

# Media Release

## TRAILS OPEN 2011 EVENTS TAKING PLACE AT CONSERVATION AREAS ACROSS THE PROVINCE - APRIL TO OCTOBER

NEWMARKET [April 27, 2011] - For the third year in a row, Conservation Ontario, the organization that represents the Province's 36 Conservation Authorities, is partnering with Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT) to participate in *Trails Open Ontario*. From leisurely wildflower walks to historic treks through underground caverns, geocaching, and night hikes, Ontario's Conservation Areas are offering many unique events.

From April through October each year, *Trails Open Ontario* promotes trail use and education, natural heritage conservation, stewardship, as well as physical activity and healthy lifestyles. Inspired by the successful *Doors Open Ontario* program, *Trails Open Ontario* provides Ontarians with an opportunity to access and celebrate the trail systems that exist throughout our Province.

*Trails Open* events hosted at Conservation Areas will provide Ontarians an opportunity to explore caves, feel the thunder of nearby waterfalls, and experience history-rich First Nations heritage sites. There are guided hikes geared towards adults as well as programs catering to kids. There are boardwalks, barbecues, and bird watching. In short, there is something for everyone at Conservation Areas across Ontario this spring, summer and fall.

"Stepping into nature by visiting one of our many Conservation Areas is a great way for people to experience our environment while getting some fresh air and exercise," says Dick Hibma, Chair of Conservation Ontario, "I invite anyone who has an interest in nature to come out and explore our beaches, old growth forests, wetlands, and lakes and streams during *Trails Open!*"

*Step Into Nature* at <http://www.ontarioconservationareas.ca/trailsopen> to find a *Trails Open 2011* event near you!

*Conservation Ontario represents Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities – local, watershed-based natural resource management agencies who work in partnership with all levels of government, landowners, and other environmental agencies.*

*The Ontario Heritage Trust – the province's lead heritage agency – is dedicated to identifying, preserving, protecting, and promoting Ontario's rich and varied heritage for the benefit of present and future generations. The Trust operates two province-wide heritage tourism programs – Doors Open Ontario and Trails Open Ontario. For additional information, visit [www.heritagetrust.on.ca](http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca) or [www.doorsopenontario.on.ca](http://www.doorsopenontario.on.ca).*

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