



Ontario's Species at Risk to be Protected by St Marys Cement Group *Ministry of Natural Resources grants funding for major land stewardship*

Brighton, ON, September 26, 2007 –St Marys Cement Group, a recognized leader in manufacturing construction products, announced today that it has won support for its Brighton Lands Stewardship Funding Proposal from the Ministry of Natural Resources. The proposal will be part of the Ministry's *Species at Risk Program*, which was developed to provide protection for species at risk and coordinate recovery and research projects.

With this funding St Marys can begin preparation of a groundbreaking *Species at Risk Conservation Plan*. The plan will be developed on a 100 ha St Marys property in Brighton, Ontario, which is part of the provincially significant Presqu'ile Bay Marsh Wetland. While the plan will help support local threatened and endangered species such as the Blandings Turtle (threatened), Least Bittern (threatened), and King Rail (Endangered), the possibilities extend to innovative environmental programs and pioneering research.

"St Marys has always been committed to environmental stewardship and we are extremely excited about the diverse range of possibilities this proposal presents to protect and enhance the future of Ontario's environment," says Melanie Horton, Property and Resource Manager, St Marys Cement. "The Species at Risk Program presents St Marys with a great opportunity to demonstrate the great strides that can be taken to protect our environment when the public and private sectors work together."

Presqu'ile Bay is internationally renowned for its rich ecological diversity, significant plant communities and wildlife habitats and for its recreational importance. The St Marys Brighton lands support a rich diversity of wetland communities including sedge meadows, extensive cattail march, thicket swamp, deciduous and mixed woodland swamps, and are home to a number of local rarities including the: osprey, northern harrier, giant parsnip, and bristly greenbrier. The lands are also a vital link in support of the annual migration for a large number and diversity of water and forest birds.

"It is our obligation as citizens to help protect and preserve our natural heritage, including species at risk", said Lou Rinaldi. "We are fortunate to live in a province with such diversity of plants, animals and habitat and it is up to the people and businesses in Ontario to take care of it."

Possible objectives of the St Marys Plan include local trail developments, invasive species monitoring and research, a bald eagle rehabilitation and colonization program, and climate change monitoring and research. A major goal of the plan will be to inform and educate the public about species and communities at risk through possible development of facilities, programs, and partners to establish a program of education and interpretation on the site.

St Marys Cement Inc. is a leading manufacturer of cement and related construction products in Canada and the United States. The company operates two cement plants in Ontario, one in St. Marys, where the company was founded in 1912, and one in Bowmanville. Through its division Canada Building Materials (CBM), it is a major supplier of concrete and aggregates across the Province of Ontario from Ottawa to Windsor. St Marys Cement Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Votorantim Cimentos, an international cement manufacturer based in Sao Paulo, Brazil.