



Long Point Region Conservation Authority

LPRCA Media Release

October 23, 2014

LPRCA announces donation from The W. Garfield Weston Foundation to restore Backhouse Mill

The Long Point Region Conservation Authority (LPRCA) announced today that The W. Garfield Weston Foundation has made a gift of \$150,000 to restore the historic Backhouse Mill. This donation will be used to renovate the foundation, replace support beams and realign the mill stones to provide grinding demonstrations.

The Backhouse Mill has long been recognized as a unique piece of Canada's history. It is a rare survivor of early grain milling in Upper Canada. Today the Mill is the centre piece of Backus Heritage Conservation Area and has been recognized as a National Historic Site since 1998.

Roger Geysens, LPRCA Chair, in announcing the gift said, "The Mill is a technological and historical gem that is visited annually by thousands of people from across the watershed and beyond. The W. Garfield Weston Foundation's support of the Backhouse Mill will help to maintain this treasured aspect of Backus Heritage Conservation Area, ensuring future generations will get to see and hear the mill stones turning. The W. Garfield Weston Foundation's support is greatly appreciated by all of us at the LPRCA."

Remarkably, this wooden building survived two centuries of continuous use and remained in the possession of the same family from 1798 until 1955. Visitors can get a firsthand look at some of the early milling machinery used 200 years ago, as well as, more modern technology of the 20th century.

"My family and I are delighted to be supporting the restoration of this historic mill, the flour from which may well have ended up at my grandfather's first bakery in Toronto. It gives us great pleasure to know that once restored, students will have an opportunity to witness the grinding of wheat into flour as they move through the fascinating heritage complex," said Camilla Dalglish, Director, The W. Garfield Weston Foundation.

Thanks to the generous support of individual donors and The W. Garfield Weston Foundation, work will begin on the Mill early next month. Once renovations have been completed, visitors will once again be able to watch the main drive shaft turn as the overshot water wheel provides power.

The contract for the restoration work has been awarded to Grassmere Construction Ltd. of Tillsonburg.

For further information on the Backhouse Mill Restoration Project contact LPRCA General Manager Cliff Evanitski at 519-842-4242 ext 225.

About The W. Garfield Weston Foundation

The W. Garfield Weston Foundation is a private Canadian family foundation, established in the 1950's by Willard Garfield Weston and his wife Reta. In 1924 Garfield inherited his father's company and during his life established baking and retail businesses throughout Canada and in many parts of the world. The founders believed that as the funds are generated through the hard work and success of these Canadian companies, grants should be given in Canada for the benefit of Canadians. For three generations, The W. Garfield Weston Foundation has maintained a family tradition of supporting charitable organizations across Canada. Today the Foundation directs the majority of its funds to projects in the fields of land conservation, education, and scientific research in Canada's North. In addition, it provides funds to further Canada's research in neuroscience.

About the LPRCA

The Long Point Region Conservation Authority is the community based environmental agency that protects, restores and manages the natural resources in the Long Point Region watershed. For more than 60 years, the LPRCA has worked with all levels of government, local communities and landowners to increase natural areas coverage, improve water quality, protect people and property from flooding and erosion, as well as, provide educational programs and recreational facilities.