



## **The Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation welcomes participation in the 2015 Review of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan**

Toronto- February 27, 2015 – “The Board of Directors of the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation (ORMF) is looking forward to working with the Province during the 2015 Review of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP),” announces ORMF Chair Caroline Schultz. “We expect our participation will be part of an open, transparent and robust process that allows for full public input.”

“The ORMF has led extensive consultations with a wide range of stakeholders, and has coordinated research on the ecological importance of the Moraine,” says Schultz. “The Foundations’ *Recommendations Report* outlines priorities that are consistent with those of the Province, and is intended to address key issues facing the Moraine as the government begins its review of the ORMCP.”

Since 2002, more than \$14.1 million of the original provincial investment, as well as an additional \$35.8 million leveraged through the ORMF’s partners, has been allocated to 177 projects in the areas of land securement, land stewardship, education, research, and support for the Oak Ridges Moraine.

“We believe it is in the best interest of the Ontario Government to strengthen the ORMCP to sustain and enhance the Moraine’s critical ecological and hydrological functions, and while doing so, reinforce a clear focus on the geological, ecological, recreational, social and economic attributes of the Oak Ridges Moraine as a distinct entity,” confirms Schultz. “The province must ensure our hydrological and ecological resources remain protected, secured and enhanced for our future.”

“Since the Walkerton tainted water crisis in May of 2000, the Province made a commitment to protect drinking water for Ontarians,” says ORMF Vice Chair Rob Messervey. “Continued support of the protection of the hydrological resources of the Oak Ridges Moraine, which is a vital source of water supply for hundreds of thousands, will help see this important undertaking come to fruition.”

“We need to acknowledge the contributions to the ORMCP by many partners and ensure there is appropriate consultation with municipalities, conservation authorities, First Nations communities whose traditional territory is the Oak Ridges Moraine, and key stakeholders during the Review process,” says Messervey.

“The 2015 Provincial Review of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan must put the moraine first, and support by a governance model dedicated to stewardship and land securement,” says Schultz. “A renewed provincial commitment to the moraine is a vital step to maintaining and enhancing this unique resource.”

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The Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation (ORMF) was established in 2002 to provide support and encouragement for activities that preserve, protect, and restore the environmental integrity of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

A copy of the ORMF report [\*Sustaining our Environment, Planning for our Future: Key Recommendations to Inform the 2015 Provincial Review of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan\*](#) is available online.

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