



**Media Release  
For Immediate Release**

**September 12, 2005**

### **Another Successful Summer for River Institute's Eco-Friends Camp**

The Eco-Friends Summer Day Camp has just wrapped-up its 9<sup>th</sup> fun-filled summer! The camp is run by the St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences with the collaboration of Raisin Region Conservation Authority and the Cooper Marsh Conservators. In addition, the camp received a generous donation from Ontario Power Generation which was used to buy this summer's camp supplies.

The Eco-Friends camp offered children ages 6 to 11 the opportunity to explore and appreciate nature through a wide variety of hands-on activities. Each week of camp had a science based theme that incorporated the flora and fauna found at Cooper Marsh. Some of this summer's themes included: 'Bug Hunt', 'Junior Biologist's Week', and 'Evolution Solution'. Campers participate in nature walks, pond-dipping, insect identification, games, arts and crafts, and fun-based science projects.

In addition to the program activities delivered by the camp's staff, there were many guest speakers who volunteered their time in order give the kids a chance to talk and interact with field experts. Some of the presentation topics included: wild edibles, aerial insects, bats, forestry techniques, reptiles, and bird watching to name a few.

The camp's co-ordinator, Jordan Ann Kevan, is very pleased with this summer's camp. "Nothing is better than seeing children be stimulated by science and the outdoors. It is especially great when topics are brought home and then shared with others. Insects were an especially big hit this summer and many parents confessed that their children would go home after camp and continue looking for new insects to identify and add to Cooper Marsh's growing insect collection."

Looking forward, the River Institute's education team will be offering its next science-based camp for the public over March break. A bilingual, curriculum-linked and hands-on program will be available for elementary and secondary classes this fall. Interested parents and teachers can visit the River Institute's website at [riverinstitute.ca](http://riverinstitute.ca), or call Jordan at 936-6620 extension 224.

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.

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