

For Immediate Release
Attention News & Photo Editors

Clean Water – Our Future

Shoreline Cleanup Takes Aim at Underwater Garbage

May 3, 2018 Toronto, ON – Lake Ontario might seem a strange place to find old cars and tires, but for years, it’s been a convenient dumping ground for all manner of unwanted items. The resulting leaking of gas, oil and rust then pollutes the water and damages fish and bird habitats. That’s why The Living City Foundation, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, (TRCA) and the Greater Toronto Sewer and Watermain Contractors Association, (GTSWCA) have teamed up to host ‘Clean Water – Our Future’ – the first-ever shoreline cleanup taking place from the water on Tuesday, May 8 at 10 a.m.

The ‘Clean Water – Our Future’ shoreline cleanup event provides a unique opportunity to collect rubbish from areas that are normally inaccessible. East Point Park on the Scarborough Bluffs is the location for the cleanup. The bluffs in this area can range up to 110+m in elevation which poses challenges for removing bulky items.

“The sheer magnitude of the task may seem daunting, but if every organization does its part to clean up a portion of our shoreline, then we **can** eat the entire elephant, one bite at a time,” Giovanni Cautillo, Executive Director, GTSWCA, said. “Everyone has a role to play in protecting our watercourses. For the GTSWCA, this is the source of our drinking water that runs through the pipes we install. The quality of Lake Ontario, is of the upmost importance to us, as are the fish and wildlife that inhabit it. One single act can have tremendous ripple effects and we hope is more organizations align with the Living City Foundation and TRCA to make a difference.”

“What’s always been the secret of the Foundation’s success is collaboration with like-minded people,” Pat Coville, Chair of The Living City Foundation said. “This event shows how innovative thinking and determination can have lasting results. We’re thrilled to partner with the GTSWCA with this initiative.”

The focus for the cleanup event will be to remove large, heavy items such as tires and old car parts which have been found along the shoreline and buried in the sand at East Point Park. To do so, volunteers will load the debris from shore onto a boat, which will bring the items back to shore to be properly disposed of or recycled.

Though not open to the public, volunteers from the GTSWCA, The Living City Foundation and TRCA are hoping to make this cleanup a regular event. The GTSWCA have generously funded this initiative.

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Media Contact:

Elizabeth Oakley
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
Cell: (416) 274-2036
eoakley@trca.on.ca

About GTSWCA:

The Greater Toronto Sewer & Watermain Contractors Association (GTSWCA) represents sewer and watermain construction contractors in the Greater Toronto Area. The GTSWCA is committed to the maintenance and expansion of water and wastewater assets to ensure a plentiful supply of clean water and the preservation of our lakes and rivers.

About The Living City Foundation:

The mission of The Living City® Foundation is to raise funds for the initiatives undertaken by Toronto and Region Conservation, especially for The Living City® program. Established in 1961, the Foundation has raised more than \$40 million for conservation work in the Greater Toronto Area.

About TRCA:

With more than 60 years of experience, TRCA is one of 36 Conservation Authorities in Ontario. Working with municipalities and other partners to manage the watersheds of the Toronto region and its Lake Ontario waterfront, it helps people understand, enjoy and look after the natural environment. TRCA's vision is for The Living City®, where human settlement can flourish forever as part of nature's beauty and diversity.

With the help of its partners, TRCA is creating a cleaner, greener and healthier place to live — for everyone today, and for children tomorrow. Together, the aim is to improve the health of the natural environment and create opportunities for a sustainable future. By doing so, we ensure we live in harmony with nature and are a healthier society as a whole.