



Kawartha Conservation awards first round of Scugog WATER Fund grants for 2008

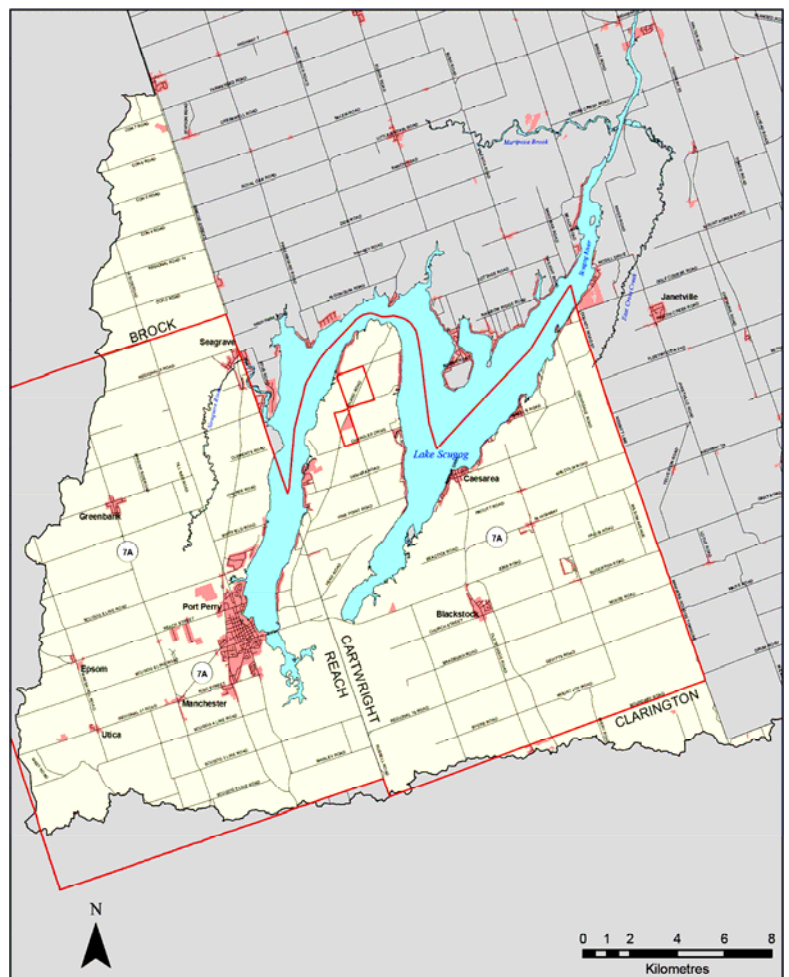
Applications still being accepted for projects that help improve health of Lake Scugog and watershed

(Scugog, July 31, 2008) Kawartha Conservation, in partnership with the Township of Scugog and the Region of Durham, is pleased to announce that it has awarded over \$8,500 through the Scugog WATER Fund in the first round of funding for 2008. This funding is supporting projects that have a total value of over \$24,500.

All of the projects funded are within the area where the Kawartha watershed overlaps the Region of Durham. This includes sections of the Township of Scugog, the Township of Brock and the Municipality of Clarington (see map).

The Scugog Water And Terrain Environmental Restoration (WATER) Fund provides money for projects that help improve the health of Lake Scugog and its surrounding watershed. Eligible projects include erosion control, private septic system upgrades, clean water diversion, well decommissioning, well upgrades, manure storage and beneficial management practices.

Through the Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan (LSEMP), Kawartha Conservation has determined that shoreline erosion, yard and agricultural runoff and septic system effluent are contributing large amounts of phosphorus and nitrogen into the lake and its tributaries. These two nutrients are mainly responsible for promoting weed growth and poor water quality in Lake Scugog. While these nutrients are found naturally in water, they are consistently above government water quality guidelines, often by two and three times in some areas.



Proposed projects must be within the Kawartha watershed in Durham Region, highlighted in light yellow on the map above.

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Unsealed, abandoned wells and improperly sealed or maintained wells can also impact water quality. These provide a direct link between surface pollutants and groundwater that flows into other wells, lakes and tributaries. Common surface pollutants include yard and farm runoff, which may contain pesticides, fertilizers and animal wastes containing bacteria such as E. coli; and driveway runoff, which may contain automotive fluids.

While most eligible projects can receive funding of up to 50% of the costs, well decommissioning qualifies for up to 100%.

“Everyone wants to protect the health of the watershed and their well water, but not everyone has the resources for needed upgrades,” says Kristie Virgoe, Kawartha Conservation Manager of Environmental Protection & Restoration. “Each project under the Scugog WATER fund really does make a difference, and I hope more people will take advantage of the available funds.”

Kawartha Conservation accepts applications year round, and awards grants in July and October. For more information or an application, contact Sasha Lambrinos at 705.328.2271 ext. 224, or visit www.kawarthaconservation.com.

Kawartha Conservation is a watershed-based environmental organization leading the way to 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 municipalities of the City of Kawartha Lakes; Scugog; Brock; Clarington; Galway-Cavendish & Harvey; and Cavan Monaghan. www.kawarthaconservation.com