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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EcoAction funds shoreline projects

Lindsay – Kawartha Conservation has received a major boost for its Shoreline Naturalization program from a community group and the federal government.

Friends of Kawartha Conservation, a community charitable organization that supports the efforts of Kawartha Conservation, has secured a grant of \$50,000 from EcoAction to be used by Kawartha Conservation for shoreline demonstration projects within the City of Kawartha Lakes and the Township of Scugog. Funding began in the fall of 2006 and will run until the end of 2007.

EcoAction is a program of Environment Canada that provides financial support to community groups for projects that have measurable, positive impacts on the environment. Shoreline demonstration sites aid the environment in several ways. Shoreline plants absorb fertilizers and keep them out of waterways; shoreline erosion is reduced; nuisance geese are discouraged; fish habitat is improved; and habitat is created for wildlife such as birds and small mammals.

“We are grateful to the Friends of Kawartha Conservation for their ongoing support of the Shoreline program. It is through them that we have been able to access this EcoAction grant which is a significant contribution to our shoreline programming,” says Melissa Thompson, stewardship coordinator for Kawartha Conservation.

Two shoreline naturalization projects, Williams Creek in Port Perry and Austin Sawmill Park in Kinmount, were completed in the fall of 2006, and initial planting got underway at Rainbow Bridge Park in Lindsay, and Birdseye Park in Port Perry. Student volunteers from Fleming College and area public and secondary schools donated many hours of planting time to help keep the projects affordable and to fulfill an EcoAction requirement that recipients match grant dollars with in-kind contributions. Two more shoreline naturalization projects are proposed under the EcoAction funding: Riverview Park in Coboconk and Omeme Beach in Omeme.

Kawartha Conservation is a watershed-based environmental organization focused on ensuring 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 municipalities of the City of Kawartha Lakes; Scugog; Brock; Clarington; Galway-Cavendish & Harvey and Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan.

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Photo caption: Fleming students pitch in to plant a buffer strip at Rainbow Bridge Park, Lindsay. The plants will help to reduce erosion and deter geese.

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