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## Environmental group gets $\$ 100,000$ grant <br> den, an organic educational garden at

## Carolyn Blackman

Staff Reporter
Shoresh Jewish Environmental Programs has become the first Canadian organization to be accepted into the Joshua Venture Fellowship.

The fellowship supports visionary leaders and groundbreaking ideas that they believe "will impact the Jewish world and the world Jewishly."

The New York City-based Joshua Venture Group awards the fellowships every two years. Eight were awarded this year. Shoresh will get $\$ 80,000$ in unrestricted funding and $\$ 14,000$ in personalized coaching, training and networking.

Shoresh, which offers educational programs and grassroots initiatives rooted in Jewish social and environmental values, was selected for the grant based on its proposal to develop a rural centre for sustainable land-based Judaism at Bela Farm in Hillsburgh, Ont.

In 2009, it opened the Kavanah Gar-

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus in Vaughan.

Risa Alyson Cooper, Shoresh's executive director, said the group was selected for the two-year grant out of 10 Canadian organizations that applied. "This acknowledgement is a vote of confidence for us. We are adding a voice to the Canadian food and farming movement."

She said that Bela Farm, which is in its early stages, is a 115 -acre privately owned farm. "We would like to produce vegetables and develop value-added products such as pickles, cheese and jam. In the future, we'd like to supply kosher local organizations with ethically raised meat.

Shoresh also plans to offer hands-on educational opportunities such as group visits and internships.
"I am very excited about [this opportunity.] I feel like my personal and professional goals are coming together in one project."

