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MEDIA RELEASE- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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June Deadline for Landowner Fund to Improve Lake Quality

Kawartha Conservation, in partnership with the Township of Scugog, is pleased to announce a new fund for landowners who undertake projects to improve the health of Lake Scugog.

The Scugog Water And Terrain Environmental Restoration Fund, or the Scugog WATER Fund for short, will make up to eight thousand dollars available to landowners for a variety of improvements that fall into one of seven categories. These include beneficial management practices, erosion control, private septic systems, clean water diversion, well decommissioning, well upgrades and manure storage. Most work will be matched at 50% of cost, while well decommissioning qualifies for 100%, with a \$1,500 ceiling.

“All residents living within the Kawartha Conservation Watershed in Scugog Township are eligible for funding. We invite everyone, whether they own a rural or urban property, to apply for assistance through the WATER program. Collectively, we can improve the health of Lake Scugog,” says Kawartha Conservation Manager, Environmental Protection & Restoration Kristie Virgoe.

Over the past 3 years, Kawartha Conservation has been monitoring the Lake Scugog Watershed as part of the Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan. Analysis of the data collected from this effort has revealed that a significant amount of phosphorous and nitrogen loading is taking place as a result of private land use. While these nutrients are naturally found in water, they are consistently at levels two and three times the recommended norms in some areas.

Kawartha Conservation will administer the fund on behalf of the Township of Scugog and the Region of Durham. Kawartha Conservation will accept applications year round, however funds will only be awarded twice this year, with June 25th the deadline for spring funding, and September 24th the deadline for fall funding. The Scugog Water Fund has \$32,000 available for projects in 2007, which will be evaluated on their potential to improve the health of Lake Scugog. For more information, contact Kristie Virgoe at 705 328-2271 ext. 223, toll free 1 800 668-5722 or email kvirgoe@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 intersects portions of the City of Kawartha Lakes; Township of Scugog; Township of Brock; Municipality of Clarington; Township of Galway-Cavendish & Harvey; and Township of Cavan-Monaghan.

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