

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ONTARIANS ENCOURAGED TO SHOW OFF THEIR FAVOURITE CONSERVATION AREA

People across Ontario are being encouraged to *show off* their talents as well as their favourite Conservation Area by getting out and taking pictures for the *2009 Ontario Conservation Areas Photo Contest*.

“The Ontario Conservation Areas Photo Contest has two purposes. First it will get people out exploring their local conservation areas. Second, it’s a way for us to build our image library. We have over 260 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,” says Don Pearson, General Manager of Conservation Ontario, the main sponsor behind the contest.

Whether it’s a close-up of a native flower, the view of a waterfall cascading through the Canadian shield, an abstract of show shoe trails in the forest, or pictures of a family hiking the Niagara Escarpment, the Ontario Conservation Areas Photo Contest is looking for your best photograph. The most important thing is that the image is taken at a Conservation Area. The contest is open to all ages and there are no categories, but judges will be looking for outstanding images that showcase the best of what Ontario’s Conservation Areas have to offer.

The Ontario Conservation Areas Photo Contest runs from March 1, 2009 until January 31, 2010 and offers prize packages totaling more than \$1500.00.

“It might seem like a long wait to find out if you are one of the winners, but we wanted people to have a chance to send in pictures from each season and reflecting the range of activities and special events that we offer,” Pearson said.

For more information on the prizes, rules, regulations and how to submit your photograph, go to www.ontarioconservationareas.ca