



Severn Sound Environmental Association

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 8th, 2026

SSEA Launches Program Supporting on Farm Stewardship Projects

Port McNicoll, Ontario – The Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) is excited to announce the SSEA Agriculture & Nature Initiative, with funding support from the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP) – Marginal Lands Initiative. This project is funded in part by the Governments of Canada and Ontario under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP), a five-year, federal-provincial-territorial initiative. The RALP Marginal Lands Initiative is administered by Conservation Ontario in partnership with local organizations to assist farmers undertaking larger environmental projects by offering the support and resources needed to implement meaningful changes. This initiative will improve marginal areas of farmland, fostering environmental benefits while bolstering productivity.

The SSEA will support farmers in creating or enhancing natural features like pollinator habitat, streamside buffers, shelterbelts, tree and shrub plantings, and native grassland. Farmers may be eligible for up to 100% funding to cover project costs, and the SSEA provides site-specific guidance and assistance with projects from start to finish. This program aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, sequester carbon, and increase ecosystem goods and services.

“Farmers are stewards of the land and have long been a cornerstone in protecting and improving the Severn Sound watershed” said Julie Cayley, SSEA Executive Director “by working collaboratively, particularly on marginal lands, we can continue to support both environmental health and our agriculture community”.

Matt Ververs, President of the North Simcoe Soil and Crop Improvement Association says “This funding is a great opportunity for farmers in Severn Sound. As farmers, we know our land best and have a long tradition of caring for it. By continuing to work together with the Severn Sound Environmental Association, especially on marginal acres, we can strengthen our farms while also protecting the health of our watershed. It’s a practical way for our farm community to make a lasting difference for both agriculture and the environment.”

SSEA encourages farmers in the Severn Sound watershed area to reach out for more information or to discuss potential project ideas. SSEA staff will conduct a site visit and assist with planning, the application process, and project implementation.

For more information, contact Travis at SSEA (office 705-534-7283, cell 705-528-2322, email Stewardship@severnsound.ca) or visit www.severnsound.ca

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The Severn Sound Environmental Association is a Joint Municipal Service Board working on behalf of seven municipalities to protect and enhance the environmental health of the Severn Sound watershed. To learn more about SSEA and our initiatives, visit www.severnsound.ca.

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