



News Release

Bancroft Eagles Nest at the Heart of Celebrations for Canada 150

10 January 2017

BANCROFT, Ontario – Mike Bossio, Member of Parliament for Hastings—Lennox and Addington, today announced funding of \$67,300 to the Bancroft Area Stewardship Council for their “Eagles Nest Project – An Algonquin Story.” He made this announcement on behalf of the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage.

Thanks to this support, provided by the Government of Canada through the Canada 150 Fund, the project was launched at a special presentation today during the regular sitting of Bancroft Town Council.

Stephen Hunter spoke on behalf of Kijicho Manito Madaouskarini Algonquin Nation, indicating, “our community is pleased to share our knowledge, language, and traditions in support of this important project. We embrace the opportunity to tell our unique story and believe it will be a memorable experience for visitors to the area.” Ada Tinney provided a smudge and Dora Trimbee passed out traditional gifts of medicine to those in attendance.

Katherine Cannon, Algonquin Negotiation Representative to the Algonquins of Ontario and Chief of the Kijicho Manito Madaouskarini Algonquin Nation (Bancroft) was not able to attend but had this to say in support of the project, “The Eagles Nest Project is rooted in the belief that all people are intrinsically connected to the surrounding landscape – a value that has been central to the Algonquin way of life since time immemorial. This project will celebrate the early geology of the area, flora and fauna, ancient, historic, present and future land uses, and highlight the respect for nature and the responsibility we all hold in protecting our natural environment. Each of these elements is core to the Algonquin people’s past, present and future.”

Cheques were also presented from the Town of Bancroft, Hastings Highlands Hilly Hundred, and the Bancroft Lions Club.

To make 2017 a year that all Canadians will remember, the Government of Canada will continue to invest in local, regional, and Canada-wide projects.

The 150th anniversary of Confederation gives Canadians the opportunity to celebrate our shared values, our achievements, our majestic environment, and our country's place in the world. It is also an ideal opportunity for Canadians to get involved in their communities.

As we prepare for a year of celebration, the Government of Canada invites all Canadians to take part in activities surrounding the Canada 150 countdown. This is an opportunity for all of us to express what it means to be Canadian and how we will celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederation.

Quotes

"Eagles Nest is one of the most prominent landmarks in Eastern Ontario. The Bancroft Area Stewardship Council (BASC) is pleased to be part of a project that will result in new ways of working together during this period of reconciliation. This project will not only result in an innovative interpretive trail showcasing our unique geology and natural history, but will also give the Algonquin people an opportunity to share their story of Eagles Nest and for us to create a lasting memorial to recognize local individuals who have helped shape the community."

—Steve Wilkins, Chair, Bancroft Area Stewardship Council

"This is a fantastic project for the community. Bancroft has such an impressive landmark in the Eagles Nest, and I'm thrilled that we are finding ways to bring our indigenous and settler communities together to learn more about each other and celebrate our shared heritage for Canada's 150th birthday. A big thank you to the Stewardship Council for spearheading this initiative!"

—Mike Bossio, Member of Parliament, Hastings—Lennox and Addington

"In 2017, Canada will celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederation. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all that it means to be Canadian. The Government of Canada will create opportunities for Canadians to participate in local, regional, and national celebrations. Communities across the country will proudly take part in the festivities throughout the year to mark this significant anniversary in Canada's history. Join the celebration—it's happening in your community too!"

—The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage

"When you think of Bancroft, you think of Eagles Nest. It is an important part of our identity as the 'Mineral Capital of Canada'. The Town of Bancroft is looking forward to working with its many community partners to help make the Town's Eagles Nest Park a unique destination in the region."

—Bernice Jenkins, Mayor, Town of Bancroft

"I am delighted that the Trails Committee will take a leadership role on the Project Team that will make the story of Eagles Nest come to life for residents and visitors alike."

— Peter Whitehead, Chair, Bancroft Trails Committee

Quick Facts

- The Bancroft Area Stewardship Council creates a healthy, vibrant and sustainable community through natural resource stewardship. Its mission is to empower citizens and community in the stewardship of natural resources through collaboration and partnerships. It values respect for landowner rights through an influence model; resource sustainability and a healthy environment for present and future generations; community collaboration and partnerships; balancing environmental, social, and economic views; and open and responsive to local natural resource issues.
- The Government of Canada's vision for the 150th anniversary of Confederation includes four major themes: diversity and inclusiveness, the environment, young people and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.
- The Canada 150 Fund, established in April 2015, has an overall budget of \$210 million.
- Through this fund, the Government of Canada will continue to invest strategically in activities that support the 150th anniversary vision and promote the direct involvement of Canadians.

Associated Links

- Canada 150: <http://canada.pch.gc.ca/eng/1468262573081>
- Bancroft Area Stewardship Council: <http://www.bancroftstewardship.ca/>
- Mike Bossio MP: www.mikebossiomp.ca

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