



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 19, 2009

PADDLE FOR AUTISM WAITS OUT THE STORM

HAMILTON, ON – Ed Mahony’s overnight solo kayak crossing of Lake Ontario from Niagara-on-the-Lake to Marilyn Bell Park in Toronto in support of recreational camp opportunities for children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) has been postponed for 24 hours due to weather.

Ed will now be leaving Niagara-on-the-Lake from the foot of Melville Street at 9.00 p.m. on **Saturday, June 20**, and paddle all night to reach Marilyn Bell Park on Aquatic Drive in Toronto at 10.30 a.m. on **Sunday, June 21**. Ed’s – and Autism Ontario’s – friends and supporters will be there to provide a fitting send-off and arrival.

This crossing marks the first leg of a planned five-year project to kayak across all five Great Lakes raising dollars and awareness for Ontarians with ASD.

As an educator, Ed’s life has been touched in many ways by individuals with ASD, and his enthusiasm for the work of Autism Ontario is catching.

(more)

“People with ASD, and their families, struggle in ways most of us can’t even imagine,” he says. “Because of their ASD, and the emotional and behavioural issues it can cause, they’re unable to participate in traditional day or overnight camp programs. Many Autism Ontario chapters provide supported and ASD-specific recreational camp opportunities in their communities, but there are still gaps in these types of services. *Paddle for Autism* is my way of helping to close that gap.”

Autism Ontario thanks Ed for his support of its recreational camping programs, and wishes him a Happy 50th Birthday, a Happy Father’s Day, and a smooth and safe crossing.

(30)

For Further Information Contact:

Cheryl L. Denomy
Resource Development Officer
Autism Ontario

Telephone: 416.246.9592, ext. 247
Facsimile: 416.246.9017
e-mail: cheryl@autismontario.com

Ed Mahony
Paddle for Autism 2009

Telephone: 289.237.6011
e-mail: ed.mahony@gmail.com

About Autism Ontario

Since 1973, Autism Ontario has been the voice of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families, working to ensure that each individual with ASD is provided the means to achieve quality of life as a respected member of society. With member chapters serving thousands of members and supporters across the province, Autism Ontario is the largest collective voice for families whose children – from toddlerhood to adulthood – struggle to receive the necessary clinical and support services to meet their unique needs.