

NEWS RELEASE - MAY 29, 1996

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## **KLOPPENBURG WILDLIFE REFUGE DEDICATION AT HUMBOLDT**

Environment and Resource Management Minister Lorne Scott today accepted, on behalf of the province, 159 acres of land donated by Henry and Cheryl Kloppenburg and designated as the Kloppenburg Wildlife Refuge.

The ceremonies included the unveiling of a cairn dedicating the land in honour of Henry's father, Henry J. Kloppenburg Senior, grandfather Anthony and great uncle Henry Kloppenburg. The Kloppenburgs immigrated to Canada from Germany in 1928 and purchased the land in 1945.

"We are donating this land to the province as a wildlife refuge so that it remains forever as a natural area and home to the native prairie plants and animals, in honour of our ancestors who settled this great prairie province," Henry Kloppenburg said. "Cheryl and I are, in particular, dedicating this land in honour of my father."

Scott expressed the province's appreciation to the Kloppenburgs for their generous donation of the land, which has been declared a provincial wildlife refuge and placed in the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund Inventory.

"This land has never been broken by a plow or tractor and is an excellent example of what this part of the prairies looked like before agricultural development," Scott said.

Due to the intense agricultural development of the southern part of the province, the prairie landscape is among the most altered in the world. Although once used as a pasture, the Kloppenburg Wildlife Refuge contains hundreds of native plant and animal species and remains a prime example of increasingly scarce native prairie habitat.

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