberta House (next to conference centre / shared bath)
- Single Shared

Name of preferred roommate: _____

Match me! I am <25 26-35 36-45 46-55 56+
Sorry, we can not guarantee building of choice.

Special Information

Mobility/Accessibility Information: _____

Geneva Park is a wheelchair-accessible venue with limited accessible bedrooms. Personal assistance is not provided.

Dietary Requirements: _____

Contact Us Questions? Contact the Couchiching National Office at 416.642.6374 • Fax 416.495.8723

E-mail: couch@couch.ca Web: www.couch.ca

2009 Membership Rates

- Student \$25.00
- Individual \$75.00
- Family \$100.00

Conference Fee – Early Bird until June 15, 2009

- Regular Member \$345.00 + \$17.25 GST = \$362.25
- Reg Non-Member \$500.00 + \$25.00 GST = \$525.00
- Student \$140.00 + \$7.00 GST = \$147.00
- Daily \$140.00 + \$7.00 GST = \$147.00

Daily Rate includes onsite fees and taxes.

Meals are available at added cost and can be purchased onsite.

Conference Fee – Regular Rates as of June 16, 2009

- Regular Member \$375.00 + \$18.75 GST = \$393.75
- Reg Non-Member \$530.00 + \$26.50 GST = \$556.50
- Student \$150.00 + \$7.50 GST = \$157.50
- Daily \$150.00 + \$7.50 GST = \$157.50

Daily Rate includes onsite fees and taxes.

Meals are available at added cost and can be purchased onsite.

Accommodation All room rates are per person and include meals.

- 3-nights shared \$475.00 + \$23.75 GST = \$498.75
- 3-nights single \$935.00 + \$46.75 GST = \$981.75
- 3-nights student \$275.00 + \$13.75 GST = \$288.75
- 1-night shared \$175.00 + \$8.75 GST = \$183.75
- 1-night single \$335.00 + \$16.75 GST = \$351.75

- Early Career Registration** ..\$500 + \$25.00 GST = \$525.00

Registrants should be under 30, no longer a student and new to the workforce. Price includes registration, conference materials, shared accommodation and meals. Register soon; space is limited.

Payment

Membership Fee _____
+ Conference Fee _____
+ Accommodation _____
= **Total Payment** _____

Cheque Mastercard Visa American Express
Card # _____ Expiry _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

Credit cards are processed under Base Consulting and Management Inc. GST #118 877 448. Payment must be made prior to the conference to secure accommodation.

To Register

Please complete the registration form and return it with your cheque (payable to the Couchiching Institute) or credit card information to:

The Couchiching Institute on Public Affairs

250 Consumers Road, Suite 301

Toronto, ON M2J 4V6

Tel: 416.642.6374 or 866.647.6374 • Fax 416.495.8723

You can also register online at www.couch.ca

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations must be made in writing.

No refunds issued after July 31, 2009.

Please note that substitutions are permitted.

Disclaimer

The YMCA Geneva Park Conference Centre is located on Lake Couchiching. During daytime hours, lifeguards are on duty in designated swimming areas. I understand that I take responsibility for my own actions and safety if swimming outside these areas/times.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

How To Get There

From Toronto: Take Hwy 400 N to Barrie to Hwy 11 N. Follow Hwy 12 S to Atherley Rd. Make a left on Rama Rd.

and drive for approximately 5KM to YMCA Geneva Park Conference Centre.

For directions from Ottawa and Montreal, please visit www.couch.ca.





THE GLOBAL POLITICS OF FOOD

Food is a basic building block of evolution and civilization. It lies at the heart of highly complex and political relationships. It nourishes and nurtures. It can also divide and destroy. Today's headlines are full of food issues: security and safety of production, the health costs of poor dietary choices, the growing number of the world's population without access to healthy and sufficient food. Among other hot topics—climate change and the environment, urbanization, corporate and government regulatory lapses—food emerges as a common thread, woven through most human concerns.

What are we to make of all this? We know enough to suspect that the enduring drought in Australia and the record number of farmers retiring in Canada will likely have some impact on our food choices and budget. But do we know enough to make far-sighted and wise decisions locally, nationally and globally to protect the world's present and future food supply? The economic and political upheaval currently playing out on the world's stages is a phenomenon long familiar to those thinking about food security. All aspects of food supply, from production and processing through distribution to consumption, are subject to the vagaries of supply and demand. But food economics can be an immediate matter of life or death, bounty or famine. It's time we caught up with this story.

We invite you to join us at the 2009 Couchiching Conference, where we will take a close look at the Global Politics of Food.

If this is your first visit to Couchiching, you're in for a uniquely intelligent and interesting experience. If you've attended a previous conference, you know you can count on a stimulating intellectual and social weekend among old friends and new. Couchiching is a crucible of provocative questions, creative ideas and divergent discussions that are the product of the collective contributions of all who attend. While you're getting an intense intellectual workout—moderated by eating, drinking, mingling and unwinding—you'll become part of a unique Canadian tradition. It's an experience to remember.

Thursday, August 6

2:00 Registration

5:00 President's Reception

6:00 Dinner

7:30 **Global Pressures That Will Shape the Politics of Food**



Opening Keynote Address:

Don Coxe, *global portfolio strategist, former general manager, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, and former general counsel, Canadian Federation of Agriculture*

Moderator: **Alan Pearson**, *president, Couchiching Institute on Public Affairs*

Long before he became known as a global portfolio strategist and the chair of Coxe Advisors LLC, Don Coxe was the general manager of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and general counsel for the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. He has watched closely as Canada's agricultural and food policies have evolved over the years since he was involved in developing them. Indeed, he has kept his eye on the world of food, food security and agriculture, and has been working with the University of Guelph to bring together academics, investors and policy makers to find solutions to today's food shortages. Drawing on his eclectic background and decades of experience, Don will open up the conference's discussions with a tour d'horizon, setting the global context and explaining Canada's role in feeding the world.

10:00 Evening Reception

Brian Gable, witty and talented cartoonist for *The Globe and Mail*, returns with his sketchpad to capture the essence of Couch '09 for posterity.

Friday, August 7

8:00 Breakfast

9:30 **Production and Cultivation: How Can the World Produce Enough Food to Go Around?**

The world's growing population increasingly collects in urban centres, presenting new challenges for food production. The Green Revolution of the 1950s and '60s allowed food production to expand exponentially, relying on fossil fuel fertilizers, pesticides and new methods of irrigation—technologies that have had an increasingly controversial impact on the environment and health. Can we feed the world and, if we can, under what conditions of production and within what political frameworks?

Speakers: **Harriet Friedmann**, *professor of sociology, University of Toronto*; **Ray Mowling**, *former president, Monsanto Canada*; and **Samy Watson**, *regional executive director, World Bank, and former Canadian deputy minister of agriculture and deputy minister of the environment*

Moderator: **Gwen Burrows**, *Couchiching Institute on Public Affairs*

12:30 Lunch

2:30 Discussion Groups

5:00 Reception and Dinner

7:30 **Distribution and Distortion: How Can We Get Enough Food to Everyone Who Needs It?**

This panel will look at global and local food distribution, trade systems and subsidies. If food is a right for all, what are the implications for our current food pricing and distribution systems? How do we ensure everyone has access to food at a reasonable cost?

Speakers: **Alex McCalla**, *Agricultural and Resource Economics, UC Davis*; **Jennifer Clapp**, *The Centre for International Governance Innovation*;

Glen Hodgson, *senior vice-president and chief economist, Conference Board of Canada*; and **Eric Reguly**, *columnist, The Globe and Mail Report on Business*

Moderator: **David McGown**, *Couchiching Institute on Public Affairs*

10:00 Evening Reception

Saturday, August 8

8:00 Breakfast

9:30 Food Safety and Regulation: How Safe Is Safe Enough?

What is government's role in food safety and regulation? How should that role fit with business interests, in the context of government's choices about acceptable risks? What is an acceptable risk for the consumer, and how much mitigation is reasonable to expect from government? What are the health consequences, intended or not, to treating food as an industrial product? So many questions, and a whole morning to examine them all.

Speakers: **Ronald Doering**, partner, *Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP*, and former president, *Canada Food Inspection Agency*; **Rory McAlpine**, vice-president, *Government and Industry Relations, Maple Leaf Foods*, and former *British Columbia deputy minister of agriculture*; and **Pat Mooney**, executive director, *ETC Group*, and *biotechnology and biodiversity consultant*
Moderator: **Sara Sarkar**, *Couchiching Institute on Public Affairs*

12:30 Lunch and General Meeting of Members

3:30 Discussion Groups

5:00 Reception and Dinner

*The Couchiching Conference is
a work in progress.
Check www.couch.ca regularly for
updates and reading lists.*

7:30 The Politics of Diet: How Can We Strike the Right Balance?

The food we consume affects our health, our cultural identities, our ethical commitments and, for some, our political beliefs. In North America, the issue of food consumption has become increasingly fraught, with the rise of obesity and constant concern about what we can or should eat. Yes, we have seen a rise in organic foods and vegetarianism, and the slow food movement places food at the centre of human activity, but the consumer still has a seemingly unlimited appetite for convenience and low prices. Can there be a happy medium?

Speakers: **Richard Ellis**, senior vice-president, *Communication and Corporate Affairs, McDonald's Canada*; **Debbie Field**, executive director, *Foodshare Inc.*; and **Galen G. Weston**, executive chair, *Loblaws*
Moderator: *To be confirmed*

10:00 Evening Reception

Sunday, August 9

8:00 Breakfast

9:30 Presentation of the Annual Couchiching Award for Excellence in Public Policy Leadership to the Honourable Lincoln Alexander

Each year, we present the Couchiching Award for Public Policy Leadership to a nationally recognized Canadian who has demonstrated a particular kind of leadership: someone who has made an impact in public policy for Canada or for a community, often in the face of public opposition. We are extremely proud to present the 2009 Couchiching Public Policy Award to the **Honourable Lincoln Alexander**—Canada's first black Lieutenant Governor and first black member of Parliament—for his lifelong work toward the creation of a socially just, diverse society.

10:00 The Future of Food(s): What Will Our Children Eat? Climate change, overfishing, pollution, urbanization: our ability to feed the world is under attack and the future availability of some foods is uncertain. How do we protect the most vulnerable people and the most vulnerable sources of nourishment? What political and social levers can we use to respond to these challenges, and what political pressures will make it difficult to do so? This last panel of the conference will circle back to some of the questions we asked in the very first panel and project them into the future.
Speakers: **Ian Burton**, environmentalist, *University of Toronto*; **Emrul Hasan**, *PLAN Canada*; **Susan Walsh**, executive director, *USC Canada and Seeds of Survival*
Moderator: **Danielle Martin**, *Couchiching Institute on Public Affairs*

12:00 Checkout and Lunch

1:00 The Global Politics of Food: What Now?



Closing Keynote Address: **Carol Off**, journalist, co-host of *CBC Radio's As It Happens* and author of *Bitter Chocolate: Investigating the Dark Side of the World's Most Seductive Sweet*
Moderator: **John Gregory**,
Couchiching Institute on Public Affairs

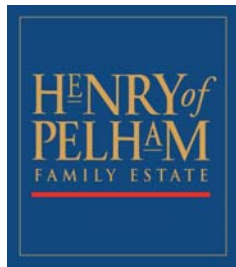
In *Bitter Chocolate*, Carol Off followed the bean from the cocoa farms of rural Africa to the candy counters of North America, a story that touches on almost every aspect of food production: protests over rising prices, child labour and trafficking, multinational corporations and fair trade. Having investigated the corruption and human rights abuses associated with the multimillion-dollar cocoa industry, and having listened keenly with an expert ear to the weekend's discussions, Carol will draw the disparate threads of all our conversations together and sum up.

In true Couchiching fashion, by the end of the conference, you will have been challenged by creative, bright and unusual ideas and you will have contributed some of your own. After three days of provocative questions, lively discussion and divergent positions, you will have made new connections—both intellectual and social—and will return to your regular life both enlightened and befriended. Indeed, you may leave with many questions still unasked, but you'll have many new perspectives on which to draw to find answers. And we will have fulfilled our mission: to make sure that each of us—speaker, moderator and delegate—leaves at the end of the weekend sated, with new perspectives and challenging ideas to ponder.

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as of May 11, 2009



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YMCA Geneva Park, Orillia, Ontario