



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rewarding community-based environmental energy

Calgary, November 19, 2003:

Alberta Ecotrust partners met recently to allocate some critical dollars to a diverse group of community organizations working hard in their communities to make an environmental difference. Fourteen groups from Bearspaw to Buffalo Lake will benefit from the final funding round of Ecotrust grants for 2003.

Seed funding went to some new groups like the recently formed Rocky Mountain Eagle Research Foundation to monitor the Rocky Mountain migration of Golden Eagles and other birds of prey. A small grant went to the Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement to develop an education program to teach community members about a new waste minimization system on the settlement.

Another successful applicant was the Calgary Inter-Faith Community Action Association's plan to promote sustainable living practices to faith communities in Calgary. "The purpose of the "Renewing the Sacred Balance" project is to mobilize broad-based support in the faith communities to "tread gently on the earth", states Rev. Bill Phipps of Scarboro United Church. "With the support of Alberta Ecotrust we will hold a series of workshops and training sessions over the next 12 months. The workshops will highlight the universality of a spiritual motivation behind caring for our earth as well as provide concrete ways we, as individuals, can make a difference," adds Phipps.

The Calgary Inter-Faith project is a bit of a leap of faith for the foundation. "Most of our dollars go to environmental groups working on environmental projects," says Pat Letizia, executive director of Alberta Ecotrust. "Calgary Inter-Faith's project was new to our traditional range of funding applications. We found their plan to increase educational opportunities fit with our mission to build awareness of the environment as a cornerstone of a healthy community", added Letizia.

Alberta Ecotrust grants are made possible by the collaboration and financial support of concerned corporations, individuals and the environmental NGO sector. Since 1992, the Alberta Ecotrust has injected over \$3.3 million into Alberta community organizations working to preserve our environment. More information on Alberta Ecotrust grants, partners and approved projects can be found on www.albertaecotrust.com or by calling 209-2245 in Calgary.

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Partners of Alberta Ecotrust:

Alberta Native Plant Council; Alberta Wilderness Association; Alliance Pipeline Ltd.; Anadarko Canada Corporation; ATCO Group; Banff Environmental Action and Research Society; BP Canada Energy Company; Canadian Nature Federation; Canadian Pacific Railway; Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society; EnCana Corporation; ExxonMobil Canada Ltd.; Federation of Alberta Naturalists; Global Environmental and Outdoor Education Council; Nexen Inc.; Peace Parkland Naturalists; Petro-Canada; RBC Foundation; Red Deer River Naturalists; Sierra Club – Prairie Chapter; Society of Grasslands Naturalists; Southern Alberta Environmental Group; Suncor Energy Foundation; TransCanada PipeLines Limited

Approved Projects: November 2003:

Organization	Project Title / Description	Amount
Bird Studies Canada www.bsc-eoc.org/bscmain.html	The <i>Raptor Nest Card</i> project will entail compilation and analysis of information that has been collected by volunteers throughout the province regarding raptor nests. Results expected include a better understanding of habitat use, productivity, and timing of nesting, which will help with status assessment and management.	\$7,150
Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement	With the implementation of a new recycling system in the settlement, the BLMA will be helping to educate community members about the new waste minimization system. This will include developing educational materials, writing articles for the weekly newsletter and giving public presentations regarding the new system.	\$2,000
Calgary Inter-Faith Community Action Association www.calgary-interfaith.ab.ca	<i>Renewing the Sacred Balance</i> consists of a series of educational workshops with various faith communities in Calgary. The project utilizes resources created through the "Faith and the Common Good" national organization and the David Suzuki Foundation and will engage citizens through local examples of sustainable practice.	\$10,000
Canmore Economic Development Authority www.canmorebusiness.com	The Natural Step is a sustainability program developed in Sweden that has been successfully applied in corporations and communities in nine different countries. A community coordinator will engage the municipality, local businesses, organizations, and private citizens in the <i>Natural Step to Sustainable Canmore</i> .	\$9,400
Cedarbrae Elementary School Council	Through the development of a schoolground naturalization, the group aims to increase student's awareness, knowledge, interest and commitment to the protection and preservation of the environment.	\$5,000
Clean Air Foundation www.switchout.ca	"Switch Out" is a partnership with the Recycling Council of Alberta and the Clean Air Foundation. They will implement a mercury switch collection program with the Alberta auto recycling sector.	\$20,000
Federation of Alberta Naturalists www.fanweb.ca	As part of the updating of the <i>Atlas of Breeding Birds of Alberta</i> , FAN will coordinate, support and place Bird Atlas volunteers in remote areas of the province.	\$10,000
Friends of Bearspaw Education Society	This naturalization project includes natural seating areas, learning locations, bird feeding site, and composting stations. It is a unique project in that it incorporates the naturalization area with the play structures as new creative play equipment will be integrated into the large naturalized area.	\$5,000
Lethbridge Naturalists Society http://marlenelacey.com/lns/	The <i>Castle Rare Plant Survey</i> will focus on areas that have not been previously surveyed. This rare plant survey will increase the knowledge of this diverse ecosystem at the landscape level and should lead to more effective management of vulnerable systems within the Castle area.	\$5,000
Oldman River Basin Water Quality Initiative www.oldmanbasin.org	A unique partnership with the ORBWQI and the community of Wilson Middle School in Lethbridge will result in a naturalized area in the schoolyard. The focus of this naturalization is on water conservation, xeriscaping and the water life cycle.	\$3,300
Rocky Mountain Eagle Research Foundation www.eaglewatch.ca	The RMERF will continue monitoring the migration of Golden Eagles and other birds of prey through the Front Ranges of the Rocky Mountains. They will also raise public awareness of this unique story through public presentations and expansion of their website.	\$15,000
Safe Drinking Water Foundation www.safewater.org	Through a series of workshops the group will share new and existing knowledge of environmental protection of drinking water sources as well as environmentally friendly techniques to treat compromised water sources in native communities across Alberta.	\$10,000
Science Alberta Foundation www.sciencealberta.org	SAF will extend the reach of their outstanding environmental education resources to schools and community organizations across the province by replicating their "Enviro-Files II", "Wetside Story", and "Wading through Wetlands" crates.	\$15,000
Sierra Club – Chinook Group www.sierraclubchinook.org	The Suburban Sprawl Primer will include a brochure, a website, and community presentations which will help Calgarians understand how they might grow their city in a sustainable manner.	\$17,750