

Ontario Visual Heritage Project

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stories, Photographs and Film Sought for Documentary Series about 'The Land Between'

CURVE LAKE, Ontario – May 21, 2010 – ‘The Land Between’ is what ecologists call an ecotone, a large transition zone which lies between the Canadian Shield and the St. Lawrence Lowlands stretching 240 kilometers across south-central Ontario from Georgian Bay to Kingston. It is a place of natural splendour and rich cultural heritage. And its story has never been told - until now. On Friday at the Curve Lake Cultural Centre, MPP Jeff Leal and Eileen Nolan, a volunteer with the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), announced that the Living History Multimedia Association has received a \$145,000 grant to bring the story of the area’s local history to life.

“Congratulations to the Association for securing a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to create a visual history of the section of Ontario known as ‘The Land Between’,” said Peterborough MPP Jeff Leal. “This is a great opportunity to engage local museums, First Nation Communities and local residents and document their stories and involve people of all ages to participate in the filming. History isn’t just about preservation but about education as well. I believe this documentary series will accomplish both objectives,” said Leal.

Thanks to this 18-month province-wide grant from OTF, the Living History Multimedia Association is beginning work on 'The Land Between', part of its Ontario Visual Heritage Project. It will create multimedia tool kits that teach, preserve and promote Ontario history to audiences of all ages. The central component of this project will be a broadcast-ready documentary series featuring the natural and cultural history of 'The Land Between', complete with cinematic re-enactments of historical events, interviews, photographs and film. Also included in the tool kit are an interactive website, a course-guide for educators, an interactive DVD and Blu-Ray disc and a “Mobile Companion” for iPhones and Blackberries. In the fall of 2011, a series of launch events will be held across the Land Between to celebrate the completion of the project, the story of the land and the distribution of the tool kits to every school, library and museum in the area - free of charge.

As the mission of the project is to help people make connections to the places where they live, work and visit through narrative storytelling; the Ontario Visual Heritage Project employs a community-focused production model to empower historians, museums and citizens to tell their own stories. Pre-production will soon be underway and the community is invited to share stories, photos, or films (ranging from the 1800's to the 1970's) to help shape the documentary’s script. All photos and film material will be digitized and returned to the lender as promptly as possible. If you are interested in getting involved, please go to:

www.visualheritage.ca.

The filming process will need 150 residents for re-enactments of historical events. There is also a high-school volunteer program for students interested in acting or digital cinema production.

In addition to OTF's funding, the call for support has also been answered by: Curve Lake First Nation, the Canadian Canoe Museum, Shabot Obaadjiwan First Nation, Plenty Canada, the Kawartha Settlers Village, the Boyd Heritage Museum, the Tweed and Area Heritage Centre, Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association and the Muskoka Heritage Foundation.

“This project couldn’t have begun at a better time,” said project director, Zach Melnick. “The United Nations has declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity – and 'The Land Between' is one of the most biologically diverse regions in the province. While the region is a relatively new discovery for the scientific community, the idea of 'The Land Between' is nothing new to the area’s First Nations.”

"Some Native Elders have described the region as 'the meeting of two worlds.' We are thrilled to work with this region's museums, historic sites, First Nations Communities, and schools, as well as experts from throughout Ontario, to tell the important story of 'The Land Between' to the world," added Melnick.

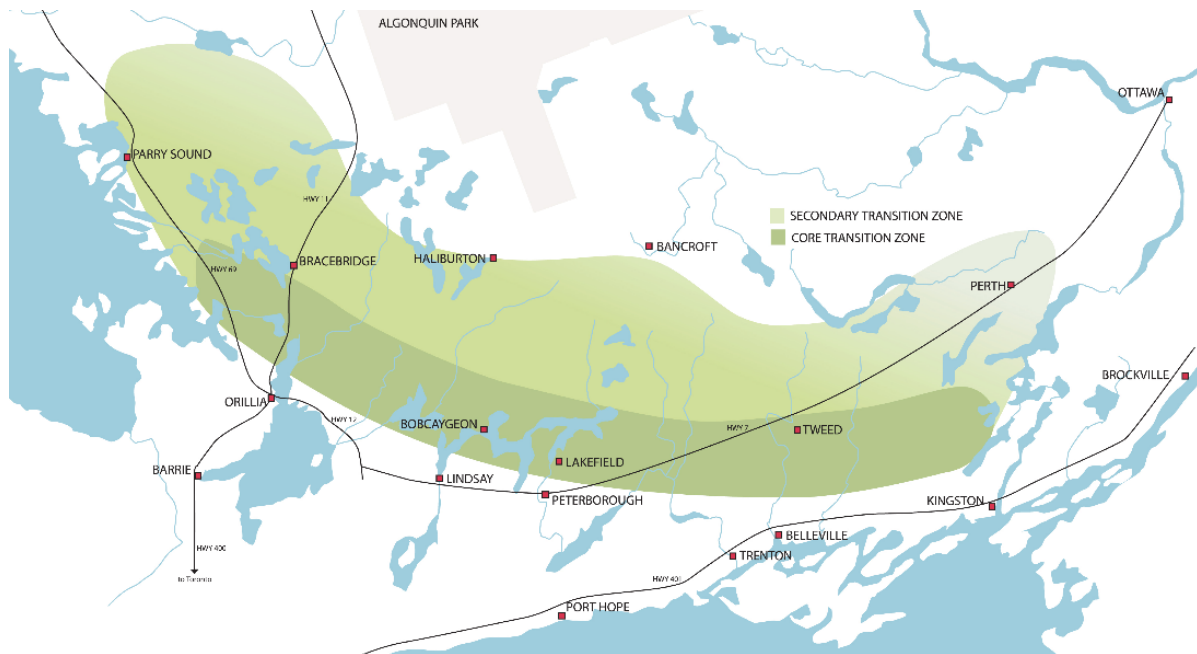
Under Melnick's direction, The Ontario Visual Heritage Project has previously seen success in 11 other areas in Ontario: Haldimand County, Norfolk County, Brant/Brantford/ Six Nations, Elgin County, Oxford County, Sarnia-Lambton and Chatham-Kent. The four most recent projects: Muskoka, West-Parry Sound, Greater Sudbury, and Manitoulin Island had their provincial broadcast premiere on TVO this past winter and will be broadcast again starting in August 2010. You can check out all of these projects in streaming video on the project's website at www.visualheritage.ca.

A leading grantmaker in Canada, the Ontario Trillium Foundation strengthens the capacity of the voluntary sector through investments in community-based initiatives. An agency of the Government of Ontario, OTF builds healthy and vibrant communities. www.trilliumfoundation.org

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The Land Between