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Paddling for a cure

In an effort to raise money for breast cancer research and education two local women, Ruth Knight-Bowes (left) and Susanna Hunter, plan to participate in the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation's Paddle to a Cure this summer. The women, who are seeking pledges, will paddle Northern Ontario waters for several days in kayaks. See story pg. 3. Photo by Ted Brown

Province adds 97 local hectares to protected lands list

Three Halton Hills properties were among the 11 purchased across the province recently for protection and preservation under Ontario's Living Legacy program.

Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh announced Wednesday the Ontario government purchased the ecologically significant Terra Cotta forest—a 39-hectare parcel to be added to the Terra Cotta Conservation Area, a 40-hectare parcel addition to the Bruce Trail in the Speyside area that contains the provincially significant Halton Escarpment Wetland Complex, and a 15.7 hectare property, or 800-metre section of the Bruce Trail, in the Limehouse area.

The Halton purchases, which totaled more than \$900,000, were funded through the Ministry of Natural Resources' Natural Areas Protection Program.

"Buying these properties places them under protection so they can be enjoyed by our children and generations of Ontarians to come," said Chudleigh.

"While I fully support fiscal and program reforms, I believe that our environmental record, particularly our commitment to property protection, will ultimately be the most significant legacy of our government."

Prior to 2001 four other Halton properties were purchased under the program, two of those in Halton. They were 2.6 hectares at Terra

Cotta Conservation Area and a 1.5 km section of the Bruce Trail in the Limehouse area.

In the past year the Ontario government purchased 11 properties across the province totaling 242.5 hectares.

Since the inception of the program in 1999 \$10 million has been spent on property purchases.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

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