

# Media Release

**For Immediate Release**

## **MANAGING LAND AND WATER TOGETHER IS KEY TO PROTECTING LAKE SIMCOE**

Proposed Lake Simcoe Act is an important step

NEWMARKET (June 17, 2008) - Conservation Ontario is pleased that the Ontario Government has recognized the importance of integrated watershed planning to ensure sustainable development within the Lake Simcoe Watershed. This approach takes into consideration all the activities taking place on the land which may impact the lake itself.

“The provision for watershed protection plans within the proposed Lake Simcoe Act is an important step forward in Ontario and is welcomed by Conservation Authorities as they and their municipal partners grapple with the challenges of growth and environmental protection,” said Don Pearson, General Manager for Conservation Ontario.

“The best way to protect this important resource is to use an ‘integrated watershed’ approach that takes all the impacts on the lake into effect and draws on the best available science which can be provided, in large part, by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority” said Pearson.

This framework will complement and enhance the efforts and success of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority in protecting and restoring vital ecosystem functions within the watershed and the lake, especially in recognition of the tremendous pressure for growth and development within the watershed.

Integrated Watershed Management is a cornerstone of the approach used by Ontario’s 36 conservation authorities to protect our environment. It is coordinated management of water, land and other related resources used to protect the environment while balancing other sometimes competing economic and social interests.

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