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FLORIDA NON-PROFIT BRINGS \$10M RACE AGAINST ALGAE TO ONTARIO
Lake Simcoe Watershed to Provide Laboratory to Find a Solution to Algae Crisis

MIAMI, FLA. (February 21, 2018)– With the active support of the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Ontario’s Lake Simcoe Watershed will soon be transformed into a working laboratory for 10 remaining teams of scientists who are racing to find a solution to the world’s algae problem, announced Eric Eikenberg, CEO of the Everglades Foundation.

“We are thrilled that the next phase of the competition for The George Barley Water Prize is taking place in the Holland Marsh area,” said Chris Ballard, Minister of Environment and Climate Change. “Excess phosphorus is a world-wide problem and we are excited these innovative solutions are being tested right here in the Lake Simcoe watershed.”

Eikenberg explained that for two years, 104 teams of scientists from 13 different countries have been competing to find a safe, cost-effective way to remove excess phosphorus from freshwater supplies. Phosphorus, an essential nutrient, can build up in water supplies and is a principal cause of the blue-green algae that is devastating drinking water supplies across the globe.

At stake is the \$10 million (U.S.) George Barley Water Prize, named for the late conservation advocate and Everglades Foundation co-founder. Designed to encourage scientific discoveries that lead to a solution, the Barley Prize is modeled after the innovation and entrepreneurship awards such as those that motivated Charles Lindberg’s nonstop solo flight from New York to Paris.

“We have tried litigation, legislation, regulation and education, so now we are putting our faith in innovation, hoping to inspire the world’s brightest scientific minds to find a solution” explained Eikenberg.

“The solution must work in temperate climates,” explained Dr. Melodie Naja, Chief Scientist at The Everglades Foundation. “And the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change showed us that the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury and the Township of King fit the bill perfectly.”



Over the course of the next three months, the 10 teams of scientists, including two from Canada, will test their approaches on Ontario's Holland Marsh in an attempt to prove their ability to extract phosphorus safely and affordably even in temperate climates.

"Each of these teams is advancing the science and economics of phosphorus removal," said Dr. Naja. "For the winning team, the \$10 million Barley Prize will be just a small down payment on the profits to come. That's how serious the problem is."

The Barley Prize is presented by the Scott's Miracle-Gro Foundation and supported by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) The Knight Foundation and Xylem. The Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change is a funding supporter of the Pilot Phase.

A ribbon cutting will take place on Wednesday, February 21st at 11:00am at the Art Janse Pumping Station. Press is welcome to the kickoff.

For more information, visit BarleyPrize.org or follow the Prize on social media: [Facebook.com/BarleyPrize](https://www.facebook.com/BarleyPrize) or [Twitter.com/BarleyPrize](https://twitter.com/BarleyPrize).

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