For Immediate Release   February 26, 2018

Enhance Your Property, Enhance the Natural Environment
OTONABEE CONSERVATION OFFERS TREE SEEDLING SALES

Peterborough: Otonabee Conservation is once again offering the Tree Seedling Program to landowners within the Otonabee Region watershed with a wide selection of native tree and shrub species to choose from. New in 2018, is the on-line ordering system through the Otonabee Conservation website.

"Trees play an important role in maintaining a healthy and resilient natural environment. Trees and forests protect water quality in our rivers and streams. They provide habitat for birds and other wildlife and they add to the health of our communities by purifying the air and enhancing the environment that surrounds us," explains Meredith Carter, Manager of the Watershed Management Program at Otonabee Conservation.

Landowners can choose seedlings from a variety of coniferous and deciduous trees and wildlife shrubs including White Pine, Eastern White Cedar, Red Oak, Sugar Maple, Highbush Cranberry and Buttonbush. The minimum order is 25 seedlings of a selected species.

"Orders are now being accepted for Spring 2018, with the order deadline of Friday, March 23rd. Otonabee Conservation expects the tree and shrub seedlings to arrive at the conservation authority office in late April, at which time landowners will be contacted and pick-up times will be arranged," explains Carter.

Details about the Tree Seedling Program, including helpful tips on planting and caring for young seedlings, and the online Order Form are available on the Otonabee Conservation website at www.otonabeeconservation.com.

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Healthy forests – the diversity of trees, shrubs, wildflowers and other plants – play a significant role in the environmental health of the Otonabee Region watershed.

- Trees, grass and shrubs along waterways soak up nutrients before they reach the water, protecting water quality.
- Forests moderate the ebb and flow of river flows over the year, reducing floods during the spring melt and keeping rivers flowing in the dry summer months.
- Forests are critical habitat for birds, animals and other creatures.
- Trees absorb carbon dioxide and potentially harmful gasses, such as sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, from the air and release oxygen. One large tree can supply a day's supply of oxygen for four people.
- Three trees placed strategically around a single-family home can cut summer air conditioning needs by up to 50 percent.

Otonabee Conservation has been involved in tree planting and forest management since the early 1960's. The conservation authority owns and manages 2,309 hectares of forest; hosts the annual Scout Trees Program of Scouts Canada; and, annually plants trees in partnership with private landowners and municipalities.

The Otonabee Region Watershed Report Card (issued 2013) calculated forest cover as being 15 per cent of the watershed. Environment Canada suggests a minimum of 30 per cent forest cover to support healthy habitat for wildlife, which extends to healthy communities for watershed residents.

Otonabee Conservation offers the Tree Seedling Program to encourage reforestation of idle or marginal lands, to enhance the diversity of forests and to encourage the sustainability of forests and long-term management of existing forests throughout the watershed region.