

## *Characteristics of the Ecosystem Initiatives*

While the initiatives vary in scope, scale, and participation, there are several common characteristics. They are managed through an ecosystem approach involving the consideration of all components of the ecosystem — land, air, water, and living things. The initiatives also recognize the interrelationships and interdependency of social, economic, and environmental issues. Decisions are based on science, combined with local and traditional knowledge. Typically concentrating on known environmental problems, the Ecosystem Initiatives are based on partnerships among governments, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations, and involve communities in issue identification, monitoring, planning, and management of activities at the community level. Activities include science and monitoring projects, improving air and water quality, reducing exposure to toxic substances, conserving ecologically important areas, recovering species at risk, controlling exotic species, developing sustainable water use strategies, and coordinating climate change initiatives.

## *Environmental Results*

The Ecosystem Initiatives have generated tangible environmental results. The Great Lakes initiative has resulted in the successful clean-up of Collingwood Harbour, an Area of Concern on Georgian Bay; a 71 percent reduction of seven priority toxic substances; the protection of over 9000 hectares of wetlands and 700 kilometres of shoreline; and the recovery of the peregrine falcon and the bald eagle. Through the St. Lawrence initiative, a 96 percent reduction in toxic effluents discharged by 50 priority industrial plants has been achieved, as well as the protection of 12 000 hectares of wildlife habitat. Results of the Fraser River Action Plan (1991–1998) included a 95 percent reduction in annual environmental releases of heavy-duty wood preservatives and improvements to the management of approximately 1375 hectares of wetlands and 6344 hectares of upland habitat.

## **Managing Natural Resources**

Natural resource development has long been the mainstay of the Canadian economy. There are marked changes in the way that natural resources have been managed in Canada over the past two decades. Resources like forests, metals, and minerals have traditionally been managed to ensure high yield. At the same time, integrated land and resource use management has moved toward considering the

### **Round Table on Resource Land Use and Stewardship**

*In Prince Edward Island, members of the private sector Round Table on Resource Land Use and Stewardship represent interests related to agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, tourism, municipalities, rural non-farm residents, and the environment. After considering the views of decision makers affecting resource lands, the Round Table developed a Resource Land Use Strategy. Some measures for change are codes of practice in the agriculture and forestry sectors; "green certification" to indicate food and forest products being grown and processed in a sustainable manner; soil conservation; pesticide control; water course protection; water quality monitoring; maintenance of biodiversity; as well as policies related to forest management, Crown land, and economic instruments.*

### **Forest Stewardship Recognition Program**

*The Forest Stewardship Recognition Program promotes awareness and appreciation of good stewardship, sustainable forest practices, and biodiversity conservation in Canada's forests by recognizing the outstanding efforts of forest workers, woodlot owners, conservation organizations, and others working in the field. The program was developed by Wildlife Habitat Canada in cooperation with the Canadian Forest Service and other national and provincial groups.*