



MEDIA RELEASE

**Hamilton Community Foundation and Head-of-the-Lake Land Trust
Partner to '*Care for the Land You Love*'**

Hamilton (July 14, 2009) – Hamilton Community Foundation and the Head-of-the-Lake Land Trust today announced '*Care for the Land You Love*', Hamilton's part in a province-wide program to raise awareness and funds for the ongoing stewardship of permanently protected greenspace throughout Ontario.

Land trusts across Ontario have more than 60,000 acres of land under their care. The Head-of-the-Lake Land Trust is the Hamilton Naturalists' Club (HNC) program to permanently protect greenspace in Hamilton and the surrounding area. While land trusts have focused much of their resources on acquiring lands for conservation, funds raised through *Care for the Land You Love* will enhance their abilities to protect those lands under their care forever.

"This partnership will help us raise the funds needed to maintain and conserve special lands, like the Thomas & Mary Young Nature Sanctuary in Flamborough for generations to come," said Jen Baker, Head-of-the-Lake Land Trust co-ordinator.

Through *Care for the Land You Love*, Hamilton Community Foundation and the Head-of-the-Lake Land Trust will work together to raise funds to steward protected lands. Once \$20,000 has been raised, it will be matched with another \$20,000 from Community Foundations of Canada, the national organization of which Hamilton Community Foundation is a member. The program represents the latest phase of a longstanding partnership between Hamilton Community Foundation and HNC, which established a land stewardship endowment fund – known as the Habitat Preservation Endowment Fund - with the Foundation in 2000. Funds raised through *Care for the Land You Love* will support that fund and its work.

“The earnings from the Habitat Preservation Endowment Fund will be used every year to help us care for our nature sanctuaries by maintaining and cleaning up trails, repairing fences, and planting trees,” said Jen Baker. “And the best part is that donor dollars go farther because most stewardship work is conducted by volunteers.”

“We can all think of natural places that make our communities special; as community foundations we want to do everything we can to conserve these places,” said Sheree Meredith, Hamilton Community Foundation’s vice-president of philanthropic services. “Conservation and the environment are longstanding priorities for the Foundation, and *Care for the Land You Love* is a great example of how it can work together with local organizations to benefit our community.”

Land Stewardship Funds will be established in 10 other communities this year. A list of this year’s communities is included below.

Hamilton Community Foundation

Hamilton Community Foundation was founded in 1954 as Ontario’s first community foundation. Like all community foundations, HCF has three main roles: working with donors to build funds for the future of this community, granting to the widest possible range of organizations and initiatives and fostering community leadership. Since it was founded, Hamilton Community Foundation has made grants to our community totalling more than \$55 million, including approximately \$4.1 million last year. To find out more visit www.hcf.on.ca.

Head-of-the-Lake Land Trust

The Head-of-the-Lake Land Trust (HLT) is the Hamilton Naturalists’ Club’s (HNC) program to protect natural areas in Hamilton, Burlington and surrounding areas. The HLT is also active in restoring natural areas in the urban landscape. The HLTs primary focus is helping landowners permanently protect land from undesirable development to ensure that ecological values are maintained or enhanced. The Hamilton Naturalists’ Club (HNC) is celebrating its 90th anniversary as a volunteer-based, charitable organization with almost 700 members that protect nature and promote public awareness and appreciation of the natural environment. More information can be found at www.hamiltonnature.org.

‘Care for the Land You Love’ is supported by the Ontario Trillium Foundation Future Fund Program

Contact:

Sheree Meredith
Vice President, Philanthropic Services
Hamilton Community Foundation
(905) 523-5600
s.meredith@hcf.on.ca

Jen Baker
Land Trust Coordinator
Head-of-the-Lake Land Trust
(905) 524-3339
land@hamiltonnature.org

Province-wide Contact

Cindy Lindsay
Director of Member Services
Community Foundations of Canada
519.843.6726
clindsay@cfc-fcc.ca

Ian Macnab
Executive Director
Ontario Land Trust Alliance
416-588-OLTA (6582)
ian.macnab@olta.ca

'Care for the Land You Love'**2009 Land Stewardship Fund Participants**

Brockville and Area Community Foundation & Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust
Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough & Kawartha Heritage Conservancy
Community Foundation for Kingston & Area & Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac,
Lennox and Addington
Community Foundation of Orillia and Area & Couchiching Conservancy
Guelph Community Foundation & The Bruce Trail Conservancy
Hamilton Community Foundation & Head-of-the-Lake Land Trust
London Community Foundation & Thames Talbot Land Trust
Niagara Community Foundation & Niagara Land Trust
Norfolk Community Foundation & Long Point Basin Land Trust
Thunder Bay Community Foundation & Thunder Bay Field Naturalists
York Region Community Foundation & Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust