

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

### *Durham Conservation Area to Undergo Fence Installation for Enhanced Safety and Property Stewardship*

**DURHAM, ON** - Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) will begin installation of a new fence at Durham Conservation Area this July, a project designed to enhance public safety, deter unauthorized activity, and align with provincial regulations governing conservation lands.

The fence will secure the boundaries of the campground and adjacent conservation area. It includes two pedestrian gates and one vehicle gate, all of which will operate daily from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Conservation lands remain closed from dusk to dawn, in accordance with Ontario Regulation 688/21. Despite clear signage, unpaid access and after-hours trespassing have remained persistent problems. SVCA must meet provincial rules, ensure safety, and manage costs responsibly.

Access through the gates during operating hours will be available to:

- Paid day-use visitors
- Campers
- Annual day-use membership holders

The fence installation will begin in early July and take approximately two weeks to complete. Gate automation hardware and hydro servicing will follow shortly thereafter, with full operational launch expected in August 2025.

*“This project is part of our ongoing efforts to maintain safe, respectful, and sustainable access to our conservation lands. We’re aiming to strike a balance: ensuring that paying visitors and campers can enjoy their time with us, while protecting the property from misuse that impacts our campground community, wildlife, maintenance, and safety.”*

- Donna Lacey, Manager of Forestry and Lands

To make access easier for members, SVCA will issue control cards to replace the barcodes on the current mirror-hanger tags. Day-use passes will remain available for purchase at the gatehouse during regular hours. Annual memberships can be purchased by credit card via: [www.saugeenconservation.ca/annual](http://www.saugeenconservation.ca/annual)

SVCA Conservation Areas remain the most affordable outdoor experiences in Ontario, with memberships priced at \$55 annually or \$5 per day. These modest fees help offset the costs of maintaining 8,000+ hectares of conservation land and infrastructure.

In keeping with SVCA’s commitment to inclusivity, complimentary annual passes will be placed at local libraries in the Durham area for individuals or families who may face financial barriers.

#### **For more information, please contact:**

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority

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