

Media Release

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ONTARIANS SHOW OFF THEIR FAVOURITE CONSERVATION AREAS

NEWMARKET (February 2, 2012) – The votes have been tallied and the results are in! Conservation Ontario, the organization that represents Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities, has announced the winners of the *2011 Ontario Conservation Areas Photo Contest*. The contest encouraged Ontarians to show off their photography skills while stepping into nature to explore their local Conservation Areas. Conservation Ontario asked people to submit photographs in three categories: People of All Ages Enjoy Conservation Areas, My Favourite Conservation Area, and Wildlife is Everywhere in Conservation Areas.

The first place winners in each of the categories are:

People of all Ages Enjoy Conservation Areas- **Elton Law**, taken at Thornton Bales Conservation Area
My Favourite Conservation Area- **Kevin Best**, taken at Webster's Falls Conservation Area
Wildlife is Everywhere in Conservation Areas- **Dayle Hayhoe**, taken at Mountsberg Conservation Area

"I was very impressed with the quality of the submissions this year", said Don Pearson, General Manager of Conservation Ontario. "We would like to thank all of the people who took the time to send us their photos, and we hope that they will continue to visit their local Conservation Areas and enjoy all that they have to offer."

Conservation Authorities have over 270 Conservation Areas across Ontario that offer a variety of recreational opportunities and special events all year round. "Because Conservation Areas are close to urban centres, they are accessible outdoor destinations and play an important role in the health and well-being of Ontario's residents," Pearson said.

Over 300 photos taken at Ontario Conservation Areas as far north as Thunder Bay and as far south as Windsor were submitted throughout the contest. From images of children enjoying nature, to majestic waterfalls, and breathtaking wildlife- Ontarians really showcased the diversity of Ontario's Conservation Areas.

Second and third place winners as well as honourable mentions have also been selected for each of the categories. To see all of the winning photos, and to find a Conservation Area near you, visit the Conservation Areas Search site www.ontarioconservationareas.ca.

Attachments: .jpeg versions of winning photos in each category

For More Information, www.ontarioconservationareas.ca

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