

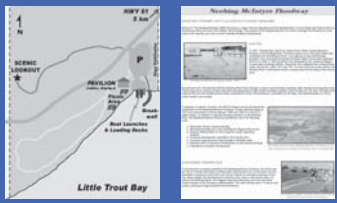
IN THE WATERSHED

2004
ANNUAL
REPORT



LAKEHEAD REGION
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

www.lakeheadca.com



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WATERSHED INFO



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For more detailed information on
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KAM PROJECT GOES AHEAD

Lakehead Conservation proceeded with a major bank stabilization project along the Kam River in 2004. The million-dollar contract was undertaken by a local firm using an innovative approach.

'Soil nailing' is a process developed by engineers at DST Consulting Engineers. Long steel rods are driven into the slope at a 90° angle to the ground. The soil near the bar binds together. By forming a close grid of bars, the whole slope becomes anchored in place.

Stabilization was undertaken at five sites along Victor Street. The slope at these locations was falling away and was less than 6 metres from the road in some spots. In order to protect Victor Street and other municipal services, Lakehead Conservation initiated the slope stability project.

Funding for the work is coming from the City of Thunder Bay with matching funds from the Province of Ontario through the SuperBuild Fund. Monitoring will continue so that any movement of the slope can be detected and addressed.

In the 1980's, the Kam River bank upstream of the current project was stabilized. Riprap stone was placed along 1250 metres of shoreline. A concrete and steel retaining wall was installed at the top of the bank adjacent to Victor St. Seven homes near the



Above and Below: Long steel bars driven deep into the ground will stabilize the river bank at five sites along Victor St.



slope were purchased and removed.

Lakehead Conservation undertakes remedial erosion control and slope stability measures under its watershed management mandate. Addressing erosion issues helps protect life and property. The sediment from erosion can impact water quality, decrease the depth of river channels and worsen the potential for flooding.

SOURCE PROTECTION

Safe supplies of drinking water are important to all residents and to many sectors of the economy, such as agriculture and food services.

A first step in a drinking water system is the source, whether that is from groundwater or surface water. If the water entering the system is as free of contaminants as possible, then the proper purification, delivery and testing procedures will mean water coming out of the tap is safe.

The Ontario Government, in response to the Walkerton Report, is enacting legislation that will require Source Protection Plans for watersheds in Ontario. Conservation Authorities, with their history of watershed management, will be assisting the Committees that are tasked with writing the Plans.

More on page 2

Pearl River Watershed



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



Above: LRCA Chairman Bill Bartley accepted a plaque from Councillor Lawrence Timko, representing the City of Thunder Bay, to mark the 50th Anniversary of the LRCA.

Lakehead Conservation marked its fiftieth anniversary of watershed management during 2004.

It was back in the early 1950's that concerns about flooding led community leaders to petition the provincial government to create a Conservation Authority. The Neebing Valley Conservation Authority was established in 1954 for the Neebing River watershed. In 1963, the area of jurisdiction was enlarged to encompass eight Member Municipalities and the name was changed to the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority.

Partnerships with government agencies, groups, businesses and individuals have been an important contribution to Lakehead Conservation's fifty years of watershed management. A special Partner's Dinner was held in September 2004 to recognize their valuable role. The Dinner coincided with Lakehead Conservation's hosting of the Biennial Tour for Ontario's Conservation Authorities. Eighty out-of-town delegates were shown conservation projects, parklands and the wonderful sites of the Thunder Bay area.

Lakehead Conservation has focused on delivering programs that help our watershed residents and member municipalities. We will continue that model of service as we move ahead in the years to come.

REFLECTIONS

Stewardship is a word that has a close connection to conservation. In general, stewardship can be viewed as actions that help to conserve a particular resource.

Lakehead Conservation is responsible for watershed management and undertakes a diverse range of programs and services towards that goal. We are stewards of the watershed in a broad sense.



Bill Bartley,
LRCA Chairman,
2004

However, it is often the actions at a localized level that add up to the overall picture. What individual landowners are doing does matter. Successful management of our natural resources depends, therefore, on all of us.

One example is the stewardship of the shoreline of lakes and rivers. Filling, vegetation removal, chemical use, leaking septic fields and many more perils can be inflicted on watercourses. The impacts are felt

not only by the plants and animals that depend on the water, but can present flood and health hazards or diminish the recreational and economic values that the rest of society derives from the water.

Conservation, stewardship and management all work to ensure that our watershed is a great place to live.

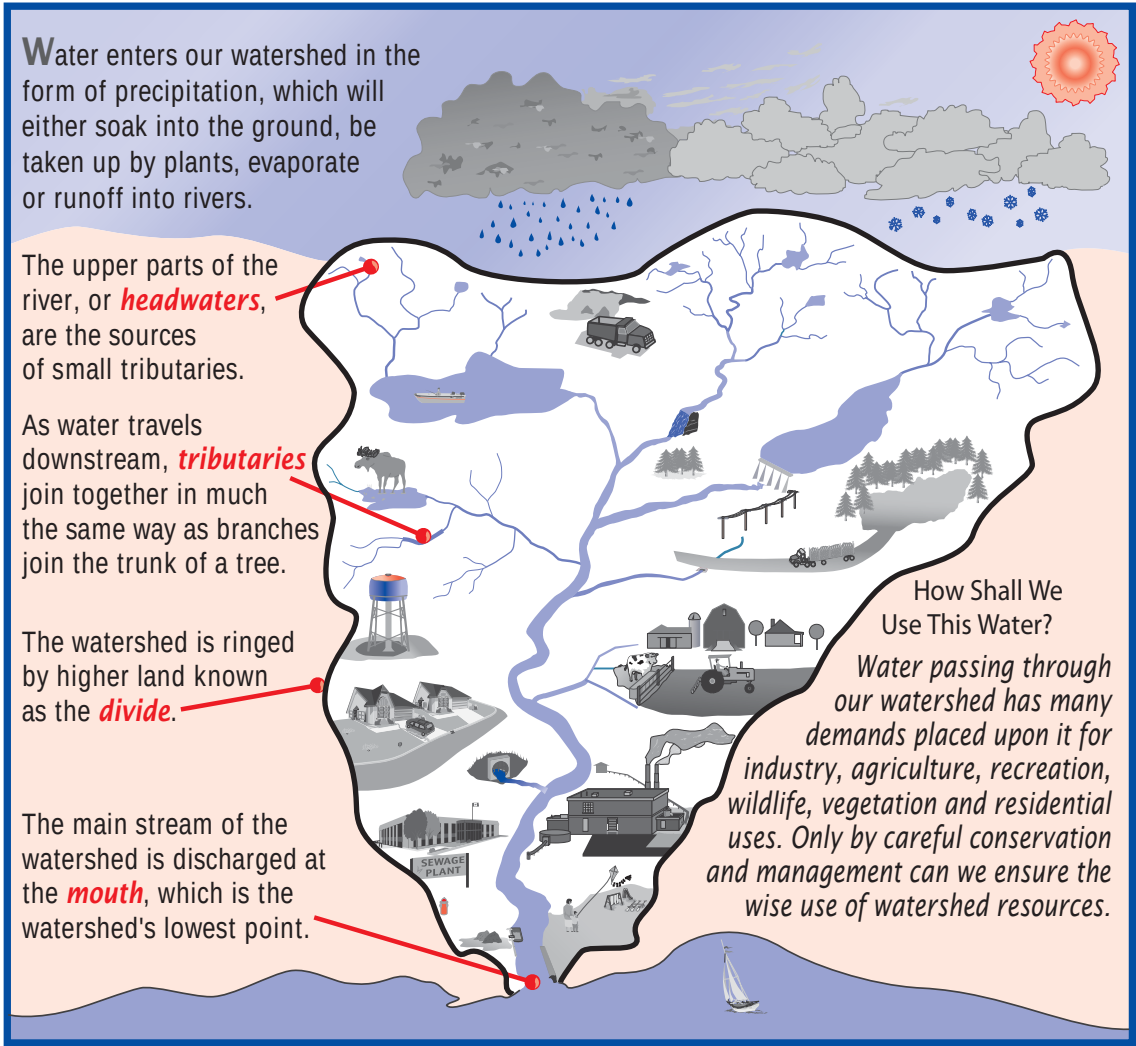
WATERSHED PLANNING



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.

A **watershed** is the area that contributes to the supply of a river. The watershed collects precipitation and allows it to drain away through a series of streams, rivers and lakes.

Why watersheds? Managing resources on a watershed basis treats natural systems as an entire unit. Our integrated approach 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.



LAKEHEAD CONSERVATION'S OBJECTIVES

- Ensure that rivers, lakes and streams are properly safeguarded, managed and restored
- Protect, manage and restore 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

COMING SOON TO YOUR WATERSHED!

The Source Protection Planning Committee will have representatives from many sectors and should be established in the summer of 2005. The Committee will oversee the process of gathering information about the watershed, such as surface water flows, groundwater, sources of drinking water and potential impairments to use. The complex task of assembling this knowledge base into a comprehensive Source Protection Plan to safeguard water sources will be the end goal of the Committee.

It is expected to take at least three years to write the Plan, which will then go to the Provincial government for final review and approval. Once approved, the implementation of recommendations can commence.

WATERSHED REPORT

Lakehead Conservation compiled information on the Pearl River watershed in Shuniah Township this year. The Pearl River flows from hills north of Highway 11-17 and south to Lake Superior. It includes a few cottage lakes, such as Loon Lake.

Part of the study involved 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 report serves as baseline data that can be compared in the future to detect any changes in watershed characteristics.



Right: The Pearl River exits Loon Lake on its run to Lake Superior.

FILL REGULATIONS

Visit the Lakehead Conservation office before you purchase a home or property, or build your home, garage or addition. We will assess factors that may affect the location and other aspects of development on the property, as well as fisheries.

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. In some cases, a clearance letter is issued, while others may require a permit.

2004 Fill Regulation Applications

Fill	6
Construction	8
Waterways	2
TOTAL	16

2004 Plan Input & Review

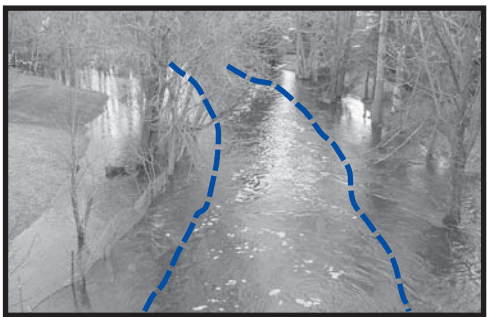
Clearances/Building Permits	100
Consents & Minor Variances	95
Zoning By-law Amendments	74
Plans of Subdivision	3
Fill Applications (from above)	16
TOTAL	288

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 the summer of 2005 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 Report
- educational programming
- purple loosestrife control
- graphic design
- digital mapping



Left: A mid-April rainfall caused local watercourses to rise sharply and resulted in some isolated flooding. On McVicar's Creek, shown here, the water spilled into some backyards. The normal river channel would be between the rows of trees on the bank (illustrated by the blue dashed line).

LAKEHEAD CONSERVATION MEMBERSHIP FOR 2004

Twp. of Dorion	- Ed Chambers	City of Thunder Bay
Twp. of Gillies	- Henry Jantunen	- Dick Waddington - Lawrence Timko
Twp. of Conmee	- Lauri Pajamaki (Oct.-Dec.)	- Phil Jarvis - Gary Murchison
	- John Wm. Merkley (Jan.-Sept.)	
Munic. of Neebing	- Bev Dale	The Board is responsible for making policy, budget and fill regulation decisions affecting the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority.
Twp. of O'Connor	- Lee-Ann Nygard	
Twp. of Oliver Paipoonge	- David Hearn	
Munic. of Shuniah	- Bill Bartley	
Chairman: BILL BARTLEY		Vice-Chairman: PHIL JARVIS

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
- ~ up to 130 people
- ~ available May-Oct.
- ~ barrier-free access
- ~ weddings, meetings

Scandia Catering is the official caterer of the Hazelwood Lake Centre. They will handle all questions about available dates, rental rates and menu options. Scandia has an excellent reputation for their personable service and great food.

Contact Scandia Catering at 767-3565

FINANCIAL SUMMARY ~ 2004

Lakehead Conservation's 2004 expenditures totaled one-million-eight-hundred-thousand 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.

The 'soil nailing' at five sites on the Kam River will help to stabilize the slope that was edging toward Victor St. A special levy to the City of Thunder Bay with matching dollars from the Province's SuperBuild Fund provided the necessary funding for the project. Monitoring of the slope on the Kam River will continue.

The Regional Aquifer Characterization Study continued with the consultant compiling data. The final Study should be ready in early 2005 and will map out aquifers and any interactions.

Thank you to the corporate supporters and the volunteers that make a difference by helping with fundraising, special events and Adopt-a-trail. At Mission Island Marsh CA, Union Gas employees, with funds from the Duke Energy Foundation, planted a butterfly garden. Ontario Power Generation funded tree planting and rental of a viewing scope. The Lakehead Conservation Foundation contributed \$25,000 to Conservation Areas.

At Silver Harbour CA, access was opened to a small, gravel beach. The beach has a great view over the lake to the west and south. It is located to the right of the road just as you enter the Conservation Area. The trails at Conservation Areas were evaluated for hazard trees that were then removed. In Cascades CA, a traffic counter

logged the number of visitors over the summer. An average of 190 vehicles per day were recorded, which is an increase of 38% over 2001 data. Afternoons were the busiest time and Sunday was the most popular day.

The graphs, below, show the 2004 revenue and expenditures. Watershed management projects and related administrative costs are eligible for provincial transfer payment and municipal levy.

Please visit our website for further details on Lakehead Conservation's projects.



Above: Students from St. Thomas Aquinas School prepare to plant a maple tree in front of their school as part of an Arbour Week program delivered by LRCA staff. Tree seedlings were provided to 2,000 elementary students through a donation organized by Forest Renewal Co-op of Lakehead University. Thank you to the following nurseries: Hill's Greenhouses; A & R Greenhouses; Cook Lake Nurseries; PRT Group; and Jellien Nurseries Armstrong.



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) has a seventeen-year history of helping to fund improvements to local Conservation Areas. A \$25,000 cheque was presented to Lakehead Conservation in May 2004. Total contributions now stand at over \$450,000.

The biggest fundraising event is the annual Dinner and Auction. The 2004 Dinner raised more than \$25,000 in proceeds. Thank you to one-hundred-and-seventy organizations, businesses and individuals for their generous contributions.

Order your tickets for the 2005 Dinner by using the form on this page. Proceeds will be used towards a new scenic lookout and trail at Silver Harbour Conservation Area.



Above: Get your tickets for the 2005 Dinner and Auction. The Live Auction has great art and other exciting items up for bids. The Silent Auction features many practical items and fabulous gift certificates. We hope to see you on February 10 at the Valhalla Inn.

The Blake Memorial Grove grows more beautiful each year and now consists of over 3,800 trees. The program is a partnership of Blake Funeral Chapel, LCF and Lakehead Conservation. A new three-year agreement was signed in 2004.

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).

Left: Spruce, lilac, maple and flowering crab are just some of the trees that run along the recreation trail and Floodway banks in the Blake Memorial Grove.

LCF RESPONSE FORM

DINNER TICKETS

Send me tickets to the Lakehead Conservation Foundation's Fundraising Dinner & Auction on Feb. 10, 2005 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 \$55 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

☐ As below

Name: _____

Address: _____

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 _____

2005 EVENTS

2005 LCF Fundraising Dinner and Auction

Hosted by Lakehead Conservation Foundation

Thursday, February 10 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)



Proceeds will support a new scenic overlook and trail at Silver Harbour Conservation Area

WATER SAFETY IN SPRING



March 15 to April 30

Help keep your child safe.
Teach them to stay off the ice and away from fast-moving water.

For activities and stories, visit
www.lakeheadca.com/safety

WATERFOWL VIEWING DAY

Saturday, APRIL 30

8:00 a.m. - Noon



MISSION ISLAND MARSH
Conservation Area

Witness the migration spectacle of ducks, herons, hawks, songbirds and many other species.

Lakehead Conservation staff will show you the different birds through viewing scopes and help you learn to identify the birds. Drop by any time.

\$2 per vehicle admission or free with your Explorer Card.

"GARDEN PARTY" Plant Sale

Hosted by Lakehead Conservation Foundation

Saturday, June 4 9:00 a.m. - noon

Lakehead Conservation Office

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



Donations of plant material would be welcomed. Drop off June 1 & 2.

Display at TRADE SHOW

May 12 to May 14

CLE GROUNDS

Visit Lakehead Conservation's display to learn about our projects and Conservation Areas.

ARBOUR WEEK

MAY 16 - MAY 20

Celebrate by planting a tree or fruiting shrub at home. Lakehead Conservation staff will help local students discover the great things we get from forests.

MEMORIAL GROVE CEREMONY

Sunday, June 26 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.

Arrangements by Blake Funeral Chapel

AUTUMN CRAFT FAIR

Sunday, SEPT. 18 1 - 4 p.m.

Hazelwood Lake Centre

Shop for delightful gifts and crafts from the many artisans. Enjoy a hike in autumn woods.

Table rentals available at 344-5857.

Handicap Fishing Dock

Below: A fishing dock has been built along the north bank of the Kam River



near the new Island Drive Bridge. Fish species that frequent the river include pike, perch, walleye and rock bass. The ramp offers accessibility for people with special needs by providing a gentle slope. The fishing dock is located adjacent to wetland lagoons built to restore shallow water habitat that may have been damaged during construction of the Island Drive Bridge.

Funding came from Ducks Unlimited and Ontario's Living Legacy Trust Fund, with a further \$20,000 from a Court fine awarded to Lakehead Conservation with the stipulation that the funds be used toward fish habitat projects.

Butterfly Garden at Mission Marsh

Right bottom: Butterflies will find a welcome home in the new garden at Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area. Union Gas employees participated in the annual Global Service Event by donating their time to plant the colourful flowerbed. A grant from the Duke Energy Foundation provided the funds for the plants, shrubs and topsoil required for the butterfly garden. Several kinds of flowering perennials, as well as flowering shrubs, will be in the garden. A display will be added in 2005 that shows the types of butterflies and plants in the garden.



Digging Loosestrife

Left: Ontario Rangers tackled a large patch of Purple Loosestrife growing in a ditch near the John St. and Highway 17 intersection. Four pickup truckloads of plants were removed.

Volunteers are needed in the months of July and August to dig out plants at Loosestrife growing locations. Call the LRCA office for further details.



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 helps to cover taxes, maintenance and operating costs for Conservation Areas.

IN PERSON -- Visit the LRCA office and use cash, cheque or VISA

BY FAX -- Complete form with your VISA number and fax to 345-9156

BY PHONE -- Call LRCA office at 344-5857 and use your VISA number

BY MAIL -- Complete form and mail with a cheque or use your VISA number

Lakehead Region Conservation Authority

P.O. Box 10427

Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8

~ thank you ~



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

AMOUNT DUE

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

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: _____