



September 3rd, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Seventh Annual Prairie Day A Fun, Eco Experience for Everyone!

On Saturday, September 20th, Alderville First Nation, in partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, will present "Prairie Day" – an annual family-oriented eco event at the Alderville Black Oak Savanna Ecology Centre.

"We invite everyone to come out and enjoy the displays and demonstrations highlighting traditional native practices, which have helped preserve our ties to the land" says Janine McLeod, Natural Heritage Coordinator for Alderville First Nation Black Oak Savanna. "There will also be an opportunity to learn about the unique habitat and wildlife that renowned Canadian pioneer and early Northumberland County resident and author, Catharine Parr Traill, wrote about in the 1830's."

The whole family can enjoy a variety of interactive environmental education activities, including guided tallgrass prairie tours, bird banding, native food, demonstrations of traditional native practices, as well as storytelling, face painting, kids' activities and more! The line-up of talented entertainers kicks off with community member, Julie Bothwell, who will start the day with a welcoming hand drum song.

"The Prairie Day event will showcase the Alderville Black Oak Savanna - a cultural and heritage preserve and Nature Conservancy of Canada properties, and the important work that is taking place there" says Todd Farrell, Conservation Biologist with the Nature Conservancy of Canada. "It's also about raising awareness of the habitat, its history and the natural beauty of Canada's easternmost prairie. We are very grateful to the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation for their generous support of this event." he commented.

Alderville First Nation and Nature Conservancy of Canada are part of the Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative - a partnership of local conservation groups and government agencies, who share a vision of *'a landscape of protected, restored and sustainably managed tallgrass prairie and oak savanna ecosystems, amid well-stewarded farmland, forest, wetland and riparian habitats of the Rice Lake Plains region.*

Alderville Black Oak Savanna Ecology Centre is located at 8467 County Road 18, South of Rice Lake, and 1.5kms west of Hwy 45. The event is scheduled to run from 10am to 4pm rain or shine. There is no charge for admission, but donations are appreciated. More information is available by calling 905 352 1008 or visit www.ricelakeplains.ca