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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For further information contact Lynn Greer, 716-879-4260

Onondaga Lake Partnership announces 2009 mini-grants program

Syracuse, N.Y. – The Onondaga Lake Partnership (OLP) is accepting proposals for the 2009 Public Education and Outreach Mini-Grants Program offered through the Partnership's Outreach Committee. Applications from eligible organizations within the Onondaga Lake watershed must be postmarked by May 1, 2009. Award notification will be made by June 15, 2009.

The purpose of the program is to fund multiple locally-based projects designed to increase the knowledge and involvement of the public in Onondaga Lake and its watershed and strengthen the link between communities and the Partnership. Individual grants will be awarded in various amounts up to \$5,000. Organizations eligible to apply include: Indian Nations or their designated organization, local government or public agencies, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations and associations.

Additional information and application forms for the Onondaga Lake Partnership Mini-Grants program may be obtained on the OLP website, www.onlakepartners.org/p1507.html, or by contacting Onondaga Environmental Institute at 315-472-2150 or via e-mail at olpoutreach@oei2.org.

Begun in 2003, the OLP's mini grant program has provided over \$154,000 in funding assistance to 26 local organizations for outreach and education efforts. Three agencies received assistance in 2008 for the following programs: Cornell Cooperative Extension for a Phosphorous Free Fertilizer Demonstration; the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry for a summer camp program titled 'Something Fishy About Onondaga Lake' and Center for Nature Education for their Enviromails monthly electronic mailing.

Funding for the Onondaga Lake Partnership's Mini-Grant Program is provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), an OLP member organization, through a grant to Onondaga Environmental Institute.

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