



**Media Release
For Immediate Release**

September 12, 2005

Help Keep our Waterfront Beautiful - G.R.A.B. a Bag!

The St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences and the Cornwall & District Environment Committee, in partnership with the City of Cornwall, are leading an initiative to **help keep Cornwall's waterfront litter-free and beautiful**. The project, known as the Cornwall Waterfront G.R.A.B. (Garbage Removal for Area Beautification), was launched last spring and is continuing throughout fall 2005. The project will have an **immediate positive impact on the health and beauty of our waterfront**. Everyone, from individual members of the community, to organizations, corporations and schools can participate in this worthwhile community project.

To kick-off this season's efforts, we are encouraging everyone to register for a shoreline cleanup effort on **Saturday, September 17, 2005** to coincide with both the **Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup** and with the **International Coastal Cleanup**. From the **worldwide** International Coastal Cleanup, to the **national** Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, to the **local** Cornwall Waterfront G.R.A.B., everyone will be out in force on September 17, 2005 helping to remove trash from sensitive shoreline ecosystems.

"We've developed the Cornwall Waterfront G.R.A.B. to bring together all the groups who already do community clean ups - and to encourage others to join-in." explained Robert Gratton, the event's coordinator. School groups are invited to participate during the month of October. **Free educational activities for school groups** will be presented by River Institute staff at the cleanup sites. These activities will allow students of all ages to examine some of the aquatic organisms found in ponds, streams and in the St. Lawrence River and will underline why it is important to reduce the amount of garbage we produce and methods of proper disposal.

"The Cornwall Waterfront G.R.A.B. event is also a **great way for high school students to earn volunteer hours** for the community involvement program," said Robert Gratton. Students who would like to earn volunteer hours by participating in a community clean-up should contact the organizers for more information. Online registration and more information are available at www.riverinstitute.ca by clicking on "Cornwall Waterfront G.R.A.B." link, or by calling (613) 936-6620, Extension 229.

The River Institute was established in 1994 as a unique community partnership involving government, education, business and industry, and the Mohawks of Akwesasne. Its mandate is environmental research and education with a focus on the Great Lakes / St. Lawrence River ecosystem. It has earned an international reputation for its fresh water ecosystem research projects.

The Cornwall Waterfront G.R.A.B. is funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, receives annually \$100 million of government funding generated through Ontario's charity casino initiative. The Foundation allocates grants to eligible charitable and not-for-profit organizations in the arts and culture, environment, human and social services and sports and recreation sectors.

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For more information:

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