



A2A

Algonquin to Adirondacks
Collaborative

2025 Symposium Program



Welcome to the A2A Science Symposium!

On behalf of the entire A2A Collaborative, we extend a warm welcome to each of you gathered here in Clayton for the third Biennial A2A Symposium. It is inspiring to see so many dedicated individuals – researchers, conservationists, policymakers, and community members – coming together to focus on the vital work of protecting the Algonquin to Adirondacks (A2A) corridor.

Your presence here underscores a fundamental truth: in a time of unprecedented challenges to Canada and U.S. cooperation, and accelerating biodiversity loss, the need for collaboration in conservation has never been more critical. While political divides may grow, wildlife and ecosystems remain unbound by borders— yet they are profoundly impacted by the policies and decisions made on both sides.

At A2A, we strive to adopt the perspective of the wildlife we serve: transcending boundaries, connecting landscapes, and uniting those committed to protecting biodiversity. This mission is at the heart of this symposium.

We know the program is packed with insightful sessions, and the reality of concurrent presentations means you might have to make

some tough choices! To that end, we will be doing our best to collect audio recordings and presentation slides for as many sessions as possible to share with all attendees after the symposium concludes.

Your feedback is incredibly important to us as we look towards the future. **We would be grateful if you could share your thoughts in our feedback form.** Your insights will shape the program and direction of the 2027 A2A Symposium in Ontario.

Thank you for your commitment, your passion, and your willingness to contribute to the important work of enhancing and protecting this critical wildlife corridor. We hope to continue working with you and look forward to an inspiring symposium of learning and collaboration!

Towards a more connected future,



Jessica Lax
A2A Executive Director

Thursday April 10th

Pre-Symposium Activities

Optional Afternoon Field Visits

We are excited to share this part of the A2A corridor with you. If you did not register for a field visit, but would like to join, please reach out to jess@a2acollaborative.org to see if there is space. Please come prepared for the weather and with clothing and shoes adequate for hiking. In the case of inclement weather, check your email for any last-minute changes.

Road Ecology Field Visit + Hike

Details: 1:00-3:30 pm

Join Kate Cleary to visit and learn about three sites along Route 11 that A2A's road ecology research indicates could be valuable wildlife underpasses. Following this, get a first-hand look at the A2A corridor with Spencer Busler at Thousand Island Land Trust's Crooked Creek Preserve with a group hike on the scenic 3-mile Macsherry Trail. Please note that the drive from the Harbor Hotel to the road ecology sites and Macsherry Trail is 20 minutes.

Indian River Lakes Conservancy Hike

Details: 1:30-3:30 pm

Join Heidi Sourwine, John Davis, and Bill Brown at the Indian River Lakes Conservancy's Redwood Lakes Preserve, a critical core area of the A2A corridor. We'll start with a visit to the Trailside Learning Center to learn about the area's unique ecology. We'll then hike along the 1.2-mile trail, where you'll experience the wetlands that are vital to the region's biodiversity. Note: You must have your own transportation.

Evening Welcome Reception

Details: 5:00-7:00 pm, [Harbor Hotel](#), Pre-function space outside the ballroom

Join us for an evening of networking and connection with fellow attendees over hors d'oeuvres at the Harbor Hotel. Drinks will be available for purchase. There is an additional \$10 ticket for this event, with the option to pay at the door.

Friday April 11th

A2A Science Symposium

AGENDA

- 8:00 **Registration:** Continental Breakfast, Poster, and Exhibit Set-up
- 9:00 **Land Acknowledgement:** Emily Conger, Executive Committee A2A
Welcome: Kate Cleary, Board President, A2A Collaborative and SUNY Potsdam
Ken Knapp, Town of Clayton

- 9:15 **Birds of a Feather Connection Exercise:** Jess Lax, Executive Director, A2A

- 9:30 **Keynote:** Erin Sito, JD, U.S. Public Policy Director, Wildlands Network

Erin will emphasize the vital role that local science and community engagement play in preserving large, interconnected landscapes. By combining scientific research with grassroots efforts, we can create sustainable conservation strategies and policies that are both effective and durable, regardless of which way the political winds may shift.

- 10:15 **Coffee Break**

- 10:35 [Concurrent sessions I](#)

*Session descriptions on the following pages

- Animal Movement (Hosted in Grindstone)
- Protecting Forests (Hosted in Calumet)
- Decolonizing Conservation (Hosted in Murray)

- 12:10 **Lunch (Located in Grindstone)**

Optional Roundtable Discussions:

- Phragmites control: Ally Belanger & Megan Quinn, Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Conservation challenges from a planning perspective: Samuel Joseph, Saint Lawrence County Planning Office
- A2A trail and its role in conservation: John Davis & David Miller, A2A Board Members
- Land Trusts - challenges and opportunities: Jake Tibbles, Thousand Islands Land Trust
- Cougar restoration - Emily Carrollo, Panthera

- 1:30 [Concurrent sessions II](#)

*Session descriptions on the following pages

- Road Ecology (Hosted in Grindstone)
- Mapping Connectivity (Hosted in Calumet)
- Transboundary Simulation (Hosted in Murray)

3:00 **Coffee Break, Poster Sessions, and Exhibit Area (Exhibit Hall)**

3:50 **Learning to Action, Closing, and Feedback Form:** Jess Lax, Exec. Director, A2A

4:30 **End of Day**

Concurrent Sessions I

10:35 - 12:15 pm

Animal Movement	Room: Grindstone
Moderator: John Davis , A2A Board Member	
<p>Nadia Steinzor - Rewilding Institute <i>Challenges & opportunities for wolves arriving in the Northeast</i></p> <p>Jonathan Cole - Concordia University <i>Habitat Amount, Fragmentation, and Connectivity in the Adirondack-to-Laurentians (A2L)</i></p> <p>David Kramer - New York Department of Environmental Conservation <i>Moose movement in the Adirondacks</i></p>	

Protecting Forests	Room: Calumet
Moderator: Alex French , A2A Board Member	
<p>Alex French - Climate Action Reserve <i>Carbon markets and A2A forests</i></p> <p>Stevie Luzzi - Wahkohtowin Development GP Inc. <i>Wisdom in the Understory: The Role of Culturally Important Plants in Ontario Forest Management</i></p> <p>Natalie Gates - Thousand Islands Land Trust <i>Strategic conservation and reforestation in the A2A</i></p> <p>Brittney Rogers - The Nature Conservancy <i>CLAW initiative working on invasive species and forest restoration in the A2A</i></p>	

Decolonizing Conservation	Room: Murray
Moderator: Jess Lax , A2A Executive Director	
<p>Yanik Rozon - River Institute <i>The River Strategy: Facilitating connection for a beautiful and healthy St. Lawrence River, guided by the Two Row Wampum Approach</i></p> <p>Elena McCulloch - Wahkohtowin Development GP Inc. <i>Two-Eyed Seeing Approach to Research and Conservation</i></p> <p>Savanah Muller - Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network <i>Parks Canada Ecological Corridor Project in the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Region using a Two-Eyed Seeing and an Ethical Space Approach</i></p>	

Concurrent Sessions II

1:30 - 3:00 pm

Road Ecology	Room: Grindstone
Moderator: Kate Cleary , A2A Executive	
<p>Kari Gunson - Eco Kare International <i>Best practices for turtle crossings on Ontario Highways</i></p> <p>Kate Cleary - A2A & SUNY Potsdam <i>Road ecology research on the US side of the A2A</i></p> <p>Ryan Danby - Queen's University, Right to Roam Report <i>A2A's Right to Roam Report with recommendations for Hwy 401, County Rd. 2, and the Thousand Islands Parkway</i></p> <p>Doug Balmer - Arup <i>What engineers need most from road ecologists</i></p>	

Mapping Connectivity	Room - Calumet
Moderator: David Miller, A2A Board Member	
<p>Jeff Bowman - Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources <i>Recently developed landscape connectivity maps for Ontario, Canada, and North America, and a connectivity indicator for the Ontario Parks and Protected Areas network.</i></p> <p>Phillip White Cree - Clarkson University <i>Historical Indigenous movement pathways - aquatic connectivity</i></p> <p>Bill Brown - A2A <i>Wildlife corridor mapping in the A2A</i></p>	

Transboundary Simulation	Room - Murray
Moderator: Jessica Lax, A2A Executive Director	
<p>Curt Gervich - SUNY Plattsburgh <i>Flood Resilience in a Transboundary Watershed: explores the dynamics of flood mitigation and climate adaptation in a transboundary waterway such as the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence or Lake Champlain Basins. Participants will work together to manage complex, cross-border challenges and build consensus around a regional environmental management strategy. This role play simulation is built on the work of the International Joint Commission's transboundary water resource work in the A2A region, and offers a unique opportunity to explore the challenges inherent in science-based policy making and action.</i></p> <p>Max: 20 people</p>	