



Media Release – For Immediate Release

Use extra caution near water in Kawartha watershed during March break

(City of Kawartha Lakes, March 5, 2008) As children begin their March break later this week, Kawartha Conservation is reminding parents and caregivers to be alert to the dangers that exist near water within the Kawartha watershed. (The natural boundaries of the Kawartha watershed overlap the City of Kawartha Lakes, Scugog, Brock, Clarington, Galway-Cavendish & Harvey and Cavan-Monaghan.)

The cold weather and snow that we have been experiencing this winter have resulted in a build-up of significant snowpack and ice cover along our rivers and streams. With spring fast approaching, warmer temperatures will start melting the snow and ice. This will increase water levels and the speed of water flow in local watercourses. Ice cover will also start thinning and breaking up, making ice conditions extremely unsafe.

“Use extra caution around any water body and be especially mindful of where your children are playing,” says Kawartha Conservation Hydrologist Iryna Shulyarenko. “Slippery and unstable stream banks and extremely cold water temperatures can lead to very hazardous conditions close to any water body. Even stormwater ditches and culverts can be dangerous. It takes only 15 cm of rapidly moving floodwater to knock a person down.”

Kawartha Conservation monitors water levels year round as part of its flood forecasting and warning program, and issues flood messages to advise watershed municipalities and the public when conditions change.

“While no melt is forecast for the next week, conditions can change rapidly, sometimes within as little as 48 hours,” says Shulyarenko. “Residents must not be caught unaware.”

For more information, call Kawartha Conservation at 705-328-2271, toll free at 1-800-668-5722, or visit www.kawarthaconservation.com.

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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

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.

www.kawarthaconservation.com