



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FINALIST FOR AWARD FROM GREY, BRUCE, HURON AND PERTH AREA

Waterloo, November 4, 2003 – The Sydenham Conservation Foundation is one of only four finalists in the environment category for an Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) Great Grants Award. The 2003 finalist was announced today by Bob Pringle, Chair of OTF Grant Review Team for the Grey, Bruce, Huron and Perth area.

“OTF grants help outstanding organizations like the Sydenham Conservation Foundation achieve great results,” said OTF Board Chair, Robert G. Power. “OTF, through Great Grants Awards, applauds the commitment of countless volunteers in Ontario and thanks them for the lasting results they are achieving in our communities.”

Our fresh water supply is the envy of most countries. For the Sydenham Conservation Foundation, it makes this resource even more valuable. To stop water wastage, the Foundation is rallying together municipal and local conservation groups, educational, industrial and agricultural agencies, and government organizations.

One of its main awareness-raising initiatives, the Grey Bruce Clean Water Festival, reaches over 2500 children, youth and adults each year. “The festival is all about changing the attitudes of our young people about water,” said Murray Smart, Treasurer and CAO of the Sydenham Conservation Foundation. “We hope that by reaching them in their formative years, they and their successors will become conscious of the conservation of this precious resource.”

The Great Grants Awards honour organizations across Ontario that demonstrate strong leadership and remarkable vision for their communities. The Grey Bruce Clean Water Festival is among 16 exceptional initiatives selected across the four sectors funded by OTF.

Since April 1999, the Ontario Trillium Foundation has made more than 6,900 grants totaling over \$424 million to charitable and not-for-profit organizations in Ontario. “OTF grants clearly benefit the communities where the money is granted,” explained Pringle, “they also strengthen, all across Ontario, each of the four sectors OTF funds: arts and culture, sports and recreation, environment, and human and social services.”

On November 20, at a special evening ceremony in Toronto, the Great Grants Awards 2003 will honour four organizations whose projects have made a lasting impact in their communities. Two special awards will also be presented. The Minister’s Award will recognize the grant recipient whose project produced the most significant impact across the province. The Chair’s Award will

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honour the organization that best exemplifies the vision of the Foundation to build healthy, caring and vital communities that meet diverse needs.

The Great Grants Awards are made possible through the support of the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation. The Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, receives annually \$100 million of government funding generated through Ontario's charity casino initiative.

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Attached:

- List of the 16 finalists for the OTF Great Grants Awards 2003
- OTF Great Grants Awards 2003 fact sheet

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