



Lake Simcoe
Region
Conservation
Authority



Lake Simcoe
Conservation
Foundation

Media Release

For Immediate Release

RBC grant will improve water quality in Eastern Creek

NEWMARKET – June 9, 2011 – Today the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority is several thousand steps closer to completing a local stormwater improvement project in George Richardson Park in Newmarket thanks to a \$100,000 Leadership Grant that the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation received from RBC.

“We are thrilled to be the benefactors of the \$100,000 RBC Blue Water Project Grant,” said Virginia Hackson, East Gwillimbury Mayor and Chair of the Conservation Authority Board. “This show of support by RBC not only validates the work that LSRCA does in the watershed, but also demonstrates that RBC understands the critical need to safeguard our water. We are grateful to both RBC and our partner the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation for providing the means to complete the George Richardson Park stormwater improvement project.”

RBC’s Blue Water Project has committed to provide \$50 million over 10 years to organizations that protect watersheds and ensure access to clean drinking water. This project in George Richardson Park will address water quality in the Eastern Creek, a tributary of the East Holland River.

“Projects like this are critical to making a measureable and meaningful difference in our communities and are an integral part of sustaining life on our planet” said Jennifer Tory, RBC’s regional president for Greater Toronto. “RBC has a longstanding commitment to environmental sustainability, and we’re happy to be able to contribute to these ongoing efforts to improve the health of the Lake Simcoe watershed.”

The George Richardson stormwater improvement project was designed to be completed in three phases. Phase one was completed in 2009 and now with the assistance of RBC, the remaining two phases, consisting of retrofits to address sediment and the uptake of phosphorus, are expected to be completed by the spring of 2012. Once construction is completed, the Conservation Authority, along with community partners, will plant native vegetation to further improve the function of the pond.

“Water is critical to sustaining life on our planet and it is incumbent upon every one of us to treat our water as the precious resource it is,” said Debby Beatty, President of the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation. “RBC’s Blue Water Grant has allowed the Conservation Foundation to direct the money towards this essential project, which will help to clean up one of the most polluted areas in our watershed.”

For complete details on the George Richardson Stormwater Management Retrofit Project, please contact Brook Piotrowski, Environmental Project Coordinator for the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority at b.piotrowski@lsrca.on.ca or 905-895-1281.

- 30 -

Media Contact: Kristen Yemm, Manager, Corporate Communications
Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, 120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X1
k.yemm@lsrca.on.ca or Tel: 905-895-1281 ext. 315

The Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation’s mission is to raise funds from private individuals and organizations to invest in the conservation, restoration, research and education projects of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, as determined by the Foundation in consultation with the Conservation Authority, to ensure a healthy Lake Simcoe watershed today and tomorrow.