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Craik & District Golf Course Recognized for Environmental Excellence

CRAIK, SK - Craik & District Golf Course has achieved designation as a “Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary” by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses (ACSP), the educational division of Audubon International. Austin Eade, Superintendent, has led the effort to obtain sanctuary status on this course and is being recognized for Environmental Stewardship by Audubon International. Craik & District golf Course is the 1st in Saskatchewan, 63rd in Canada and the 644th in the world to receive the honor.

“The Craik & District Golf Course has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program. They are to be commended for preserving the regions natural heritage by protecting the local watershed and providing a sanctuary for wildlife on their property,” said Shawn Williams, Staff Ecologist for the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Programs.

“To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas,” explained Williams. These categories include: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, chemical Use Reduction and Safety, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management.

The Craik & District Golf Course has shown leadership in conservation projects and practices. Superintendent, Austin Eade captures and composts all clippings from the greens along with organic kitchen waste from the Solar Garden Restaurant, which is used as top-dressing on the golf course. By-products from the composting toilets in the Eco-Centre are used as natural fertilizers. Nesting boxes have been installed throughout the course in an effort to control mosquitoes in a natural way, thus eliminating the use of insecticides.

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, endorsed by the United States Golf association, provides information and guidance to help golf courses preserve and enhance wildlife habitat, and protect natural resources. Golf courses from the United States, Africa, Australia, Canada, Central America, Europe, Mexico and southeast Asia have also achieved certification in the program.

For more information on golf and the environment, visit www.golfandenvironment.org. In addition to golf courses, the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program also provides programs for schools, individuals and businesses. For more information, contact Audubon International, 46 Rarick Rd., Selkirk, NY 12158, USA, (518) 767-9051, e-mail them via the Internet at acsp@auduboninternational.org, or visit their website at www.auduboninternational.org.