

Media Release

Caring for the Moraine Program Launches New Website for Landowners

(King City, July 19, 2012) The Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation's (ORMF) Caring for the Moraine Program has brought together more than 30 conservation-minded organizations on the Oak Ridges Moraine to deliver environmental services to landowners through a 'one stop shop' approach. From 2005-2009 program partners offered landowners technical advice and access to various resources including financial assistance to undertake projects on their properties that helped protect and restore the Oak Ridges Moraine.

The program has unfortunately had to scale back due to a lack of funding from the Province of Ontario to the ORMF. In order to try to keep in touch with Oak Ridges Moraine landowners - who are key in the protection of this landscape – a new website with mapping tools has been launched by the ORMF. The ORMF will continue to try and seek financial resources to restore the Caring for the Moraine program back to its original glory but until then the development of this website will help keep the Oak Ridges Moraine community connected.

Visit www.caringformoraine.ca and explore the *Find your Property* tool and map based *Points of Interest*. With the *Find your Property* tool a landowner can enter in their address, click *tell me about my property* and then be presented with information about what designation of the Oak Ridges Moraine they live on, what watershed they are in and contacts for agencies in their area who specialize in land stewardship and restoration. The *Points of Interest* area is a searchable map based listing of attractions and experiences, news and events, and projects in your community. Both these areas of the website are expected to grow as our partners continue to contribute information, so check back often! The Caring for the Moraine program has also recently released a summer electronic newsletter showcasing projects and initiatives happening on the Oak Ridges Moraine which is now available on-line.

Thank you to all of the Oak Ridges Moraine landowners that have helped to protect headwaters and our drinking water sources! From 2005-2009, in collaboration with Oak Ridges Moraine landowners and partner organizations, the Caring for the Moraine Program has:

- Mailed 11,114 landowner letters, resulting in 627 Moraine properties visited;
- 2,354 landowners participated in 65 workshops;
- Planted over 430,000 trees over an area of 289 hectares;
- Restored 310 hectares of prairie;
- Restored almost 17,890 metres of streams; and
- Created 22.15 hectares of wetland and enhanced an additional 2 hectares of wetland.

For more information, contact: Kim Gavine, Executive Director at: 905-833-5733 ext.22
support@ormf.com or visit www.ormf.com.

*The **Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation (ORMF)** is a non-profit organization mandated to preserve and enhance the Oak Ridges Moraine (Moraine). Originally established as a granting agency in 2002 following the implementation of the Provincial Government's Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan*

(ORMCP), the ORMF has successfully provided funds to many different partners in support of stewardship, education, research, the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail and land securement projects. While the ORMF's granting role is currently suspended, it still has a pivotal role to play if the Moraine is to remain protected in the future. While plenty of positive work has been done on the Moraine over the last eight years, there are still outstanding goals that need to be met.

The Oak Ridges Moraine is a prominent geological landform located just north of Toronto and extends 160 km from the Trent River to the Niagara Escarpment. The Moraine's rivers and streams drain south to Lake Ontario and north into Georgian Bay, Lake Simcoe, and the Trent River. The Moraine supplies drinking water to more than 250,000 people living on the Moraine and millions more in the Greater Toronto Area