



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – July 2009**

**RiverBend Golf Community Golf Course  
Recognized for Environmental Excellence**

LONDON, ONTARIO – The RiverBend Golf Community golf course has retained its designation as a “Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary” through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, and Audubon International program. Participation is designed to help course personnel plan, organize, implement, and document a comprehensive environmental management program and receive recognition for their efforts. To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas including: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, Chemical Use Reduction & Safety, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management.

“RiverBend Golf Community has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program. They are to be commended for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property,” said Jim Sluiter, Staff Ecologist at Audubon International.

RiverBend Golf Community is one of 42 courses in Ontario and 711 courses in the world to receive the honour. Golf courses from the United States, Africa, Australia, Central America, Europe, South America, and Southeast Asia have also achieved certification in the program. The golf course was designated as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in 2006. After designation, courses go through a recertification process every two years.

This year, the recertification process required a visit by a local environmental expert. Michael Pascoe, Professor and Program Coordinator at Fanshawe College conducted the site visit and sent his observations to Audubon International.

“We see the site visit as an important component of a course’s recertification,” stated Sluiter. “It provides an objective verification of some of the more visible aspects of the course’s environmental management activities. In addition, it offers an opportunity for golf course representatives to share publicly some of the voluntary actions they have taken to protect and sustain the land, water, wildlife, and natural resources around them.”

Pascoe was pleased with his observations during a tour of the course and noted that he found the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses to be “an impressive program, a program that RiverBend exemplifies.”

Audubon International is an environmental organization dedicated to educating, assisting, and inspiring millions of people from all walks of life to protect and sustain the land, water, wildlife, and natural resources around them. In addition to golf courses, the Audubon International also provides programs for schools, businesses, communities, and individuals. For more information, contact Audubon International, 46 Rarick Rd., Selkirk, NY 12158, USA, (518) 767-9051, e-mail the via the Internet at [acss@auduboninternational.org](mailto:acss@auduboninternational.org), or visit their website at [www.auduboninternational.org](http://www.auduboninternational.org). For more information on golf and the environment, visit [www.golfandenvironment.org](http://www.golfandenvironment.org).

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