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Media Release

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For immediate release

WILMOT CREEK TO GET A CHECK-UP

Conservation groups need volunteers to help collect valuable data about Wilmot Creek for the inaugural “*Check Your Watershed Day*” on Saturday, July 22, 2006. The goal is to assess stream flow to better understand its role in the overall health of our watersheds.

“*Check Your Watershed Day*” will be piloted in Wilmot Creek and is expected to expand across the Oak Ridges Moraine, and later to the rest of southern Ontario. All it takes is a half-day once a year to significantly contribute to the understanding of the health of our watersheds.

Stream flow can be affected by a number of factors, including storms, droughts, deforestation, mining and construction, as well as natural cyclical changes. It is still unclear how these factors interact to influence our watersheds. The volunteer-collected data is an important step towards keeping our streams flowing and clean for present and future generations.

A free information session will be held on Thursday, July 13th at 6:30 p.m. at the Wilmot Creek Outdoor Education Centre on 3245 Taunton Road in Orono. On Saturday, July 22, participants will meet at the Education Centre at 9:30 a.m. to learn how to collect the data using simple, standardized methods. Later that day, they will head out to put their new knowledge into practice and check their watershed. Activities are scheduled to wrap up by 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

“*Check Your Watershed Day*” is a collaboration between Monitoring the Moraine Project partners (Citizens’ Environment Watch, Save the Oak Ridges Moraine (STORM) Coalition and Centre for Community Mapping), O.F.A.H.’s Community Stream Steward Program, Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority, Ministry of Natural Resources and Durham Land Stewardship Council. For more information, or to register contact Sarah at 647-258-3280 or sarah@citizensenvironmentwatch.org.

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