



ANNUAL PASS FOR LOCAL
CONSERVATION AREAS

www.lakeheadca.com



Imagine
your event
by the lake

Hazelwood Lake Centre 4



MEMORIAL GROVE

Remember a loved
one by having a
tree planted.

Donation Form 3



EXPLORE OUR CONSERVATION AREAS

Map to Conservation Areas 4



Order Form 4

For more detailed information on
material in this report, contact:

Lakehead Region
Conservation Authority
130 Conservation Road
P.O. Box 10427
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
Tel.: (807) 344-5857
Fax: (807) 345-9156
Web: www.lakeheadca.com
E-mail: lakeca@tbaytel.net



LAKEHEAD REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

2003
ANNUAL
REPORT

EROSION WATCH

Lakehead Conservation is keeping a close eye on the Kam River bank near Victor St. and Broadway Ave. A monitoring system allows staff to detect small changes in slope that may signal an imminent slope failure. Further action can then be taken.

Several pipes have been drilled vertically into the ground both down from and back from the crest of the bank. Cables in the pipes are used to measure any horizontal movement of the ground. The system was

recommended in last year's Kam River Bank Stability Assessment.

The slope in the area has eroded to within six metres of the Victor St. and could threaten the road and municipal services. The Assessment put forth options for controlling the erosion. Funding is being sought and it is hoped that the situation will be addressed in the near future.



Left: Drilling equipment was used to install soil nails for bank stability testing.

REGIONAL AQUIFER STUDY

Groundwater is utilized by numerous rural residents and some industrial and commercial establishments as their primary source of potable water. Recent heightened awareness of the importance of safe drinking water has emphasized the necessity for regional groundwater and aquifer characterization, groundwater management and protection planning.

The consulting firm of RJ Burnside & Associates are undertaking a Regional Aquifer Characterization Study using their experience in hydrogeology. The Study area will include the jurisdiction of the LRCA as well as outlying areas.

The Study will map out the extent of aquifers, recharge/discharge areas and possible interactions with surface water. It will also reveal areas that are sensitive to groundwater contamination. Known well records will form part of the report.

Incorporating wise groundwater management principles by the responsible authorities will help protect this precious resource.



Above: An open house allowed the public to discuss the Aquifer Study with consultants.

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FLOODWAY - WET & DRY

Easter 2003 saw a rainfall event drop over 70 mm of precipitation on Thunder Bay. When combined with spring runoff and melting of 10 cm of snow from previous days, the river levels climbed rapidly. Water in the Neebing River started diverting down the Channel and continued to divert for three days.

Maintenance of the Floodway Channel and corridor are on-going responsibilities. The Floodway must be kept in good operational condition so that it is ready to avert flooding at all times. Dredging to remove sediment build-up is periodically required. Debris must be removed from near the Diversion Structure. Access along the corridor must remain open.

For the Diversion Channel, control of vegetation growth is important. Plant material can build up or trap sediment with the effect of decreasing the volume of water the Channel can carry. The resistance created by the vegetation can slow movement of the water and cause water levels to rise.

In the last few years, water has ponded in the Diversion Channel when it should normally be dry between major rainfalls. The dampness has encouraged vegetation growth while making it very difficult for crews to get at the site to cut down the plants. Lakehead Conservation hired a consultant to undertake the Floodway Drainage Study in 2003.

see ' Floodway' on page 2



Above: Massive ice blocks lay stranded in the ditch of Government Rd. by the McIntyre River. The combination of ice and high flows caused the river to rise high enough to flow over top of the road.



Above: During the Easter flood event, the Diversion Structure restricted flows down the Neebing River. The Diversion Channel carried the excess flow, which ran more than a metre deep.

REFLECTIONS

Experience, knowledge, connections, skills, wisdom.

As you approach your fiftieth birthday, it is natural to take stock of what you have accomplished. But many people will also look ahead to how they can use their skills to make a difference in their community.

In 2004, Lakehead Conservation will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary. There are many things of which we can be proud, such as the Floodway, erosion control, flood warning system, watershed planning and



*Bill Bartley,
LRCA Chairman,
2003*

Conservation Areas. Strong relationships with organizations, municipalities, government agencies and businesses are among our assets.

Looking to the future, Lakehead Conservation will further develop its watershed management role. Conservation Authorities help to safeguard Ontario's rivers, lakes and streams from source to outlet. That task is essential to the economic and physical health of our communities and citizens. We have a long history of competent and cost-effective service on resource issues.

I am excited to work with Lakehead Conservation as we move ahead into the next fifty years. Join us in conserving today for a better tomorrow.

GROUNDWATER MONITORING

Lakehead Conservation is participating in the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network. Wells are used to gather data about groundwater at sites in the Lakehead watershed and across the province. The Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) is coordinating funding for the program.

Ten new wells and two existing wells will be used for the project. Sites have already been selected by Lakehead Conservation in consultation with an MOE hydrogeologist. Installation should proceed in the spring of 2004. Long-term monitoring of the wells will be done to gather data.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

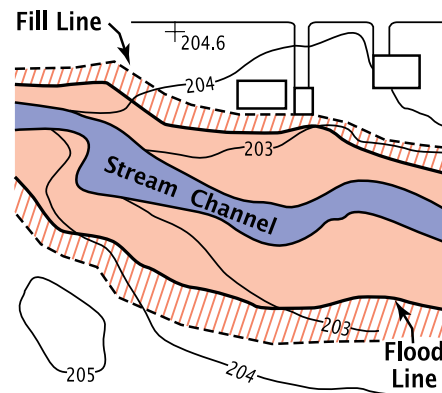
THINKING OF...

- BUYING

-BUILDING

-ADDING ?

Visit the Lakehead Conservation office before you purchase a home or property, or build your home, garage or addition. Staff can review the property as it relates to a nearby watercourse or hazard land, as well as fisheries and navigable waters. We will assess factors that may affect the location and other aspects of development on the property.



FLOODPLAIN -
Buildings prohibited by provincial policy; other construction activity requires Lakehead Conservation Permit

FILL REGULATED AREA -
Buildings and other construction activity requires Lakehead Conservation Permit

FILL REGULATIONS

Lakehead Conservation regulates development near watercourses to protect life and property from the hazards of flooding. Proponents of developments in regulated areas are required to apply for Lakehead Conservation's approval.

2003 Fill Regulation Applications

Fill	6
Construction	6
Waterways	2
TOTAL	14

2003 Plan Input & Review

Clearances/Building Permits	94
Consents & Minor Variances	116
Zoning By-law Amendments	72
Plans of Subdivision	1
Fill Applications (from above)	14
TOTAL	297

FISHERIES WORK



Lakehead Conservation has a strong working relationship with the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). In 2003, Lakehead Conservation reviewed 45 files related to fisheries issues. Clearance letters were issued in 38 cases. Seven projects were a possible HADD (harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat) and the files were forwarded to DFO. Under a 'Level 2' agreement, Lakehead Conservation acts as a review agent for projects that may affect fisheries habitat. If projects are deemed to have the potential to cause a HADD, then the file is turned over to DFO for the issuing of an 'authorization' under the Fisheries Act.

We are pleased to cooperate with DFO in their enforcement activities and work closely with DFO's Thunder Bay District Office.

DFO and Lakehead Conservation hosted a display at the Trade Show. Visitors could ask questions about fish habitat issues, find out about Lakehead Conservation programs and get information on local Conservation Areas.

NAVIGABLE WATERS

Under a new partnership agreement with DFO, Lakehead Conservation is participating in a pilot program under the Navigable Waters Protection Act (NWPA). Staff review proposed projects related to the NWPA. Files are then forwarded to the Coast Guard office for further review and processing, if required. The goal is to aid the public in getting all the necessary approvals for their projects in a timely fashion.



Above: Visitors to the Trade Show enjoyed the pond life aquarium at the DFO / Lakehead Conservation display.

FLOODWAY - from Page 1

The Study investigated possible sources of the water and found that it was primarily groundwater seeping into the Channel. Several drain designs were proposed that would collect the water from the ground before it entered the Channel. Pipes would then carry the water downstream to the Floodway Channel.

The Neebing-McIntyre Floodway project was completed in 1984 by Lakehead Conservation. The Diversion Channel is a key part of the Floodway project. Flows down the Neebing River are restricted by a dam (Diversion Structure) and sent down the Diversion Channel. The water then enters the large

Floodway Channel and is carried safely to Lake Superior.

Parts of the McIntyre River were enlarged and a new channel dug to create the Floodway Channel. The Neebing River eventually joins the Floodway downstream of Fort William Road.

The excess flows carried by the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway would have caused flooding in the years before the Floodway was built. Countless thousands of dollars in flood damages have been saved by the Floodway and commercial development of the Intercity area was made possible.

WATERSHED REPORT

Lakehead Conservation compiled information on the Blende River watershed in Shuniah Township this year. Blende River flows from hills near Highway 11-17 and south to Lake Superior.

As has been done in our other studies, Conservation staff undertook water quality testing and sampling of the aquatic life. Staff collected information on land use, zoning, stream crossings and erosion sites to use on computerized watershed maps.

The river represents a healthy ecosystem. Residential development occurs along the highway and township roads. Only a handful of commercial properties are located within the watershed. Hydro corridors, the

TransCanada Highway, a natural gas pipeline and two railway lines cross the watershed.

The report serves as baseline data that can be compared in the future to detect any changes in watershed characteristics.



EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

Lakehead Conservation was pleased to offer work experience to several short-term staff this year. Employment funding was provided by the Ontario Summer Experience program, federal Summer Career Placements program and Lakehead Conservation. Anyone wishing to apply for work in summer 2004 should forward their resume to the Lakehead Conservation office.

Conservation members and staff extend many thanks to the temporary employees for their hard work in the following tasks:

- water quality monitoring
- Conservation Area maintenance
- Watershed Assessment Reports
- educational programming, special events
- purple loosestrife control
- digital mapping

Left: Blende Creek slips under Highway 587 near the end of its 6 km journey to Lake Superior. There are little lakes, small cascades and flat marshy sections.

Right: Summer staff Matt Thatcher and Jeff Frenette take water quality readings along a tributary of the Blende River.



ABOUT US

The LAKEHEAD REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY was constituted on Jan. 1, 1963, as an expansion of the former Neebing Valley Conservation Authority (est. 1954).



WATER is essential to human health, important in economic development and vital to all living things. Water links all components of the environment and is a major force in shaping the landscape. We operate on a watershed basis because it treats natural systems as an entire unit.

SERVICES

Our integrated approach to resource management leads to a wide range of programs and projects, which are aimed at keeping our watersheds healthy. We improve quality of life by actively providing open space and protecting life and property from flooding and erosion, as well as restoring and conserving aquatic and natural habitats.

In addition to serving our watershed residents, we also provide advice and counsel to all levels of government on the responsible management of water.

OBJECTIVES

- Ensure that Ontario's rivers, lakes and streams are properly safeguarded, managed and restored
- Protect, manage and restore Ontario's woodlands, wetlands and natural habitats
- Develop and maintain programs that will protect life and property from natural hazards, such as flooding and erosion
- Provide opportunities for the public to learn from, to enjoy and respect Ontario's natural environment

LAKEHEAD CONSERVATION MEMBERSHIP FOR 2003

Twp. of Conmee	- Robert MacMaster	City of Thunder Bay
Twp. of Dorion	- Ed Chambers	- Gary Shchepanik - Lawrence Timko
Twp. of Gillies	- Margaret Walshe	- Phil Jarvis - Gary Murchison
Munic. of Neebing	- Ziggy Polkowski	
Twp. of O'Connor	- Lee-Ann Nygard	
Twp. of Oliver Paipoonge	- Lucy Kloosterhuis	
Munic. of Shuniah	- Bill Bartley	

Chairman: BILL BARTLEY

Vice-Chairman: PHIL JARVIS

The Board is responsible for making policy, budget and fill regulation decisions affecting the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority.

Office Hours
Mon. - Fri.
8:30 - 4:30

Visit us for
floodplain
inquiries,
brochures &
conservation
information.

LAKEHEAD CONSERVATION STAFF MEMBERS

Mervi Henttonen	- General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Steve Suke	- Director of Technical Operations
Tom Mikulinski	- General Superintendent
Brian Smith	- Fill Enforcement Officer
David Ellingwood	- Community Relations Officer
Brenda Searson	- Bookkeeper/Typist

HAZELWOOD LAKE CENTRE



Elegance and scenery for your special event

~ lakeside setting

~ picture windows

~ exterior deck

~ cozy fireplace

Scandia Catering is the official caterer of the Hazelwood Lake Centre. They will handle all questions about dates, rates and menu options. Scandia has an excellent reputation for their personable service and great food. Watch for special occasion buffets, such as Mother's Day and Scandinavian Supper.

~ up to 130 people

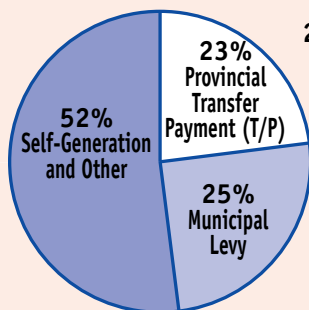
~ available year-round

~ barrier-free access

~ weddings, meetings

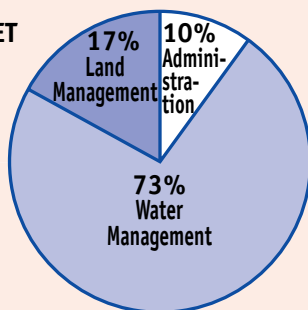
Contact Scandia Catering at **767-3565**.

2003 BUDGET



REVENUE

	Total	Percent
Provincial T/P	\$ 292,380	23%
Municipal Levy	\$ 321,882	25%
Self-Generation & Other	\$ 676,238	52%
TOTAL	\$1,290,500	100%



EXPENDITURES

	Total	Percent
Administration	\$ 132,400	10%
Water Management	\$ 945,430	73%
Land Management	\$ 212,670	17%
TOTAL	\$1,290,500	100%

www.lakeheadca.com



MAPS



FORMS, pdf



PHOTOS



INFO



ANNUAL
REPORT

FINANCIAL SUMMARY ~ 2003

Lakehead Conservation's 2003 expenditures totalled one-and-a-quarter million dollars for: administration of flood and erosion control programs; flood forecasting and warning; plan input and review; watershed planning; operation and development of Conservation Areas (CA) and associated lands; Hazelwood Lake Centre; and community relations.

Along the Kam River, staff are using a new monitoring system to track erosion near Victor St. Funding is being sought to build remedial works on parts of the bank close to the road. The Floodway Drainage Study looked at the cause of ponding along the Diversion Channel and how it could be addressed.

Two groundwater initiatives began in 2003. Twelve wells in our watershed will join the provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network and staff will gather long-term data. The Regional Aquifer Characterization Study will show the extent of aquifers and any interactions. Good information is a key tool for those agencies responsible for wisely managing this resource.

Ontario Power Generation funded new entrance signs and rental of a viewing scope at Mission Island Marsh CA, as well as the autumn Waterfowl Viewing Day. This type of corporate involvement in community projects is very much appreciated. Volunteers make a

difference in helping with fundraising, special events and Adopt-a-trail. Thanks very much.

Conservation Areas are very popular with the public. A review of our lands carried out this year revealed that 100,000 visitors use our local Conservation Areas each year. Funding for the properties remains troublesome. The new Explorer Card annual pass was launched in 2003 but sales were slow. Fee boxes at the area bring in some money; however, less than one in ten visitors pays the \$2 per vehicle fee when they use our lands. On the brighter side, the Lakehead Conservation Foundation contributed \$25,000 to Conservation Areas and our municipalities agreed to provide \$25,000 toward Conservation Area operations.

We celebrate our fiftieth anniversary in 2004 and look forward to continuing to serve our watershed residents. In September 2004, Lakehead Conservation will host 100 delegates from across Ontario and showcase our beautiful region.

The graphs and chart, at left, show revenue and expenditures for 2003. Watershed management projects and related administrative costs are funded by municipal levy and provincial transfer payment dollars. Please visit our website for further details on Lakehead Conservation's projects.



Lakehead Conservation Foundation

P.O. Box 10147; 130 Conservation Road Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T6
For information, call 345-2377 or 344-5857
Internet: www.lakeheadca.com/foundatn.htm

The Lakehead Conservation Foundation (LCF) continues to help with improvements to local Conservation Areas. A \$25,000 cheque was presented to Lakehead Conservation in May 2003. Total contributions now stand at over \$425,000 in the LCF's sixteen-year history.

The biggest fundraising event is the annual Dinner and Auction. The 2003 Dinner raised more than \$20,000 in proceeds. Thank you to one-hundred-and-seventy organizations, businesses and individuals for their generous contributions. Order your tickets for the 2004 Dinner by using the form on this page. Proceeds to local Conservation Areas.

LCR Estates participated in our Christmas Tree Fundraiser. For each tree purchased with an LCF coupon, LCR Estates donated \$10 to LCF.

The Blake Memorial Grove now consists of over 3,600 trees. Blake Funeral Chapel donates one tree in memory of each person they serve and hosts an annual dedication service. Private donations can also be made to the Memorial Grove (see form at right).

Below: LCF Vice-President Gary Murchison (left) presents a \$25,000 cheque to Lakehead Conservation Chairman Bill Bartley.



2004 LCF Fundraising Dinner and Auction

Thursday, February 12 6 p.m. start
Valhalla Inn Ballroom \$50 per ticket

Live Auction Silent Auction
Fun Activities Delicious Dinner

Available from Foundation members, by mail or at the Conservation Authority office (344-5857)



Above: The second annual Garden Party was a great success. Donations of plant material are needed for our next event on June 6.

Below: Great artworks at the annual Dinner and Auction.



LCF RESPONSE FORM



DINNER TICKETS

Send me tickets to the Lakehead Conservation Foundation's Fundraising Dinner & Auction on Feb. 12, 2004 at the Valhalla Inn.

of Tickets: _____ @ \$50 per ticket = \$ _____

BE A FRIEND

☐ I want to become a 'Friend of the Foundation' at a cost of \$25 for a one-year membership. = \$ _____

☐ I wish to make a charitable donation of = \$ _____

MEMORIAL GROVE DONATION

I want to make a MEMORIAL GROVE TREE DONATION. = \$ _____
One tree will be planted for a \$45 donation. Please enter the particulars below. A tax receipt and certificate will be issued.

Wording on Certificate

In memory of: _____

Donation from: _____

Send Certificate to

Name: _____

Address: _____

☐ As below

City: _____ Prov.: _____ Postal Code: _____

PAYMENT

☐ I have enclosed a cheque for the amount at right, = \$ _____
made payable to the Lakehead Conservation Foundation **TOTAL AMOUNT**

OR ☐ I wish to charge the amount at right to my **VISA** card.

Card #: _____ Expiry: _____

Cardholders Name: _____

Cardholders Signature: _____

MAILING INFO FOR RECEIPT

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov.: _____ Postal Code: _____



Please put this form with your gift in an envelope and mail to:

Lakehead Conservation Foundation
P.O. Box 10147 Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T6

☐ Please send me more information about _____

EXPLORE CONSERVATION AREAS

Breathtaking scenery and adventure await you. Get a dose of northern beauty when you explore a Conservation Area. The 6,000 acres of conservation land provide wildlife habitat and are great places for hiking, boating, fishing and other activities.

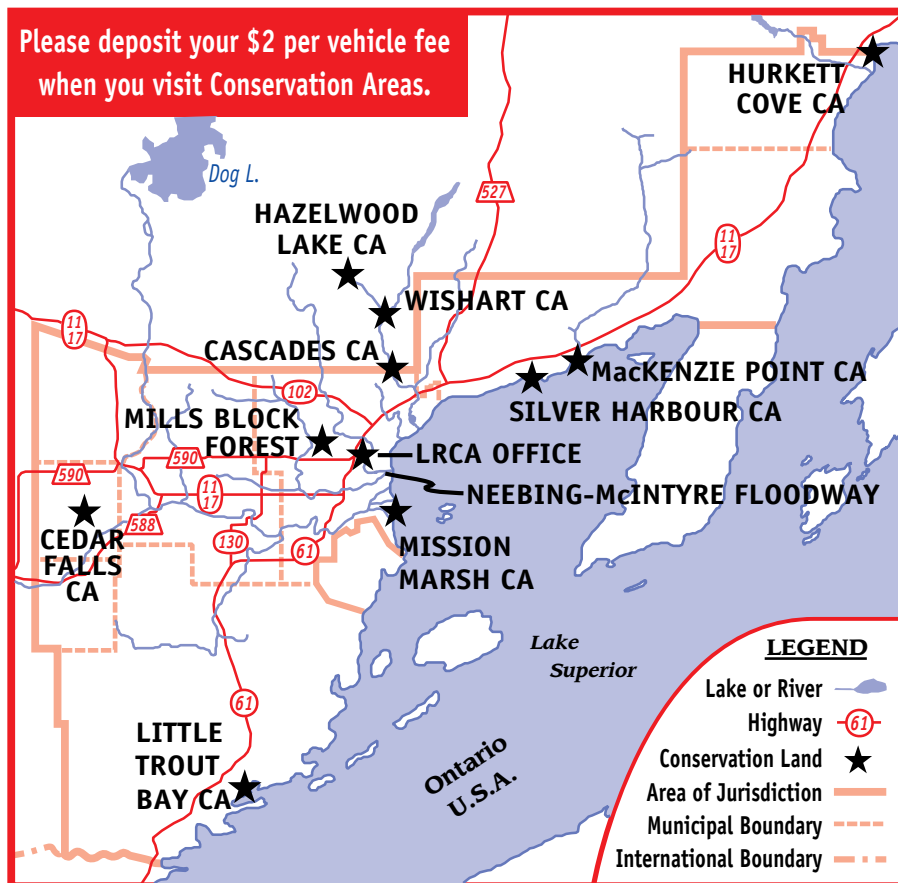
Conservation Areas contribute to the health of our watershed and its residents.

www.lakeheadca.com maps, directions, photos, tour, info



Little Trout Bay Conservation Area

Please deposit your \$2 per vehicle fee when you visit Conservation Areas.



Please...
**DO NOT
LITTER**

Pets are welcome
~ Must be on a leash at all times
~ Clean up after your pet

While visiting
our areas...

CALENDAR OF EVENTS ~ 2004

CLIP & KEEP

LCF DINNER & AUCTION

Hosted by Lakehead Conservation Foundation.

Thursday, February 12 6:00 p.m.

Valhalla Inn Ballroom

A fine meal, live auction and silent auction.

Proceeds support local Conservation Areas.

Tickets cost \$50 at the LRCA 344-5857.

GARDEN PARTY

Hosted by Lakehead Conservation Foundation.

Saturday, June 5 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Lakehead Conservation Office

Shop for perennials, annuals, shrubs and other garden items.

MEMORIAL GROVE CEREMONY

Sunday, June 27 2:00 p.m.

Slovak Legion on Atlantic Avenue

Family and friends of those remembered in the Blake Memorial Grove are invited to attend a Dedication Ceremony.

WATER SAFETY IN SPRING

March 15 to 19

Lakehead Conservation will warn children of the dangers of thawing lakes and rivers.

WATERFOWL VIEWING DAY

Saturday, May 1 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area

Spring is in the air and so are the birds. Watch the bird migration spectacle. Experts will help you see the birds.

Display at TRADE SHOW - CLE Grounds

Thursday, May 6 to Sat., May 8

Visit Lakehead Conservation's display to learn about our projects and Conservation Areas. Ask questions about fish habitat with staff from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

ARBOUR WEEK

May 25 to 28

Celebrate by planting a tree or fruiting shrub at home. Lakehead Conservation staff will be helping local students to discover all the great things we get from forests and why we should conserve this renewable resource.

ONTARIO FAMILY FISHING WEEKEND

Sunday, July 11 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area

Find out some tips and try your luck fishing from shore or canoe. No license needed, as part of the Ontario Family Fishing Weekend.

LOOSESTRIFE CONTROL MONTH

July 5 - 31 Volunteers needed

Purple Loosestrife is an invading plant that threatens valuable wetland habitat. Help stop the spread of loosestrife by spending an hour to dig up plants at a targeted growing site. Contact Lakehead Conservation for details, instructions and sites.

Call 344-5857 for additional details and events or visit www.lakeheadca.com

DAY USE ONLY

NO CAMPING or MOORING
NO CAMPFIRE
NO OVERNIGHT PARKING



TRAILS FOR PEDESTRIAN USE ONLY

NO MOTORIZED VEHICLES
NO BIKES ALLOWED





Great Items at Nature Craft Fair

Above: The annual Nature Craft Fair was a time to shop for unique gifts and enjoy the autumn scenery at Hazelwood Lake Centre.



New Signs at Mission Marsh

Above: Ontario Power Generation provided funding to replace entrance signs at Mission Island Marsh CA. The colourful signs feature a mural of the marsh.



Loosestrife Beetles on the Move

Left: Back in 1997, Lakehead Conservation made its first release of *Galerucella* beetles that feed only on purple loosestrife.

This year, LRCA staff received four cases of beetles through a provincially funded program. The beetles were released at three sites close to the Kam River. They are expected to disperse to other patches of loosestrife over the next few years. LRCA summer staff employee Franz Seibel releases beetle larvae at a site on the Kam River.



ANNUAL PASS FOR LOCAL CONSERVATION AREAS

Explorer Cards give you a full year of access to local Conservation Areas for the low price of \$25. By displaying your Explorer Card, you can forgo paying the regular \$2 per vehicle entrance fee at Conservation Areas. Visit as often as you like. Explorer Cards make a great gift for anyone who likes the outdoors. Also valid for admission to special events, such as the Waterfowl Viewing Day. Revenue from Explorer Card sales help to cover taxes, maintenance and operating costs for Conservation Areas.

Complete the form below and mail it with your cheque or use your VISA number. Send the form with your VISA number by fax to 345-9156. Order over the phone at 344-5857 using VISA. You may also purchase in person from the Lakehead Conservation office with cash, cheque or VISA.



☒ Yes, I (we) want to order an Explorer Card

AMOUNT DUE

_____ @ \$25.00 = \$ _____
of Cards per Card TOTAL AMOUNT

PAYMENT METHOD

☐ I have enclosed a cheque for the amount shown above, made payable to the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority

OR ☐ I wish to charge the amount shown above to my **VISA** card.

Card #: _____ Expiry: _____

Cardholders Name: _____

Cardholders Signature: _____

MAILING INFO for CARD & RECEIPT

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov.: _____ Postal Code: _____



Please put this form with your payment in an envelope and mail to:

Lakehead Region Conservation Authority

P.O. Box 10427

Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8

~ thank you ~