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CONSTANCE LAKE FIRST NATION, THE TOWN OF HEARST AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF MATTICE-VAL CÔTÉ NAMED FOREST CAPITAL OF CANADA

Friday March 6, 2015 -- The Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF) and the Canadian Forestry Association (CFA) have officially recognized the Northeastern Ontario communities of Hearst – Constance Lake First Nations – Mattice-Val Côté as the Forest Capital of Canada for 2015-2017.

Established in 1979, the Forest Capital of Canada recognizes and promotes the valuable role that our forests play in the socio-economic and environmental health of Canadian communities – past, present and future. The decision to recognize these three communities was the result of their strong forest history and cultural legacy, their continued dedication to sustainable forest management, and their collaborative efforts with all forest stakeholders.

“We are very pleased to announce that Hearst – Constance Lake First Nations – Mattice-Val Côté have been selected by our organizations for this special designation, and we join in the celebration of their rich forest history and in the pride that the people in these communities take in showcasing their heritage” said Al Stinson, President of the CIF. “The new Sawmill Museum in Hearst, for example, presents the history of the region and pays homage to the many families who in the 1940s constructed small sawmills and began the development of these communities.”

“It is truly a great honor for our communities to receive this recognition. The residents of Constance Lake First Nation, the town of Hearst and the Municipality of Mattice-Val Côté take great pride in their hard work and careful use of our forests,” says Mayor Roger Sigouin from Hearst. “We must continue to support and nurture our beautiful natural resources for future generations.”

“This region of Ontario has historically been built around sustainable forestry. With the local economy strongly based in the forest sector, a commitment to local citizens committees, and the stalwart support of sustainable practices – from on the ground operations to new buildings completed with wood construction – we are very pleased to celebrate this wonderful legacy,” said Dana Collins, Executive Director of the CIF.

A special ceremony to present the Forest Capital of Canada award is being planned and details will be announced shortly. As well, a plan of activities and events is being prepared to ensure a fully successful celebration throughout the two-year designation. Regional news media will be used to keep the public fully informed of all that is planned.

For additional information:

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