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MEDIA RELEASE
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More Charges Laid at East Cross Forest

SCUGOG- The May long weekend was an expensive one for those caught by Durham Regional Police in the East Cross Forest, located in the Township of Scugog. Five charges were laid on Sunday May 20, and thirteen more on the Monday of the season's first long weekend.

"We really want to get the word out that East Cross Forest is temporarily closed to the public. We need time to clean up the property and repair the environmental damage," says Kristie Virgoe, Kawartha Conservation manager, environmental protection and restoration. "Unfortunately, for some users it has taken legal action to get them to comply with the current no trespassing status. Other users have been fantastic and we are very appreciative of their interest and support."

Several offroading and ATV organizations have come forward to assist Kawartha Conservation in identifying dump sites and removing abandoned vehicles from the property. A community clean up event is planned for Saturday, June 9 from 10 am until 2 pm. Volunteers are asked to meet at the corner of Boundary and Murphy Roads.

Kawartha Conservation holds over 550 acres of land in the southeast area of Scugog Township, locally known as Test Hill. Since acquiring the property last fall, they have distributed pamphlets, talked with property users and hosted a public information session. This spring they began cracking down on trespassers with the assistance of Durham Regional Police and Canadian Shield Anticrime Security, a security firm under contract to Kawartha Conservation. After several months of increased security, there are signs the efforts are working. Neighbours say that the May long weekend was quieter than usual.

For more information about East Cross Forest, or to register for the clean up, visit www.kawarthaconservation.com or contact Kristie Virgoe at 705 328-2271 ext. 223, 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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