



120 Defreest Drive, Troy, NY 12180
T: 518.767.9051 F: 518.767.9076
W: www.auduboninternational.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- August 2014

CONTACT: Doug Bechtel, Executive Director
(518) 767-9051, Ext. 114
doug@auduboninternational.org

The Fairmont Banff Springs Golf Course Recognized for Environmental Excellence

BANFF, AB – The Fairmont Banff Springs Golf Course has retained its designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, an 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 and Safety, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management.

"The Fairmont Banff Springs Golf Course 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 Doug Bechtel, Executive Director of Audubon International.

The course is one of 19 courses in Alberta and 906 courses in the world to receive the honor. 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 1999. After designation, courses go through a recertification process every two years.

This year the recertification process, coordinated by Robert Burrows, Golf Course Superintendent, Dan Nolin, Assistant Superintendent, and Jennifer Heim, Administrator/Sustainability Team Chair, required a visit by a local community representative. Jason Pick, instructor of golf course manager at Olds College and Audubon Steward, was given a tour of the course and sent his observations to Audubon International. "The Fairmont Banff Springs Golf Course continues to excel in strategies and enhancement for protection of native plant, animal, and natural ecosystems on the golf course and its property," reported Pick. "Efforts to education their members and guests show a deeply engrained philosophy of environmental stewardship and recognition of golf's valuable green spaces in the community. The Fairmont Banff Springs Golf Course has proven its commitment to environmental protection since 1999 by certification and recertification as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary."

"We see the site visit as an important component of a course's recertification," stated Bechtel. "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,

-more-

and natural resources around them.”

About Audubon International

Audubon International is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) environmental education organization dedicated to providing people with the education and assistance they need to practice responsible management of land, water, wildlife, and other natural resources. To meet this mission, the organization provides training, services, and a set of award-winning environmental education and certification programs for individuals, organizations, properties, new developments, and entire communities.

For more information, contact Audubon International at 120 Defreest Drive, Troy, NY 12180, (518) 767-9051, e-mail at acsp@auduboninternational.org, or visit the website at www.auduboninternational.org.

###