

Media Release

Joint Release by Conservation Ontario and Trans Canada Trail Ontario

For Immediate Release

Conservation Authorities Connecting Ontarians by Trail

Toronto, ON – (June 30, 2010) Trans Canada Trail Ontario Executive Director, Dan Andrews, announced today Trans Canada Trail funding support for four Conservation Authority-led trail projects. The funding will support trail development at East Duffins Conservation Area north of Ajax, the Beaver River Trail north of Uxbridge and two projects on the Cataraqui Trail northeast of Kingston.

“Some of the earliest trail partners of Trans Canada Trails in Ontario have been Conservation Authorities,” explains Mr. Andrews. “These include the Grand River Conservation Authority, Essex Region Conservation Authority and North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority. As an on-going supporter of Trans Canada Trail, Conservation Authorities are continuing to enhance the range of outdoor experiences visitors will have access to and enjoy for years to come.” The projects are being lead by the Toronto and Region, Lake Simcoe Region and Cataraqui Conservation Authorities.

As the lead representative for the Trans Canada Trail in the province, Trans Canada Trail Ontario works with local and regional trail support groups, like Conservation Authorities, to build and maintain trails. Many of the trails managed by Conservation Authorities are rail-to-trail experiences, and are highly accessible to a range of ages and abilities, due to the even terrain and shallow grades. These trails connect communities to varied landscapes, including agricultural greenbelts and forested settings. They help to promote healthy lifestyles and provide Ontario residents with access to natural settings.

These trails will provide new recreational opportunities for local users and visitors alike, and help make the Trans Canada Trail the world’s longest trail that spans 22, 500 kilometres, crosses the 13 provinces and territories and connects three oceans. The Trail enables visitors to enjoy a recreational experience with a wealth of natural history along the way. To find the Trail nearest you go to www.tctrail.ca.

Close to home and across the province, Ontario’s 36 Conservation Authorities collectively own and operate close to 400 conservation areas. Of these, over 200 locations offer trails for hiking, biking, snowshoeing and even skiing. Conservation Areas play an important *environmental, educational* and *recreational* role in Ontario and contribute to the physical and mental wellbeing of the more than 4.5 million Ontarians who visit them each year.

Conservation Ontario encourages Ontarians to step into nature by hosting a variety of year-round trail events and are partners with Ontario Heritage Trust on the Trails Open program, offering over 40 trail-related events throughout the summer and fall. To access Conservation Ontario’s 2010 Trails Open Event Calendar go to www.ontarioconservationareas.ca.

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