

New legislation protects both species and habitat

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pieces of legislation have failed.

SARA protects both the species and its habitat, and it will do that by working with all levels of government.

"The concept I think is an excellent one," Mr. Hutton said. "It is very competitive with provincial programs as well as programs at local level. This plan is very complimentary to Conservation Halton's 'Inspired by Nature' plan."

The government also wants to protect the country's 340 species at risk by creating stewardships with landowners.

"We recognize that governments alone can never recover species at risk, and that recovery plans can only be implemented fully with major grass-roots support," Dr. Ewins said.

Dr. Ewins said it is rare that landowners don't want to protect Canada's at risk

"We are protecting species not found anywhere else in the world."

ANTHONY WESTENBERG

species. He cited 'Operation Burrowing Owl' — in which landowners from Alberta and Saskatchewan saved the creature from extinction — as a successful stewardship.

"No one wants to be the reason why a species goes extinct," said Anthony Westenberg, a policy and communications analyst for the Canadian Wildlife Services in Hull, Quebec.

When voluntary means fail, the federal government will offer compensation.

"Protecting species is everyone's responsibility and nobody should be asked to bear an unfair part of the land," stated a press release from Environment Minister David Anderson.

The government will offer compensation by way of money or tax breaks.

While not all the details are hammered out, Mr. Westenberg said the government has the authority to stop people from endangering species at risk.

"We are protecting species not found anywhere else in the world," Mr. Westenberg noted.

When Canada loses one species there is a danger that another species will also die. And then there is the human loss as well.

Mr. Westenberg said there's a plant that grows only in Canada and can be used to take away some of the pain of childhood leukemia.

"Imagine if that species were wiped out. We don't know what we are missing. We share this planet with everything else, we can't just pave over it."

But protecting species doesn't mean stopping progress.

"Legal protection of core habitat does not mean that all development in that habitat must stop. I means development must occur in a manner that is consistent with the survival of the species," Dr. Ewins said.

Mr. Westenberg said what the government does to save each species depends on the species itself.

An action plan will be initiated to determine how best to save species at risk.

"The four organizations (the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners, the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association and WWF that support the legislation) believe that the federal government investment must foster many initiatives to recover wildlife at risk of extinction," Dr. Ewins said.

"Such an investment would not only protect Canada's wildlife, but also ensure a lasting natural legacy for Canadians as we head into the new millennium."

For copies of Canada's Plan for Protecting Species at Risk: An Update visit Environment Canada Green Lane website at www.ec.gc.ca or call 1-800-668-6767.



The Peregrine falcon is considered endangered and its habitat is threatened.

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REGION OF HALTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING HALTON'S DRAFT AQUIFER MANAGEMENT PLAN

If you live in Milton, Halton Hills or the north parts of Oakville and Burlington your drinking water comes from underground aquifers. Groundwater also provides our streams with much of their baseflow. Halton Region, in co-operation with other government agencies has developed an Aquifer Management Plan to provide for the long term management and protection of the Region's groundwater resource. Halton Regional Council is presently seeking comments on the Region's proposed Draft Aquifer Management Plan.

Public meetings on Halton's proposed groundwater strategy will be held as follows:

Where: February 16 — GEORGETOWN — Town of Halton Hills Council Chambers (Maple Avenue) — 7:00 to 9:00 PM (Presentation at 7:30 PM).
February 17 — MILTON — Hugh Foster Hall (adjacent Town Hall) — 7:00 to 9:00 PM (Presentation at 7:30 PM).

For more information contact:

Steve Holysh at 905-825-6161.
From Acton (519) 853-0501 x 7134.
From Georgetown (905) 878-8113 x 7134.



www.region.halton.on.ca

Halton watershed rich with features

Conservation Halton's watershed includes 948 square kilometres of land drained by 17 watercourses that flow into Lake Ontario.

The natural environment of the watershed includes many unique features:

- A major section of the world-renowned Niagara Escarpment is situated in the watershed complete with many geological features.
- More than 25 per cent of the watershed is covered by forest which is impressive for its Golden Horseshoe location.
- The watershed is rich in cultural and archaeological resources. The Crawford Lake site, with its reconstructed Iroquoian Village is the nucleus of a 25-year study that includes more than 100 nearby native settlements.
- The watershed includes remnants of the Carolinian Forest Zone, the richest vegetation zone in Canada. This zone includes 50 per cent of Ontario's rare, threatened and endangered species of plants and animals.

Dateline

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Grace Anglican Church offers **Religions of the Word** for eight consecutive weeks at 7:30 p.m. For details call 878-2411.

The **Internet Career and Employment Research Program** is a free two-week course to help people find a job. Interested people must attend tonight's orientation session and sign-up at the Human Resources Centre in Milton. For further information call 681-1140, ext. 230.

'Our Public Face — The Tip of the Iceberg' is the topic of the Bereaved Families of Ontario's Share and Support Night at 7 p.m. at 190 Britannia Rd. E., Unit 11, in Mississauga. For more information or questions, call (905) 507-2200 or visit the group's website at bereavedfamilies.org

'Discover with Me' is a program to help children learn about the earth and the environment using hands-on activities. The program runs from 1 to 3 p.m. and is available to children aged 3-and-a-half to 5 years old.