



MPP Laurie Scott joins Kawartha Conservation for Earth Day planting

(Lindsay, April 22, 2008) Local Member of Provincial Parliament, Laurie Scott (Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock), joined with Kawartha Conservation to recognize Earth Day by planting a Pagoda Dogwood shrub in Ken Reid Conservation Area.

“As leaders, it’s important that we do what we can to promote awareness of the need for action on climate change, and reducing our environmental footprint,” said Ms. Scott. “Kawartha Conservation continues to do a wonderful job of spreading the message of stewardship and conservation both locally and throughout Ontario.”

The Pagoda Dogwood that Ms. Scott planted is a native species. It grows small white flowers that produce small black berries in the summer. Shrubs and trees such as the Pagoda Dogwood help combat climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide from the air.

“It’s really great to have Ms. Scott plant a shrub in Ken Reid Conservation Area, and highlight the importance of clean air and a healthy landscape,” said Sasha Lambrinos, Kawartha Conservation Stewardship Coordinator. “We need more people to help create natural spaces throughout our watershed, which each of us can do by naturalizing our own yards.”

Kawartha Conservation’s Field Centre yard, where the shrub was planted, is being used to demonstrate the benefits of yard naturalization. A naturalized yard:

- absorbs carbon dioxide from the air;
- reduces water consumption, much less than is required for watering typical turf grass;
- increases biodiversity by reintroducing native plants;
- decreases the need for fertilizers, which can affect surface and ground water;
- decreases the need for pesticides, which can affect water and human health;
- provides food and shelter for birds and butterflies;
- is low maintenance; and
- looks beautiful.



MPP Laurie Scott (centre), plants a Pagoda Dogwood shrub with Kawartha Conservation’s Sasha Lambrinos and Brett Tregunno in Ken Reid Conservation Area

Wanda Stephen, Kawartha Conservation Director of Corporate Services, emphasized that, “Ms. Scott’s leadership shows how important it is that we respond to climate change and take care of our environment, for present and future generations.”