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***Celebrating 25 Years of Wildlife Habitat Conservation
Célébrant 25 ans de conservation des habitats fauniques***

WHC Presents 2009 National Stewardship Awards

Calgary, July 11, 2009 — Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC) has presented six national stewardship awards as part of WHC's continuing efforts to promote good stewardship of Canada's forests and agricultural lands. The award presentations for the Forest Stewardship Recognition Program and the Countryside Canada Recognition Program were made at the National Stewardship Conference in Calgary, Alberta.

"Wildlife Habitat Canada is proud to contribute to the recognition of Canada's stewardship leaders," says Len Ugarenko, President of Wildlife Habitat Canada. "These national awards have increased public awareness about the need to promote good stewardship practices and to protect Canada's biodiversity in our forests and on our agricultural lands."

Since 1998, the Forest Stewardship Recognition Program has been helping to raise awareness of sustainable forestry practices and biodiversity conservation in Canada's forests. The 2009 Forest Stewardship award winners are:

- Galiano Conservancy Association, Galiano Island, B.C.;
- Donna Cansfield, Ontario's Minister of Natural Resources; and,
- Elmer, Peter and Andrew MacKay, owners of the MacKay woodlands in Lorne, Nova Scotia.

The Countryside Canada Stewardship Recognition Program, established in 2000, recognizes the exceptional stewardship efforts of farmers, ranchers and rural landowners. The 2009 Countryside Canada award winners are:

- Dylan and Colleen Biggs, owners of TK Ranch, east-central Alberta;
- Land Stewardship Centre of Canada, Edmonton;
- Ernie Ewaschuk, a lifelong proponent of stewardship from St. Albert, Alberta.

WHC and its partners believe that these national stewardship awards help provide motivation for the continual improvement of resource and land management practices across Canada. In this way, WHC's Forest Stewardship and Countryside Canada awards are contributing to the health and abundance of Canada's wildlife habitat.

Additional information about the Forest Stewardship award and the Countryside Canada stewardship award is available at <whc.org> or contact:

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Patron of Wildlife Habitat Canada
Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean,
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Governor General of Canada

Présidente d'honneur d'Habitat faunique Canada
Son Excellence la très honorable Michaëlle Jean,
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Gouverneure générale du Canada