



Media Release – For Immediate Release

## **Strong turnout for Friends of Kawartha Conservation AGM**

### ***Bob Allen elected President, Barb Elliot Vice-President***

(City of Kawartha Lakes, January 30, 2008) Friends of Kawartha Conservation were pleased with the turnout to their Annual General Meeting (AGM) and with the results of their elections last night at Sir Sandford Fleming College in Lindsay. Ian Macnab, former Kawartha Conservation Chief Administrative Officer, chaired the meeting of over 30 people.

Bob Allen, a retired professor of Fleming College who taught Natural Resources, Law and Parks Administration, was elected President. Mr. Allen has also worked for Conservation Ontario and the Ministry of Natural Resources. Barb Elliot was elected Vice-President. She is a professor at Fleming College where she teaches in the Ecosystem Management Program. And, Bob Pool, a member of Friends since it began, was re-elected the Secretary-Treasurer.

New directors were also elected, including Todd Allen (1-year term) and Margot Fawcett (1-year term). Chris Ellingwood, Ron Fevang, and Ellen Woodward continue in their 3-year term directorships (begun in Oct 2006).

Mr. Allen said he is pleased to be the new President. "It's at times like this when Friends come together to make a real difference," he said. "I'm excited by all of the new energy and look forward to working with everyone in 2008 to promote and support conservation in our watershed." He also emphasized that it is important for Friends to work closely with executive and staff at Kawartha Conservation to help secure grants and assist with programming and other conservation initiatives.

"Tonight's attendance shows that people in our community care about our environment," commented Ms Elliot, who pointed out that Friends of Kawartha Conservation was created during a time when provincial funding to the Authority was severely cut. "Kawartha Conservation has always been able to rely on Friends, and that isn't going to change."

Afterward, Jim Hunt gave an insightful presentation on drinking water protection to an audience of over 70 people. Mr. Hunt is Chair of the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Committee, a multi-stakeholder group responsible for developing source protection plans to protect municipal sources of drinking water within the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region. The Kawartha watershed is within this region, which extends across the Trent/Ganaraska River watersheds, covering a 14,500 square kilometre area stretching from Algonquin Park to Lake Ontario and the Bay of Quinte.



Mr. Hunt emphasized individual and collective responsibility for protecting drinking water at the source. “If we want clean water tomorrow, we need everyone to help protect our sources of water today,” he said. “The choices we make range from individual actions, such as taking used engine oil and other household hazardous wastes to proper disposal sites, to collective efforts by everyone working together to develop watershed-based source protection plans.”

Mr. Allen concluded, “We all depend on abundant clean water in the Kawartha watershed. It is infrastructure essential for our quality of life, our tourism-based economy and maintaining the value of our properties. I’m proud to be a Friend of Kawartha Conservation, to support the crucial research and services provided by Kawartha Conservation.”

-30-

**For more information, or to arrange interviews, please contact:**

**Brent Kulba, Kawartha Conservation Communications Specialist, at 705.328.2271 ext 220 or 705.344.0149 (cell), [bkulba@kawarthaconservation.com](mailto:bkulba@kawarthaconservation.com)**

*The Friends of Kawartha Conservation is a registered charitable organization (#894696988RR0001) that provides support to Kawartha Conservation. Friends assists Kawartha Conservation in delivering selected conservation and stewardship initiatives to protect and improve our environment for present and future generations. For more information, visit [www.kawarthaconservation.com/about/friends](http://www.kawarthaconservation.com/about/friends).*



## **Backgrounder - Friends of Kawartha Conservation, January 2008**

### **About Friends of Kawartha Conservation**

Concerned members of the community formed Friends of Kawartha Conservation in 1996 after the province made drastic funding cuts to the conservation authority.

Friends of Kawartha Conservation is a registered charitable organization (#894696988RR0001) that provides support to Kawartha Conservation.

Friends assists with delivering selected conservation and stewardship initiatives to protect and improve our environment for present and future generations.

### **Activities**

Over the years, Friends has initiated a wide range of conservation related and fundraising activities:

- Held dozens of public conservation workshops, recreational hikes, and events at conservation areas, including birdhouse building each spring and fall for children
- Held numerous fundraisers, including an annual Dinner Roast Fundraiser, to support important conservation initiatives throughout the watershed

### **Accomplishments**

Friends has made a valuable contribution to conservation in the Kawartha watershed. Some accomplishments include the following:

- Published the Victoria County Bird Book in 1996
- Assisted with the set up of water quality sampling stations in 1997
- Assisted with financing and building the playground at Ken Reid Conservation Area
- Held a Dinner Fundraiser in Port Perry with Dave Broadfoot in 2000
- Raised funds to support summer student employment
- Donated over \$12,000 to Kawartha Conservation in 2000
- Reached a \$60,000 fundraising goal for boardwalk reconstruction in Ken Reid Conservation Area in 2005
- Completed reconstruction of the boardwalk in Ken Reid Conservation Area in 2005
- Donated a \$50,000 EcoAction grant from Environment Canada to Kawartha Conservation to help support several shoreline naturalization projects in 2006
- Donated \$1000 to Kawartha Conservation for the rebuilding of the boardwalk at Ken Reid Conservation Area and \$500 to Kawartha Conservation for the development of the Memorial Trail at Ken Reid Conservation Area in 2006
- Received \$5,000 grant from Evergreen Foundation for shoreline naturalization at Rainbow Bridge Demonstration site in Lindsay in 2007