

Media Release

MEDIA RELEASE – June 5, 2008 (Celebrating World Environment Day)

ONTARIANS ENCOURAGED TO *STEP INTO NATURE*

Conservation Ontario Publishes a New Travel Guide to Conservation Areas in Ontario

NEWMARKET (June 5) – People across Ontario can stay close to home, yet still *Step Into Nature* by visiting one of Ontario's Conservation Areas listed in Conservation Ontario's newly published *Your Guide to Ontario's Conservation Areas*.

Close to home and across the province, Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities collectively own and operate close to 400 conservation areas. Of these, over 250 of these locations offer a number of family friendly activities. Conservation Areas play an important *environmental, educational and recreational* role in Ontario and contribute to the physical and mental wellbeing of the more than 4.5 million Ontarians who visit them each year.

This easy-to-read, 64-page, full-colour guidebook includes maps to the Conservation Areas, charts that list activities available, unique features, contact information and, in addition, highlights some unique aspects of Ontario's Conservation Areas and the important work of the Conservation Authorities who own and operate them. You can also find the information online at www.ontarioconservationareas.ca - a new website created by Conservation Ontario.

Keeping active and healthy is easy for families at Conservation Areas. Most Conservation Areas are close to urban centres and offer year-round activities such as hiking, fishing, camping, swimming, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Some Conservation Areas even offer more extreme activities such as snowboarding and rock climbing.

There are also 64 [Education Centres](#) located within Ontario's Conservation Areas offering hands-on and curriculum based outdoor education programs. Each year approximately 400,000 students from across Ontario participate in Conservation Authority outdoor education programs located at a variety Conservation Areas.

"Experiencing nature is often the first step to learning about our environment," said Don Pearson, General Manager of Conservation Ontario – the association that represents the province's 36 Conservation Authorities. "It's all part of what Conservation Authorities have been doing for over 50 years."

To get your copy of *Your Guide to Conservation Areas in Ontario* please contact your local Conservation Authority or Conservation Ontario (905-895-0716) info@conservationontario.ca .

To search for a conservation area or activity: www.ontarioconservationareas.ca

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For More Information, www.conservationontario.ca:

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