



Media Release – For Immediate Release

## Building projects in low-lying areas, near water, or on steep slopes may need a permit from Kawartha Conservation

(Lindsay, Ontario, March 17, 2008) Now is the time when anyone planning to build or develop a site this spring is applying for building permits. It's the busiest time of year in permit offices, as many people want to get their shovels into the ground as soon as the snow and ice have melted. But even if it's a small addition to your cottage, knowing what permits you need beforehand can save a lot of hassle and ensure your project has regard for human safety and the environment.

Locations that are vulnerable to flooding and erosion, contain natural heritage features such as wetlands and fisheries habitat, or are near the Trent-Severn Waterway may require additional permits, one being from Kawartha Conservation.

"We review hundreds of information requests and permit applications every year," says Mark Majchrowski, Kawartha Conservation Director of Watershed Management. "Anyone building or doing site developments, such as grading, filling or excavating near water, such as shorelines, watercourses, streams, rivers, or wetlands, or in steeply sloped areas, should talk to us. It's very likely that you will need a permit to proceed."

Known as the Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses regulation, Ontario Regulation 182/06 was established to prevent loss of life and property damage due to flooding and erosion, and to conserve water-related, or hydrologic, features.

"Especially in the Kawarthas, where we have many rivers, lakes and wetlands, flooding is a real risk," says Majchrowski. "This regulation has done a lot to protect people, their property, and even the ecosystem."

In some cases, adjustments to the proposed project may be required before you can obtain the permit. This is only where human safety and property are at risk, or if the development will interfere with existing rivers, creeks, streams, watercourses or wetlands.

"It can be frustrating if you find out at the last minute that you're in a regulated area and require a permit," says Majchrowski. "It is best to plan ahead so the project isn't set back while the application is being processed, which can take up to 1 month."

If you are in or near a low-lying area, by a stream or shoreline, on a steep slope, or if you are unsure about your permit requirements, contact Kawartha Conservation for an Information Request. Through the Information Request process, Kawartha Conservation will provide you with a written review of your property and advise you on whether a permit is required.

Kawartha Conservation can be contacted at (705) 328-2271, or visit [www.kawarthaconservation.com](http://www.kawarthaconservation.com) for more information.

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**For more information or to arrange interviews, contact Brent Kulba, Kawartha Conservation Communications Specialist, (705) 328-2271 x220, [bkulba@kawarthaconservation.com](mailto:bkulba@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 natural boundaries of the Kawartha Watershed intersect the City of Kawartha Lakes; Township of Scugog; Township of Brock; Municipality of Clarington; Township of Galway-Cavendish & Harvey; and Township of Cavan Monaghan. Visit [www.kawarthaconservation.com](http://www.kawarthaconservation.com) for more information.*