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Media Release

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FALL INTO THE MORAINES THIS OCTOBER

What do kettle lakes, tall grass prairies, pumpkin patches and fruit wines have in common? They can be found on the Oak Ridges Moraine!

Organized by the Monitoring the Moraine (MTM) partners, *Fall into the Moraine* is a series of tours focused on the cultural, natural and agricultural wonders of the Oak Ridges Moraine, just waiting to be explored and experienced. These fun, family friendly outings will take place on three consecutive Saturdays in October, covering eastern, central and western portions of the entire moraine.

“Fall into the Moraine is a great an opportunity for people to get out and enjoy the moraine” says Joyce Chau, Citizens’ Environment Watch (CEW). “The moraine has so much to offer – there’s something to pique everyone’s interest.”

On Saturday, October 13, the first outing starts with a guided walk through the Purple Woods Conservation Area, a 17-hectare sugar maple forest and open meadow located just minutes north of Oshawa. This will be followed by a visit to the Ocala Winery (located on the highlands of Durham Region close to Port Perry) and will include a sampling of the wines.

The Saturday, October 20 outing begins with a visit to the Alderville Black Oak Savannah (north of Cobourg and east of Rice Lake), a large remnant of an endangered ecosystem that includes prairie, savanna, forest and old field habitats. In the afternoon, participants head to Alderville First Nation, a thriving community rich in heritage and native culture.

On Saturday, October 27, the final stop of the *Fall into the Moraine* is King Township, which begins with a guided walk on the Oak Ridges Trail. Following the hike, participants will tour the Pine Farms Orchard and Winery and go pumpkin picking.

“It’s all about local people sharing their knowledge about their community,” says Chau. “Participants will experience and enjoy the fruits of their labour, whether it is hiking on a locally maintained trail, touring through a locally preserved habitat, or tasting local wines.”

The Monitoring the Moraine Project is a partnership between CEW, Save the Oak Ridges Moraine Coalition and Centre for Community Mapping. MTM is a community driven project that enables people who are concerned about the health of the moraine to directly get involved in its protection.

Admission to *Fall into the Moraine* is free. Registration is required. Refreshments will be provided. Participants should pack a lunch. For more information and to register, visit www.monitoringthemoraine.ca, or contact Sherry Shen (tel: 647-258-3280 ext. 2010, email: sherry@citizensenvironmentwatch.org).