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MEDIA RELEASE ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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Blue Canoe Back for Another Season

If you were not one of the 168 properties on Lake Scugog that received a visit from Kawartha Conservation's Blue Canoe crew last year, don't despair- they will be back on the lake again this summer.

The Blue Canoe program is an initiative that supports the Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan, which is a five-year study commissioned by the Township of Scugog through the Region of Durham to determine the sources of nutrients entering Lake Scugog, and to recommend ways to improve lake quality.

In its first year the Blue Canoe crew spent twenty-two days visiting lakefront home and cottage owners via canoe or vehicle. Feedback indicated that residents preferred roadside visits, so that will be the approach used this summer. Visits include distribution of water related items and information on a variety of shoreline-related topics including naturalizing shorelines, nuisance geese, and septic systems.

Residents who received a visit last year were asked to fill out a survey regarding their major concerns. Of the 121 that responded, the following items topped the list: overabundant weeds, fluctuating water levels, nuisance geese, litter, reduced frog and amphibian populations, and a depleted fishery.

"The Blue Canoe program has been really well received by the community. We are already getting requests for visits this summer, so we know the program is working," says Kristie Virgoe, manager, environmental protection and restoration for Kawartha Conservation. "Residents get information about improving the lake starting right in their own backyard. Naturalizing their shoreline, ensuring their septic system is functioning properly, and reducing fertilizer use are examples of things a waterfront landowner can do, often inexpensively."

The Blue Canoe program will be featured at the Kawartha Conservation booth during the Scugog Spring Garden Show, to be held April 21 and 22 at the Scugog Community Centre in Port Perry. To be considered for a visit, or for more information on the Blue Canoe program contact Melissa Thompson at 705-328-2271, toll free 1 800 668-5722 ext 224, email mthompson@kawarthaconservation.com or visit the website at www.kawarthaconservation.com.

Kawartha Conservation is a watershed-based environmental organization focused on providing abundant clean water within a healthy landscape. It is one of 36 conservation authorities in Ontario providing natural resources management. The Kawartha watershed includes the City of Kawartha Lakes; Township of Scugog; Township of Brock; Municipality of Clarington; Township of Galway-Cavendish & Harvey; and Township of Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan.

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For more information please contact:

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