



MEDIA RELEASE- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 25, 2007

Scugog WATER Fund Awards First Grants

Kawartha Conservation, in partnership with the Township of Scugog, is pleased to announce that it has awarded \$20,000 to Scugog residents through a new fund designed to help residents take action to improve the health of Lake Scugog.

The Scugog Water And Terrain Environmental Restoration Fund, or the Scugog WATER Fund for short, funds a variety of improvements that fall into one of seven categories, including beneficial management practices, erosion control, private septic systems, clean water diversion, well decommissioning, well upgrades and manure storage. Most projects are eligible for funding at 50% of the projected cost, while well decommissioning qualifies for 100% of the cost.

Eleven applications were received for the first round selection and all were successful in securing funding. Seven projects involved well decommissioning or upgrading, and the balance were for an alternate water system, manure storage, and septic upgrades.

"We are pleased to be able to provide financial assistance to residents contributing to the health of Lake Scugog," says Kawartha Conservation Manager, Environmental Protection & Restoration Kristie Virgoe. "Each project makes a difference."

As part of the Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan, Kawartha Conservation has been conducting water sampling in the lake and its tributaries for nutrients. Analysis of the data collected 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.

The Scugog WATER Fund has another \$12,000 available for projects undertaken in 2007. Applications are accepted year round, with grants awarded twice annually, in June and September. For information or assistance contact Melissa Thompson or Sasha Lambrinos at 705 328-2271 ext 224, toll free 1 800 668-5722 or visit 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 delivering 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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