



Media Release

LASALLE RECOGNIZED FOR PROTECTING ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT

Nov 15th 2016, LaSalle, ON

For Immediate Release

Carolinian Canada Coalition and Wildlife Preservation Canada are pleased to announce that the **Town of LaSalle** has recently been awarded a '**Carolinian Canada Conservation Award**' for its work to protect regionally significant endangered species habitat in Canada's Carolinian Life Zone.

The Carolinian Canada Conservation Award recognizes those who help to save the unique nature of this special ecoregion. Recently, 8 awards were presented at an event in Toronto by the Carolinian Canada Coalition (CCC). They were selected from an outstanding slate of candidates nominated by Carolinian Canada members and partners across the zone. The Town of LaSalle was nominated by Wildlife Preservation Canada (WPC) for its work to secure the **LaSalle Woods Environmentally Significant Area (ESA)**, a critical step in the ongoing effort to protect endangered species habitat in Carolinian Canada.

LaSalle Woods is a ~100ha protected area in the Town of LaSalle which supports a range of habitats including Carolinian forest and globally imperilled tallgrass prairie, and is home to several Species at Risk reptiles, plants and insects. The Town of LaSalle, in partnership with others, has played a key role in the protection and acquisition of the natural area, through a combination of 'Natural Heritage' zoning and outright acquisition. LaSalle continues to work with conservation partners, such as Wildlife Preservation Canada, to recover endangered species and their habitats within the ESA (Figure 1), thus enhancing the ecological function and health of this significant natural area.

And all that hard work is paying off; this past July the LaSalle Woods, as part of a larger area (i.e., the 23.5 km² Ojibway Prairie Complex and Greater Park Ecosystem), was granted national recognition for its role in protecting habitat for Canadian reptiles and amphibians, many of which are Species at Risk.

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Fig. 1: Cameron Chevalier, a LaSalle youth bitten by a rattlesnake in 2013, poses at LaSalle Woods in front of a Massasauga awareness sign installed by Wildlife Preservation Canada, in partnership with the Town of LaSalle and Toronto Zoo.

About Carolinian Canada Coalition

Carolinian Canada Coalition (CCC) is a registered charity that brings together diverse groups and individuals to advance a collaborative conservation strategy for healthy ecosystems and thriving communities in the Carolinian Life Zone. Stretching from Toronto to Windsor, Canada's Deep South is among North America's most vibrant and fragile ecoregions.

Carolinian Canada is honoured to recognize the passion and dedication of these conservation heroes. We thank everyone who nominated this year and helped on the awards committee. We know that there are many more Conservation Heroes out there. Do you know someone who makes an outstanding contribution to biodiversity in the Carolinian Life Zone? We encourage you to nominate for 2017. For more information about CCC, please visit <http://www.caroliniancanada.ca>



About Wildlife Preservation Canada

Established in 1985, Wildlife Preservation Canada is a national charity devoted to saving endangered animal species facing imminent extinction in Canada – species whose numbers in the wild are so low that habitat protection alone is not enough. It is currently working with over twenty mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, and insect species in projects ranging from Nova Scotia to Vancouver Island, making it the only organization in Canada to provide hands-on care to multiple species in multiple recovery efforts across the country. For more information about WPC, please visit <http://wildlifepreservation.ca>.

