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## ONTARIO'S LIVING LEGACY FACT SHEET

*Ontario's Living Legacy* is the most comprehensive natural heritage program in provincial history. In November 2000, Mike Harris, Ontario's Premier, announced funding of more than \$100 million to expand *Ontario's Living Legacy* into a province-wide initiative. That funding is being used to:

- Enhance protection, conservation and recovery efforts for species at risk in Ontario,
- Fund more youth programs and resource stewardship jobs for young people,
- Protect and enhance fish and wildlife, and their habitats,
- Acquire more natural areas in southern Ontario, and
- Regulate new parks and protected areas.

*Ontario's Living Legacy* highlights to date:

- More than \$14 million has been spent to acquire and protect more than 2,000 hectares of ecological lands.
- 129 of 378 parks and protected areas have been regulated.
- Work is under way on nine Signature Sites including the Great Lakes Heritage Coast, Kawartha Highlands, Nipigon Basin, and Nagagamisis.
- Initiatives are under way to construct *Living Legacy* Landmarks across the province. Projects include a partnership with the Canadian Canoe Museum in Peterborough to build an Outdoor Learning Centre and work is under way for four new Visitor Centres along the Great Lakes Heritage Coast.
- More than \$4 million has been spent on projects and partnerships to protect, conserve and recover species at risk. Recovery plans are being developed for more than 20 species at risk in Ontario, including the Wood Turtle, Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake and "Forest Dwelling" Boreal Woodland Caribou.
- Five more endangered species have been regulated, increasing the number protected under Ontario's *Endangered Species Act* to 29.
- \$20 million has been spent to provide more than 4,000 natural resource stewardship jobs for young people.
- Over 300 projects were completed last year to enhance Crown land recreation opportunities, such as hunting and fishing. More than 200 fish and wildlife projects are currently under way.
- The *Living Legacy* Trust has invested more than \$14 million in 50 natural resource management projects, such as far North forestry development and forest employment

opportunities.

- A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed to negotiate Resource Stewardship Agreements between the forest and resource-based tourism industries.
- The Ontario Forest Accord Board - a historic partnership of the forest industry, the environmental community, and the Ontario government - has developed a sharing principle to direct the use of increased forest resources in the future.

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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