



November 26, 2009

## **SCUGOG CONNECTIONS OPENS ITS DOORS TO THE COMMUNITY**

**Port Perry, ON** — Scugog Connections, a community-based environmental action centre is open for business thanks in part to a three year \$225,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). The centre is a resource for local residents looking to take the small but impactful steps to ensure a sustainable quality of life on Lake Scugog. The program aims to encourage the community to play an active role in the health of their environment while promoting responsible water stewardship.

"I am confident these funds from the Ontario Trillium Foundation will give citizens the information and encouragement needed to improve our stewardship of the Lake Scugog watershed," says John O'Toole, MPP for Durham. "I would like to commend all of the partners for their initiative, and wish them continued success."

Scugog Connections is a part of the Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan (LSEMP). The new program serves as a hub for educational and outreach activities. The new centre is located in downtown Port Perry on Water Street, this central location allows for greater outreach and accessibility for residents. Over the next year Scugog Connections will be engaging with residents through workshops, awareness campaigns and stewardship projects such as tree planting and enhancing urban green spaces.

"We plan on developing the program by first by focusing on the Lake Scugog Environmental Management (LSEMP) Action Plan within the first year," says Carlie McDonald, Program Coordinator, Scugog Connections. "Moving forward a broad range of sustainability initiatives will be incorporated into the program. These initiatives will involve a wide range of partner organizations, youth groups, students, landowners and volunteers."

Durham Sustain Ability is leading the Scugog Connections project, and has partnered with Kawartha Conservation, the Scugog Lake Stewards, and the Durham Land Stewardship Council. The Ontario Trillium Foundation has provided a grant for \$225,000, which will help fund the new Scugog Connections centre and coordinator position over the next 3 years.

### **About Our Funders**

Scugog Connections is funded through the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario. For over 25 years, the Foundation has supported the growth and vitality of communities across the province. OTF continues to strengthen the capacity of the volunteer sector through investments in community-based initiatives. For more information, please visit [www.trilliumfoundation.org](http://www.trilliumfoundation.org).

### **About Scugog Connections**

The Scugog Connections Program seeks to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of the Lake Scugog watershed, while maintaining the sustainable capacity for development that is inevitable within a growing GTA population. Environmental initiatives such as the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, source water protection, waste reduction, species at risk, climate change, and the general Greenbelt program can all be linked to this project

### **For More Information Contact:**

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