



MEDIA RELEASE

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CONSERVATION ONTARIO APPLAUDS THE PASSAGE OF THE *CLEAN WATER ACT*

NEWMARKET October 19, 2006 – Conservation Ontario applauds the passage of Bill 43, the *Clean Water Act*, by the Ontario legislature and looks forward to its imminent proclamation into law.

“The *Clean Water Act* is essential to protecting Ontario’s drinking water sources”, said Dick Hibma, Chair of Conservation Ontario. “With the *Act* in place, conservation authorities, municipalities, landowners and other stakeholders will work together to ensure municipal sources of drinking water are properly protected.”

Since the tragedy at Walkerton in May 2000, Conservation Ontario and its member Authorities have worked with the province and other stakeholders, including municipalities and the farming community, to provide expertise in developing the best approach to source water protection. Source water protection builds on past science and studies and links directly to the water management programs Conservation Authorities and their partner municipalities have been doing for years.

“There are strong economic, public health and environmental benefits to ensuring clean and plentiful sources of drinking water,” said Hibma. “Our member authorities are eager to get to work under this important new *Act*.”

Conservation Ontario represents Ontario’s 36 Conservation Authorities, local, community-based environmental organizations that manage natural resources with a particular emphasis on water. The Conservation Authorities have a strong track record of partnering with municipal, provincial and federal governments in developing practical solutions to watershed issues.

For More Information, www.conservation-ontario.on.ca

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