



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Follow the Yellow Fish Road™ and Paint the Town Yellow!

BURLINGTON. April 19, 2005 – Have you seen yellow fish in your neighbourhood? This spring Conservation Halton is coordinating the launch of Trout Unlimited Canada's Yellow Fish Road™ program in Halton. Also partnering in this program are, Halton Region, City of Burlington, Town of Oakville, and Field and Stream Rescue Team. The program will kick off at 9am on May 11, 2005 with local area children painting yellow fish along stormdrains at the Halton Regional Centre. Giving the children a helping hand and painting a few drains themselves will be Halton Region Chairman Joyce Savoline, Conservation Halton Chair Brian Penman, Burlington Mayor Rob MacIsaac and Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale.

The Yellow Fish Road™ program is a nation-wide stormdrain marking program. Stormdrains are the grates found next to the curb and collect runoff water from the street. In most municipalities, stormdrains empty directly into local waterbodies, untreated. Participants paint yellow fish next to storm drains and distribute fish-shaped brochures to nearby households to let residents know why the yellow fish have appeared. Especially during snowmelt and rain in the spring, sediments and chemicals enter Halton streams and creeks through the storm drain system. Stormwater is the largest source of pollutants in urban waterbodies. All this pollution ends up in Lake Ontario causing extensive environmental damage, including depositing harmful sediments, contaminants, and causing algae blooms.

“The yellow fish serve as a reminder for residents to properly dispose of any hazardous household chemicals, like used motor oil, and to use environmentally-friendly alternatives such as compost in your garden, which won't wash away easily with rain,” explains Anna Lee-Carswell, Yellow Fish Road™ Program Director for Trout Unlimited Canada. “Even washing your car in the driveway or spreading fertilizer on your lawn or not disposing of pet waste can impact the quality of your drinking water sources, which for most of us comes from Lake Ontario, that's why it is important that only clean water is allowed to enter storm drains.” Trout Unlimited Canada (TUC) is a not-for-profit conservation and educational organization. Founded in 1972, TUC's focus is on volunteer-driven, member-based resource conservation. TUC Chapter members volunteer their time and effort to preserve coldwater habitat within local watersheds.

All partners involved will deliver presentations and loan out painting kits at no charge to school and community groups interested in taking part in this program. To get involved with the Yellow Fish Road™ program, or for further information contact your local area Yellow Fish Road™ program partner.

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The Halton Regional Centre is located at 1151 Bronte Road in Oakville. Photo opportunities will take place between 9:00am and 9:15 on Wednesday, May 11, 2005.