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MEDIA RELEASE- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Youth Bettering Environment

LINDSAY- Students from St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School spent the afternoon recently enhancing the shoreline at Rainbow Park in Lindsay.

The students, participants in a co-operative program that includes community volunteer work, were excited to have the opportunity to spend a day outside the classroom. The four students and their teacher worked alongside Kawartha Conservation shoreline technicians to plant one hundred and twenty wildflowers in a shoreline garden. For some of them, planting was a new experience and they were surprised by how much they learned from it.

"This is the first time we've ever done this and it's kind of cool," offered one youth.

The shoreline garden, or buffer strip as it is called, will soon host many native wildflowers and flowering shrubs for visitors to enjoy, but its main function is to improve the water quality of the Scugog River, which lies only a few feet away.

Shoreline naturalization involves planting native plants in a wide strip along a waterbody. The roots of the plants stabilize the soil and can help filter out potentially harmful run off, such as fertilizers and pesticides from entering the water. Other benefits include improved water quality, reduced erosion, fewer Canadian geese utilizing an area, improved fish habitat, and in some cases, protection against ice damage.

The Rainbow Bridge shoreline demonstration site is one of four underway in the Kawartha Watershed that are funded through an EcoAction grant. To learn more about the Shoreline Naturalization Program, visit www.kawarthaconservation.com under Projects and Services, or contact Stewardship Coordinator Melissa Thompson at 705 328-2271 ext. 224, email mthompson@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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Photo caption: St Thomas Aquinas students assisted by Kawartha Conservation shoreline technicians planted over a hundred native flowers at the Rainbow Bridge Park demonstration site.

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