



For Immediate Release

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Earth Day Canada Community Environment Fund Awards \$230,708 to Ontario Environmental Projects

14 organizations and schools to benefit from grants funded by Sobeys Ontario

(Mississauga, ON) - Eleven communities across Ontario will become a little greener as their environmental projects receive support from the Earth Day Canada Community Environment Fund. Sobeys Ontario and Earth Day Canada (EDC) launched the fund in the spring 2009. Fourteen organizations in eleven communities in Ontario will receive funding totaling \$230 708 to support environmental initiatives in their communities, in this latest funding round.

“We are delighted with the sophistication and ability to address local environmental needs that these projects demonstrate,” said Jed Goldberg, President of Earth Day Canada. “The work of these organizations will hopefully inspire others toward environmental action as well, thereby enhancing the health of their communities.”

Since its launch in June 2009, the Earth Day Canada Community Environment Fund has supported 36 projects with grants totaling \$608,652. Projects include environmental education programs, community gardens, native tree planting, outdoor learning centre’s, water and energy conservations programs and sustainable food production. A complete list of organizations and their projects from Spring 2010 is available below.

“Over the last year, we’ve seen many remarkable and environmentally sustainable projects come to life with support from the Earth Day Canada Community Environment Fund,” said David Jeffs, President Operations, Sobeys Ontario. “We look forward to seeing the progress and impact the next 14 projects as they gain momentum and strive to make a positive impact on the environment.”

The Earth Day Canada Community Environment Fund was launched in June 2009 to provide financial support to community-based environmental initiatives and create opportunities for grassroots not-for-profit organizations and local schools to develop sustainable projects to foster environmental education and action across Ontario. The Earth Day Canada Community Environment Fund is accepting applications for the next round of grants with an August 31, 2010 deadline. For full details, visit www.earthday.ca/envirofund.

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About Earth Day Canada

Earth Day Canada (EDC), a national environmental charity founded in 1990, provides Canadians with the practical knowledge and tools they need to lessen their impact on the environment. In 2004 it was recognized as the top environmental education organization in North America, for its innovative year-round programs and educational resources, by the Washington-based North American Association for Environmental Education, the world's largest association of environmental educators. In 2008 it was chosen as Canada's "Outstanding Non-profit Organization" by the Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication. EDC regularly partners with thousands of organizations in all parts of Canada. www.earthday.ca

About Sobeys Inc.

Sobeys Inc. is a leading national grocery retailer and food distributor headquartered in Stellarton, Nova Scotia. A wholly-owned subsidiary of Empire Company Limited (TSX:EMP.A), Sobeys owns or franchises more than 1,300 stores in all 10 provinces under retail banners that include Sobeys, IGA, Foodland, FreshCo, Price Chopper and Thrifty Foods, as well as Lawtons Drug Stores. Sobeys Inc. is committed to providing the most worthwhile experience for its customers, employees, franchisees, suppliers and shareholders. For more information on sustainability initiatives at Sobeys Inc. please visit www.sobeyscorporate.com.

Earth Day Canada Community Environment Fund Grant Recipients (Spring 2010)

All Saints Catholic Elementary School, Unionville ON (<http://www.ycdsb.on.ca>)

Project: All Saints CES Outdoor Classroom Oasis

All Saints Catholic School will expand the school's current outdoor classroom by incorporating a shaded pavilion, butterfly garden, walking paths and seating. The project will increase biodiversity by planting native trees, shrubs and flowers to attract wildlife, birds and insects. The shaded learning area and garden will be used to complement the Ontario science and technology curriculum in all grades.

The Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto, Downsview ON (www.trca.on.ca)

Project: Aquatic Plants Program

The *Aquatic Plants Program* will engage over 4 000 students in planting over 16 000 aquatic plants. Classes from grades three to 12 will receive a kit enabling the students to grow native aquatic plants in their classrooms. In the spring, students will travel to local wetland restoration sites, transplant their plants and participate in outdoor educational activities. The program will improve the water quality of streams, rivers and lakes in the Greater Toronto Area and educate students about the value and function of wetland ecosystems.

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Credit Valley Conservation Foundation, Mississauga ON (www.creditvalleyca.ca)

Project: Conservation Youth Corps

Conservation Youth Corps (CYC) will provide week long volunteer work-terms, stewardship opportunities and educational programming to 250 high school-aged youth over the summer. Students will gain hands-on experience and knowledge about issues of climate change, loss of habitat, biodiversity and sustainability. In the spring and fall an additional 1 000 students will participate in the *CYC High School Tree Planting Program*, where they will plant trees and participate in curriculum-linked education sessions.

École Pavillon des Jeunes, Belle River ON (www.csdecso.on.ca)

Project: Projet Vert en Plein Air

Projet Vert en Plein Air will add an outdoor learning pavilion and three educational stations to the École Pavillon des Jeunes school yard greening improvement project. The educational stations include a meteorological station, sundial station, and butterfly and bird station. The project includes a comprehensive plan to link the initiative to the Ontario curriculum for junior kindergarten to grade eight.

Ecology Ottawa, Ottawa ON (www.ecologyottawa.ca)

Project: No Energy to Waste!

No Energy to Waste! will help Ottawa community service agencies like Shepherds of Good Hope and Causeway Work Centre cut the carbon footprint of their buildings and reduce their environmental impact. As part of the process to cut energy use, Ecology Ottawa will conduct comprehensive energy audits on eight buildings and work closely with each agency to implement conservation actions. This will result in approximately 290 tonnes of reduced greenhouse gas emissions, through the conservation of 978 600 KWh electricity and 30 660 m³ natural gas, and net a total of \$68 000 in energy cost savings per year.

EcoSpark, Toronto ON (www.ecospark.ca)

Project: Our Green Schools Initiative

The Toronto District School Board will install 9 renewable energy projects at schools across Toronto, ON in the 2010-2011 academic year. The *Our Green Schools Initiative* will ensure the projects are utilized as a learning opportunity within the schools, larger community and throughout Ontario. EcoSpark will produce a teacher toolkit for elementary schools and support five secondary school groups in the development of a documentary on the installation of each of the renewable energy types. The toolkit and documentaries will be used to raise awareness about renewable energy and its potential in Ontario, and will be available to schools and school boards across the province.



Elephant Thoughts, Collingwood ON (www.elephantthoughts.ca)

Project: The Watershed Series

The Watershed Series is designed to promote wetland and water conservation, as it pertains to a variety of locally sensitive environmental sites, to elementary students from a total of 42 classes in 16 schools across the Georgian Triangle. Students will explore the interdependence of living things; understand ecosystem reliance on watersheds; touch and hold live reptiles; test local water for pollutants; use interactive aquifer water tables to discover stresses on aquifers; and witness demonstrations such as creating a raincloud in the classroom.

Friends of Howard Public School Trust, Toronto ON (www.imaginehoward.com)

Project: Howard Public School Greening and Learning Garden

Howard Public School will create a dynamic and interactive learning garden and outdoor classroom to engage students and the local community. The project will facilitate learning connections between behaviour and the environment; create an outdoor classroom to study natural systems, environmental processes and impacts; increase biodiversity through the plantings of native species; and provide habitat and food for native birds and insects.

The Jewish Nature Centre of Canada, Toronto ON (www.kavanahgarden.org)

Project: Kavanah Garden Native Pollinator Project

The *Kavanah Garden Native Pollinator Project* will consist of four designated spaces in the Centre's current Kavanah Garden that will be planted with native nectar and pollen producing species. Included in the project plans are four wheelchair accessible garden beds, the levelling and widening of garden pathways and the laying down of patio stones around the raised beds. Educational programming and signs will accompany the project. The project will be fully accessible to community members.

Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation, Manotick ON (www.rvca.ca)

Project: City Stream Watch

The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation will work with community volunteers to conduct habitat surveys of local waterways and participate in stewardship activities that include fish sampling, stream surveys, riparian plantings, stream garbage clean ups, and the removal of invasive species. *City Stream Watch* will improve the water quality and the fish and wildlife habitat of Ottawa region's smaller creeks, which affect the quality of larger aquatic systems.

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Rouge Valley Naturalists, Scarborough (www.rougevalleynaturalists.com)

Project: Little Rouge Woodland Restoration and Diversification Project

The *Little Rouge Woodland Restoration and Diversification Project* will re-establish native trees and shrubs on six acres of open space between existing woodland fragments along the riparian corridor of the Little Rouge River. The project, which includes community-based learning opportunities, will restore native self-sustaining flora; native species; wildlife habitat; natural conditions; riparian cover; woodlands; and enhance natural buffers. In addition to restoring forest cover in the river corridor, the project will help combat the spread of invasive species.

San Romanoway Revitalization Association, Toronto ON (www.srra.ca)

Project: San Romanoway Ecoliteracy Program

The *Ecoliteracy Program* is a sustainable food production and education program for youth and seniors in the Jane-Finch community of Toronto, ON. Participants will learn about food production, composting, water saving, local agriculture and healthy cooking while engaging in hands-on activities. Participants will plan and prepare a garden, plant and maintain crops, install rain barrels to capture and measure rainfall, and complete the program by harvesting and cooking fresh foods.

Wild at Heart Refuge Centre, Lively ON (www.wahrefugecentre.org)

Project: Education Trail & Outdoor Classroom

The Wild at Heart Refuge Centre's *Education Trail and Outdoor Classroom* project will incorporate elements of the Ontario curriculum to teach students and the community about wildlife, ecosystems, food systems, native flora and fauna, environmental interactions, soil and composting, and animal life cycles. Project features include an aboriginal themed outdoor classroom; birdhouses; a pond; a compost and insect colony; a vegetable and fruit garden; a butterfly and insect garden; and native tree and shrub plantings.

Willow Springs Creative Centre, Kaministiquia ON (www.willowsprings.ca)

Project: Restoring Our Roots

Restoring Our Roots will re-establish land as habitat at the Centre with the help of a diverse range of community volunteers. Project plans include the re-establishment of a neglected pond; the cleaning of a 75 year-old dump site; the building of a walking path; the creation of a butterfly garden, including a designated area for milkweed to re-establish the Monarch Butterfly in the area; the construction of a dozen accessible, raised garden beds for community use; and the planting of native plant species that include willows and fruit-bearing trees and shrubs.



For media inquiries, please contact:

Keith Treffry
Director, Communications
Earth Day Canada
416.599.1991 x 107 keith@earthday.ca

Tracy Chisholm
Director, Communications and Corporate Affairs
Sobeys Ontario
905-671-5308 Tracy.chisholm@sobeys.com