

**For Immediate Release: July 24, 2008**

## **Blubber Mitts, Solar Stills, and Toothpaste Engineering for Kids!**

Youth in Cat Lake discovered first hand the insulation qualities of blubber as they covered their hands in shortening and dipped them in ice cold water! They brushed up on their survival skills by learning how to make a solar still that allowed them to purify salt water. They learned how toothpaste is engineered by creating their own toothpaste, and testing it's effectiveness on eggshells!

These are just a few of the many fun and exciting activities that 40 Cat Lake youth experienced this summer at an Actua science camp. Actua is a national non-profit organization that inspires youth through hands-on science, engineering and technology programming across Canada.

The camp, which was supported by a \$527,500 Province-Wide grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, involved hands-on interactive activities around a series of themes including health, polar science, the environment, and earth sciences. Whether that meant campers using GPS technology to track a mock animal herd in an interactive game, working in teams to build the tallest freestanding tower, making canoes out of aluminum foil, or learning about the chemistry of ice cream – what it amounted to was a solid week of learning while having fun!

'I wish there were more days of science camp. I like science now.' - Ginal, camper.

“Our goal is to build confidence and interest among youth in the areas of science and technology whether or not they actually go on to study science. By engaging youth in experiences that demonstrate how science is exciting, fun, and related to every day life, they start to see the potential role that science can play in their lives,” says Jennifer Flanagan, Actua President and CEO.

Actua is Canada's leading science, engineering and technology youth outreach network. Over 2.7 million young Canadians have been inspired through their participation in Actua's positive, hands-on educational workshops, camps and community outreach initiatives. Each year, Actua's growing network of member organizations reach over 250,000 young Canadians in over 450 communities nationwide. Actua's major funders include: GE Canada, Synapse – CIHR Youth Connection, Suncor Energy Foundation, NSERC, Honda Canada Foundation, Shell Canada, and The Ontario Trillium Foundation. For more information about Actua visit [www.actua.ca](http://www.actua.ca).

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario. For over 25 years, the Foundation has supported the growth and vitality of communities across the province. OTF continues to strengthen the capacity of the volunteer sector through investments in community-based initiatives. For more information, please visit [www.trilliumfoundation.org](http://www.trilliumfoundation.org).

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