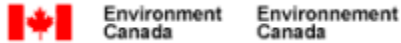


Environment Canada



May 02, 2009 10:15 ET

### Canada's Environment Minister Announces Support for Waterloo Region Conservation Project

CAMBRIDGE, ONTARIO--(Marketwire - May 2, 2009) - Canada's Environment Minister, the Honourable Jim Prentice, announced today support for ecological restoration work through rare Charitable Research Reserve's Land Stewards Project.

"Our government is proud to support community groups across the country, which are taking action through on-the-ground environmental projects that help to preserve and enhance the quality of Canada's natural heritage," said Minister Prentice.

The government is providing \$40,000 for the work, through Environment Canada's EcoAction Community Funding Program. Under the Land Stewards Project, a total of 14.6 hectares of cropland in an ecologically sensitive area will be restored through the planting of native species, and measures will be taken to protect 4.2 km of shoreline on the Grand River. Also, 30 nesting structures will be installed to encourage the nesting of swallows and eastern bluebirds. Monitoring activities will also be completed to determine the most suitable restoration options. These activities will help to educate stewards on how to sustain the project into the future.

"Waterloo Region has been one of the fastest growing urban areas in the country in recent years, which makes it all the more important that ecologically sensitive areas are identified and protected," said the Honourable Gary Goodyear, Minister of State (Science and Technology) and Member of Parliament for Cambridge. "I am pleased that our community is undertaking important initiatives such as the Land Stewards Project and I am proud that our government is supporting community groups such as the rare Charitable Research Reserve."

"We are delighted to be able to show Minister Prentice what the support from the EcoAction Community Funding Program is allowing us to accomplish with the Land Stewards Project," said Keith Ainsworth, chair of rare Charitable Research Reserve's board of directors. "From tree planting and wildlife habitat

creation, ecological monitoring, and stewardship initiatives, to helping build the Reserve's profile within the community, it all helps in the conservation of this environmentally invaluable landscape."

More information about the EcoAction Community Funding Program is available on Environment Canada's website at the following address:  
[www.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction](http://www.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction).

(Egalement offert en francais)

## BACKGROUND

### ECOACTION COMMUNITY FUNDING PROGRAM'S SUPPORT TO RARE CHARITABLE RESEARCH RESERVE'S LAND STEWARDS PROJECT

Environment Canada's EcoAction Community Funding Program is a key initiative for community-based action for a cleaner and healthier environment. The program provides funding for projects in communities across the country that have measurable, positive impacts on the environment. Funding through this program promotes the participation of local communities to help address clean air, climate change, clean water, and nature issues.

The EcoAction Community Funding Program provides funding for projects that protect, rehabilitate, or enhance the natural environment, or build the capacity of communities to sustain these activities into the future. Funding support can be requested for projects that have an action focus, a community capacity building focus, or a combination of both objectives. Hundreds of EcoAction Community Funding Program projects are currently underway or have been completed across Canada.

In Waterloo Region, funding is being provided to the rare Charitable Research Reserve's Land Stewards Project, a two-year initiative that began in October 2008. This project encourages stewardship through the restoration of two sites at the rare Charitable Research Reserve. A total of 14.6 hectares of cropland in an ecologically sensitive area will be restored through the planting of native species, the creation of a vegetative buffer and riparian habitat, and measures will be taken to protect 4.2 km of shoreline on the Grand River. Thirty nesting structures will be installed to encourage the nesting of swallows and eastern bluebirds. Monitoring activities at both sites will be completed to determine the most suitable restoration activities and help to educate stewards on how to sustain project activities into the future.

Applicants to the Eco-Action Community Funding Program must ensure that at least 50 per cent of the total value of their project comes from sources other than the federal government. This leveraging can take the form of either

financial or in-kind resources such as volunteered labour, products, or services. Partner funding and other support broaden the scope of projects, improve on-the-ground results, and strengthen the public and private collaboration that is essential to involving all Canadians.

More information about the EcoAction Community Funding Program is available on Environment Canada's website at the following address:  
[www.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction](http://www.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction).

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