

Government grants help groups preserve the environment

If you're a teacher, Scout leader, member of an environmental group or a landowner and you want to help clean up our environment but need money and resources to get started, here's a few helpful programs:

Environmental Partners Fund
The Government of Canada is committed to environmental clean-up, but we all must be involved in the solution. Every Canadian can get involved through his or her local community organizations, with the help of the Partners Fund.

The federal government has allocated \$50 million over five years to fund efforts by community groups tackling local environmental problems.

The Fund provides 50 per cent of the total cost of a project, up to \$200,000 over three years.

Innovative community-oriented ideas are sought for projects that will protect, preserve, enhance and restore the environment.

Good projects for the Partners Fund might include cleaning up a local lake or stream, composting neighborhood waste, recycling programs, or setting up household hazardous waste depots.

Service clubs, community organizations, environmental and youth groups are eligible.

If you are not a member of one of these types of groups but have an idea you may organize a group and apply to the program.

Proposals will be screened for eligibility and reviewed for merit, excellence and degree of partnership. Recommendations for funding will be made by an appointed selection committee in your region.

For more information write: Environmental Partners Fund, Environment Canada, Ottawa, K1A 0H3.

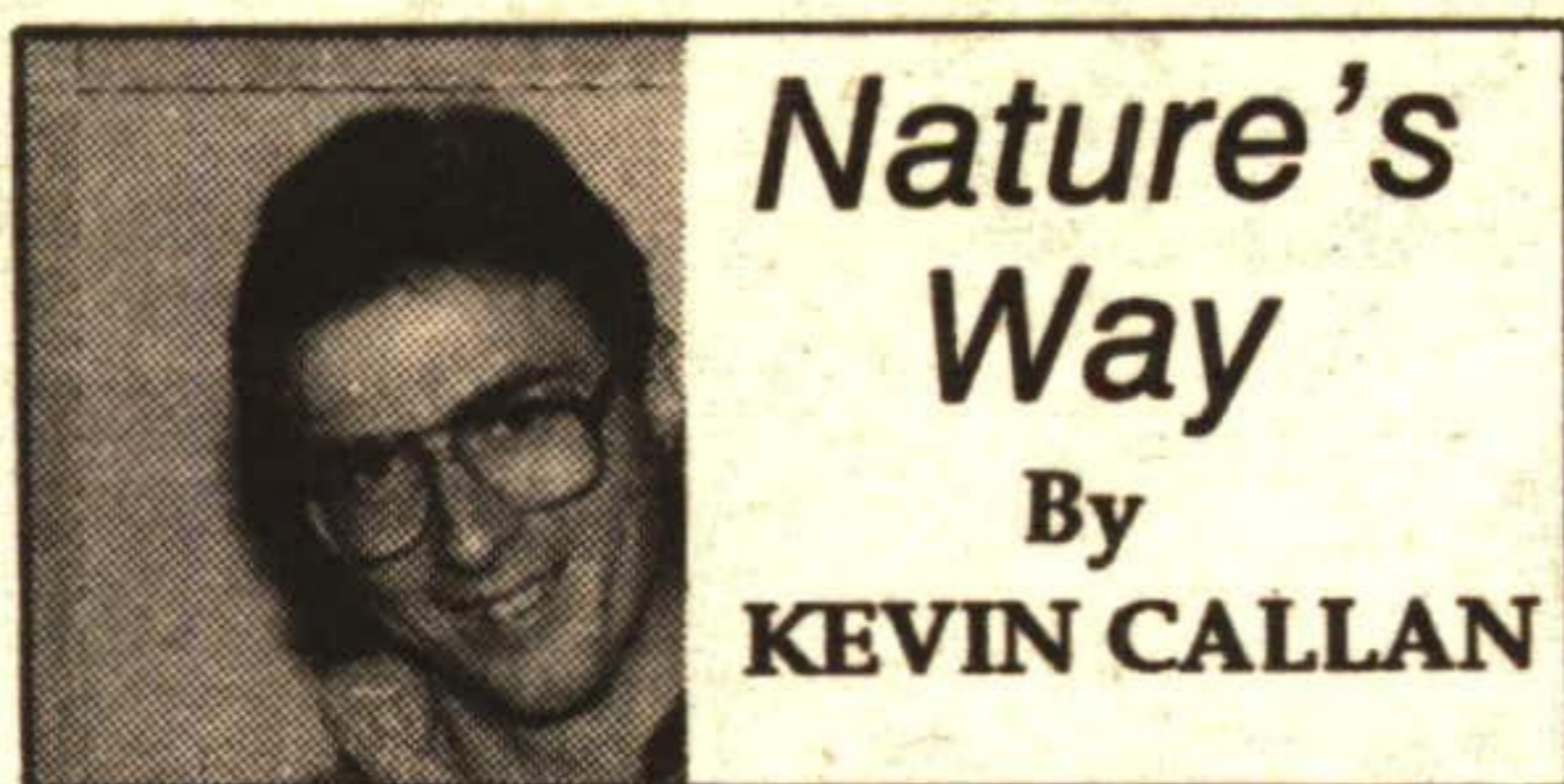
Community Wildlife Involvement Program (CWIP)
The Community Wildlife Involvement Program (CWIP) is your opportunity to participate in hands-on wildlife management. By developing a unique, volunteer project that will increase the number and diversity of our wildlife and improve opportunities for outdoor recreation you can obtain assistance from the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR).

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources will provide expertise, equipment and materials for approved CWIP projects. Everyone in Ontario has the opportunity to volunteer his or her time and ideas.

You can participate in CWIP as an individual or as a group member. Because the range of possible projects are broad, CWIP looks for proposals from landowners, sportsmen's groups, naturalists' groups, cottagers' associations, agricultural groups, trappers' councils and youth groups such as Guides, Scouts and 4-H Clubs.

Pick up your application for a CWIP project or phone the CWIP representative at a ministry district office (Cambridge District is for Halton 519-658-9355). Projects that are approved will receive funding to cover the cost of equipment and materials used by volunteer workers.

To be eligible for funding, your project must conform to CWIP objectives and comply with local MNR district's wildlife management objectives. CWIP will consider any project that contributes to the improvement of the numbers, habitat or management of wildlife. It should be kept in mind that an important criterion in evaluating proposed projects is that the public must benefit directly or indirectly from CWIP projects. Some examples are: viewing tower construction, wetland management, songbird enhancement, brushpile construction, building nesting islands and creating wildlife openings.



Nature's Way
By
KEVIN CALLAN

CWIP gives more than just aid to wildlife, but a public sense of stewardship so essential to maintain our wildlife heritage.

Habitat 2000
The Canadian Wildlife Federation has developed a program

entitled 'Habitat 2000' to help enhance wildlife habitat before the year 2000. School groups can receive up to \$200 for equipment such as nest box materials, trees and shrubs or even chest waders to help clean a community river. Plans have been set to expand the

Habitat 2000 program towards concerned people who just simply want to enhance their own backyard for wildlife habitat.

For more information contact the Canadian Wildlife Federation 613-623-1065.

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