

**April 23, 2007**

**For Immediate Release**

**Land Use Planning Initiatives Honoured by Environmental Commissioner**

**(TORONTO, April 23, 2007)** A tool that will support critical conservation and environmental planning in Ontario is being celebrated today in a ceremony held at Queen's Park by Gord Miller, the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO).

Commissioner Miller presented his 2005/2006 ECO Recognition Award to staff of the Ministry of Natural Resources for their exemplary work in developing and implementing the Southern Ontario Land resource Information System (SOLRIS).

"Ontario is fortunate to have SOLRIS," said Commissioner Miller. "It will provide invaluable support to sustainable planning and conservation projects, and ensure that environmentally significant features of our natural environment are identified and protected."

SOLRIS is a mapping program that uses satellite imagery, state-of-the-art mapping technology, and field testing to accurately measure the characteristics and extent of southern Ontario's natural resources, and track changes over time. It will support effective implementation of plans and initiatives in southern Ontario, including the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Greenbelt Plan, the Niagara Escarpment Plan, and source water protection efforts.

"The development of SOLRIS is an example of the best kind of work done by public servants in Ontario," Commissioner Miller said. "Creative minds saw a need and the means to develop a new and valuable tool in land resources management. On their own initiative, they pooled together the people and resources necessary make it happen."

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