



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Nesting Kirtland's Warblers Return to CFB Petawawa**

**CFB PETAWAWA, Ont.** – The Department of National Defence (DND) is announcing that the endangered Kirtland's Warbler has returned to Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Petawawa for a third consecutive year. For the second time in sixty-three years, a pair of Kirtland's Warblers have nested in Canada; the first nest being detected at CFB Petawawa in 2007.

The implementation of DND/CFB Petawawa's Kirtland's Warbler Survey and Monitoring Program again in 2008, led by the Base Environment department at CFB Petawawa, resulted in the detection of three male Kirtland's Warblers this spring. All three birds possessed a unique colour leg band sequence. Two of the birds were banded at CFB Petawawa during previous years of the program; one in 2006 while the other was banded in 2007. The third male that was detected by DND was banded on its wintering grounds in the Bahamas in February 2007 and arrived on territory in Petawawa this year.

CFB Petawawa's monitoring efforts also led to the discovery that one male was paired with a female. A nest with four Kirtland's Warbler nestlings was later found. The nestlings, which were banded for future identification, have since fledged. A protection zone was established for the warblers to ensure that military training did not disturb the birds.

This year marks the second year that Kirtland's Warblers have bred at CFB Petawawa, the only known location in Canada. "The return of the Kirtland's Warbler and successful nesting on military lands is encouraging from both a conservation and military perspective" says CFB Petawawa's Species at Risk Biologist, Tammy Richard. The birds will soon be making the long trip back to the Bahamas.

The CFB Petawawa Kirtland's Warbler Survey and Monitoring Program, which has been in place for several years, has resulted in the detection and protection of the Kirtland's Warbler on CFB Petawawa. The program is part of a larger Species at Risk program occurring on DND lands, one of a multitude of environmental programs being



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implemented by DND. Funding for the Species at Risk program, including the Kirtland's Warbler Project at CFB Petawawa is provided by the Department of National Defence.

The public is reminded that CFB Petawawa is an active military training facility and public access is prohibited. For more information on DND's environmental programs please see [http://www.army.forces.gc.ca/lf/English/1\\_8\\_0.asp](http://www.army.forces.gc.ca/lf/English/1_8_0.asp).

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