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Contact:

Jason Simcock, Director of Planning and Development
City of Gardiner
6 Church Street
Gardiner, ME 04345
Phone (207) 582-6888
Fax (207) 582-6895
econdev@gardinermaine.com
www.gardinermaine.com

**Gardiner Conservation Committee to Hold Meeting to
Rally Residents against Invasive Garlic Mustard**

Gardiner, ME, April 10, 2008 – Want to learn more about Garlic Mustard and how it affects the environment? The City of Gardiner Conservation Committee will hold an informational meeting, at the **Gardiner Boys & Girls Club**, on **Thursday, April 24th, at 7pm**, to help educate the public about invasive plants in Gardiner. There will be a focus on Garlic Mustard and how it is starting to “take over” in certain neighborhoods. Garlic Mustard has been seen in abundance throughout Harrison Avenue, High Holborn Street, and along Cobbossee Stream. The Committee hopes to get residents involved in a removal effort that will help keep this invasive plant out of the more natural areas of the City.

“Garlic mustard can quickly out-compete native plants,” said Toni Pied of the Gardiner Conservation Committee. “It can grow very aggressively in rich, moist, shady areas, and can quickly become established along roadsides, stream banks, and forest understories. This is a plant that needs to be dealt with before it gets too out-of-hand and destroys the few natural areas we have in the City.”

Gardiner’s Conservation Committee’s mission is to restore, protect and beautify Gardiner's publicly owned spaces by partnering with other groups, working with City Departments and enlisting volunteers. Through cooperation with land owners, it hopes to encourage these same goals on private property. The committee wants to create opportunities for all citizens to learn about, access and enjoy Gardiner’s beautiful natural environment.

For more information about the meeting or the Conservation Committee, please call the Planning & Development Department at 582-6892, or by emailing Toni Pied at tpied@verizon.net.

