NEWS RELEASE

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New Online Services Offer Assistance to Property Owners & Buyers

Lower Trent Conservation has unveiled two new online tools to assist landowners and potential buyers with obtaining information about environmentally sensitive features on a particular property prior to purchase or development activities.

Developers, landowners, potential buyers, lawyers and real estate agents can now submit a request for information about environmental constraints and required permits through an online Property Inquiry Service.

"We hope this new service will help us respond to property and permitting inquiries more quickly," explains Janet Noyes, Manager, Watershed Science & Services. "We receive between 75 and 150 requests from individuals each month. The online inquiry service will allow individuals to gather and submit the information we need to process their request in advance of placing a phone call or dropping by the office."

A Map Viewer also provides an initial screening of environmentally sensitive lands as well as property identification information.

"One of the most important pieces of information we need in order to respond to a property inquiry is the Assessment Roll Number which can now be obtained from the online Map Viewer. Individuals will be able to access the Assessment Roll Number for a specific property through the query function by inputting a civic address," adds Noyes.

Any development activities in environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, watercourses or shorelines are regulated under the *Conservation Authorities Act* (Ontario Regulation 163/06 - Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation).

Through the regulation, Lower Trent Conservation strives to ensure that development will not be impacted by flooding or erosion problems and that new development does not aggravate flooding problems upstream or downstream. Environmental impacts are also taken into consideration before issuing a permit.

Property owners and contractors should contact Lower Trent Conservation prior to any nearshore or in-water work so that flooding or erosion issues associated with watercourses, flood plains, wetlands, steep slopes, inland lakes/ponds, and Lake Ontario/Bay of Quinte shoreline are considered.

Anyone considering work in or near wetlands or waterways should contact Lower Trent Conservation to discuss their proposal at 613-394-4829. The Property Inquiry Form & Map Viewer are available at www.ltc.on.ca (click on **Planning & Permits**).

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