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ST. ALBERT CO-OP SURPASSES \$50,000 IN CONTRIBUTIONS

November 28, 2012

The latest cheque for \$5,000 presented by the St. Albert Cheese Co-operative to the South Nation Conservation Clean Water Program (CWP) has taken its total donations, to date, to \$51,000.

The most recent presentation was made at the St. Albert Cheese Factory, a major water user, where CWP principles are consistently applied.

"The co-op began contributing to the program under a three-year agreement launched in 2004; since termination of that agreement, St. Albert hasn't missed a year in providing \$5,000," said SNC Water Quality Coordinator Ronda Boutz.

"A gift of \$50,000 is impressive by anybody's standards," Boutz said, explaining that the money has helped implement about 50 CWP water quality improvement projects.

President of St. Albert Cheese, Denis Latour, explained the support is part of the cheesemaker's commitment to environmental enhancement. In addition, it's a way to give back to the agricultural sector, the community in general, and the region.

"This is another timely boost to the clean water account," said Clean Water Committee chairman Denis Perrault. The funds are granted directly to landowners on a 50-50 participation basis to undertake projects that improve water quality on their properties.

With government funds in shorter supply these days, Perrault observed that partnerships with local industries and organizations are increasingly important: "They're of lasting benefit and improve quality of life in the watershed."

Since its inception in 1993, more than 700 projects valued at \$11 million have been made possible by over \$2.2 million in grants under the CWP.

Applicants to the program are visited by a CWP field representative who assesses the project before reporting back to the committee for a final decision. Technical help is available to property owners in preparing their applications and in undertaking approved projects.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Ronda Boutz, (877) 984-2948, ext. 251

Photo of St. Albert cheque presentation attached (from left to right: Lawrence Levere, Chairman of South Nation Conservation; Denis Latour, President, St. Albert Cheese; and Denis Perrault, Chairman of South Nation's Clean Water Committee)

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