

NEWS RELEASE: January 16, 2006

Public invited to hear US Groundwater expert speak at University of Toronto's Munk Centre at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 19, 2006.

The Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation is proud to sponsor Professor Robert Glennon, the Morris K. Udall Professor of Law and Public Policy, University of Arizona College of Law in a public talk on January 19th, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. at the Munk Centre, University of Toronto. Professor Glennon is the author of WATER FOLLIES: GROUNDWATER PUMPING AND THE FATE OF AMERICA'S FRESH WATERS (Island Press, 2002). Margaret Atwood's review of this book says: "If you want to scare yourself silly, read Water Follies by Robert Glennon. In it you'll learn how America is irrigating itself to death- just like the Sumerians- while sucking its groundwater aquifers dry."

Professor Glennon sketches the culture of water use in the United States, explaining how and why we are growing increasingly reliant on groundwater. He uses examples of the Santa Cruz and San Pedro rivers in Arizona to illustrate the science of hydrology and the legal aspects of water use and conflicts. Following that, he offers a dozen stories - ranging from Down East Maine to San Antonio's River Walk to Atlanta's burgeoning suburbs - that clearly illustrate the array of problems caused by groundwater pumping. Each episode poses a conflict of values that reveals the complexity of how and why we use water. These poignant and sometimes perverse tales tell of human foibles including greed, stubbornness, and especially, the unlimited human capacity to ignore reality.

The Munk Centre's Vivian and David Campbell Conference Centre is located at 1 Devonshire Place (corner of Devonshire and Harbord -one block east of St. George).

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Or

Munk Centre's Vivian and David Campbell Conference Centre
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