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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Construction Begins on Wetland Discovery Trail Near Cypress River**

In the winter of 2005, the La Salle Redboine Conservation District was approached by the Cypress River Chamber of Commerce to assist them in identifying unique ways to enhance the street appeal of the Millennium Wayside Park on the outskirts of Cypress River along highway #2. The park is located on 3.5 hectares of wetlands and upland habitat along the Trans Canada Trail. Currently a well used rest area for highway motorists and tourists, the Cypress River Chamber of Commerce wanted to further develop the park to showcase the it's native landscape and history of the region while maintaining the park's natural features.

In response, La Salle Redboine Conservation District developed a proposal for a wetland discovery trail that guides users through the wetland and upland habitats found within the park. The trail itself will be 300 meters long of boardwalk and floating docks and will feature interpretive signs about the importance of wetlands on our landscapes, species found within the marsh and the natural and social history of the park and Cypress River watershed.

The project is being spearheaded by the La Salle Redboine Conservation District with support from multiple partners including the Cypress River Chamber of Commerce and the Rural Municipality of Victoria. Financial support is also being provided through the Manitoba Millennium Trail Development Fund and Shell Environmental Fund for project expenses. The Manitoba Millennium Trail Development Fund is a provincial fund, administered by the Manitoba Recreational Trails Association, which is the official body overseeing the coordination of the building of the Trans Canada Trail in the province. Governed by a volunteer board, the MRTA is managing the development of 1300km of the Trans Canada Trail. The Shell Environmental Fund, was created in 1990 as a national program intended to make a local difference. A total of \$11,489,803.32 has been granted to 3,903 environmental projects across the country.

These projects included habitat restoration, beach and road clean-ups, waste reduction and recycling programs, trail-building, educational initiatives, and other innovative environmental projects. Additional project support will be provided by Truelove Building Supplies of Cypress River for building materials, Ducks Unlimited Canada for the creation of interpretive signs and Manitoba Habitat Heritage Association for donating nesting structures for migrating waterfowl. To date construction has begun on the board walk section of the trail system with the floating dock and walking trails to be installed later this fall. The installation of interpretive signs will occur in the spring of 2006 with official trail opening scheduled soon after.

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