



# IN THE WATERSHED

## 2005 Annual Report

### Lakehead Region Conservation Authority

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### Lakehead Conservation Foundation 2006

### Fundraising

### Dinner & Auction

Thursday, February 9, 2006

Valhalla Inn

Tickets \$50/person

in support of LRCA

Conservation Land Management

*Ticket order form on page 3*

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## RETREAT!



When you need to get away from the office but not far from town there's **Hazelwood Lake Centre**



**Lakehead Region  
Conservation Authority**

*Conserve today...for a better tomorrow*

**Call 344-5857**

## Flood forecasting to improve with new equipment acquisitions



**FAMILY FISHING DAY** is a popular annual event held every July at Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area. This is one of the lucky youngsters to land a big one during the 2005 event which is held in conjunction with Ontario Family Fishing Weekend and National Fishing Week. Prizes were generously donated by Canadian Tire - Arthur Street location and the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority. In 2006 Family Fishing Day will be held at Hazelwood Lake on Sunday, July 9th. (LRCA photo)

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority now has improved flood forecasting and warning capabilities.

In 2005, the Ministry of Natural Resources provided \$26,400 for the installation of remote telemetry gauges on the Slate River and upper Neebing River.

This compliments our existing Streamflow Gauge Network which includes gauges at seven other locations on the Neebing River, McIntyre River, McVicar's Creek, Current River, Whitefish River, North Current River and Corbett Creek.

The gauges provide data on rainfall and water levels and is accessed by computer. The information is important to aid in the determination of rainfall distribution patterns and the potential for flooding in the municipalities within our jurisdiction.

In the event of a significant flood event, staff attempt to document the extent of flooding and any damages that may occur.

With the additional gauges, staff will be able to develop refined modeling programs for flood forecasting/warning and drought conditions.

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority maintains a Flood Warning System to alert residents of a potentially serious flood.

[www.lakeheadca.com](http://www.lakeheadca.com)

## Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network

The Ontario Government has established a system to monitor groundwater conditions in the province.

The information from The Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) will provide an early warning system for changes in water levels caused by climatic conditions or human activities as well as changes in water quality from natural or manmade causes.

The information will support informed decision making on water-takings, drought management and land use planning.

To date five of the ten PGMN wells intended for the Lakehead Region have been installed. They're located at the East Gorham Fire Department (Wishart Conservation Area), Hazelwood Lake (Hazelwood Conservation Area), Murillo Fire Department (Oliver-Paipoonge municipal property), Kakabeka Falls Fire Department (Oliver-Paipoonge municipal property) and Jackpine Community Centre (City of Thunder Bay municipal property).

It is anticipated that the first round of sampling will be completed in late fall or the spring of 2006.

## Chairman's Message by Bill Bartley

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. Management on a watershed basis is important since it treats natural systems as an entire unit. Justice O'Connor in his Part II of the Walkerton Inquiry report and recommendations also recognized the importance of watershed management.

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 protecting life and property from flooding and erosion, actively providing semi-passive outdoor recreational opportunities as well as restoring and conserving aquatic and natural habitats.

We regulate development near watercourses to guide development within the natural constraints of the site. In this manner, we protect the landowner from possible property damages and risk to life from the effects of flooding while safeguarding the health of the watercourse.



Other examples of environmental stewardship include river clean-up; Memorial Grove tree planting program; Arbour Week; a network of conservation areas and lands; pathways on the Floodway; enhanced recreation facilities, including accessible trails at Cascades Conservation Area; improved handicap access at Silver Harbour Conservation Area; conservation education; involvement in fish habitat protection and enhancement.

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

I invite you to call or visit our office or visit our website [www.lakeheadca.com](http://www.lakeheadca.com) which contains a vast amount of information relative to our organization.

**Conserve today...for a better tomorrow**



Board of Directors

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

|               |                                   |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Chairman      | Bill Bartley, Township of Shuniah |
| Vice-Chairman | Phil Jarvis, City of Thunder Bay  |

|                 |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Lauri Pajamaki  | Commee Township          |
| Ed Chambers     | Dorion Township          |
| Henry Jantunen  | Gillies Township         |
| Beverley Dale   | Municipality of Neebing  |
| Lee-Ann Nygard  | O'Connor Township        |
| David Hearn     | Mun. of Oliver-Paipoonge |
| Dick Waddington | City of Thunder Bay      |
| Gary Murchison  | City of Thunder Bay      |
| Lawrence Timko  | City of Thunder Bay      |

Authority Staff

|                   |                                                  |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Mervi Henttonen   | General Manager/Secretary/<br>Treasurer          |
| Steve Suke        | Director of Technical<br>Operations              |
| Tom Mikulinski    | General Superintendent                           |
| Tammy Cook        | Water Resources Technologist                     |
| Richard Boon      | Community Relations Officer                      |
| Brenda Searson    | Bookkeeper/Typist                                |
| Melanie Mathieson | Source Water Protection<br>(SWP) Project Manager |
| Roman Augustyn    | SWP GIS/Data Specialist                          |
| Jordan Forbes     | SWP Communications<br>Specialist                 |



Office Hours

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Monday to Friday

Visit us for floodplain inquiries, brochures & conservation information.

130 Conservation Road  
P.O. Box 10427  
Thunder Bay, ON, P7B 6T8

Phone: 807-344-5857 Fax: 807-345-9156

Email: info@lakeheadca.com www.lakeheadca.com

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority is a community-based environmental agency. We are responsible for the wise management of renewable natural resources in our watershed. Conservation Authorities undertake a broad range of programs, including: flood control; floodplain management; wetland protection; erosion control; reforestation; conservation lands; and conservation education.

Fill Regulations

Visit the Lakehead Conservation Authority 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 and erosion. 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.

|                                   |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| 2005 Fill Regulation Applications |    |
| Fill                              | 4  |
| Construction                      | 7  |
| Waterways                         | 2  |
| TOTAL                             | 13 |

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| 2005 Plan Input & Review       |     |
| Clearances/Building Permits    | 90  |
| Consents & Minor Variances     | 154 |
| Zoning By-law Amendments       | 66  |
| Plans of Subdivision           | 0   |
| Fill Applications (from above) | 13  |
| TOTAL                          | 323 |



Maintaining a safe, sustainable water supply is essential to all human and natural activities. The first step involved in maintaining our water supply is protecting it at its source. Source Water is untreated water from streams, lakes, rivers or underground aquifers often used to supply private wells and public drinking water systems.

Source water comes from one of two sources: surface water or groundwater. Surface water is open to the atmosphere and includes lakes, rivers, streams, creeks and oceans. Groundwater is water found beneath the Earth’s surface between the cracks and spaces in soil, sand and rock. Because it can be very costly and extremely difficult to clean a polluted water source, it is very important to ensure our water sources are protected. Protecting our source water will also help to ensure that there will be enough safe water for all of our uses, now and in the future.

The Ontario Government, in response to the Walkerton Report, is in the process of developing legislation that will require the development of Source Water Protection Plans for all watersheds in the province. With their history of watershed planning, Conservation Authorities have been selected to work with a Source Water Protection Planning Committee to assist in the development of a Source Water Protection Plan in their watershed regions.

The Source Water Protection Planning Committee will have representatives from a variety of sectors and should be established by the summer of 2006. The committee will oversee the process of gathering information about the watershed, assessing threats and assembling this information into a comprehensive Source Water Protection Plan. When the plan is developed, it will go to the Provincial Government for final approval. Once approved, recommendations in the plan can then be implemented.

For more information, please visit:  
[www.sourceprotection.net](http://www.sourceprotection.net)

WATERSHED PLANNING



Mills Block Forest

**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 watershed?** 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.



# No more slip slidin’ away

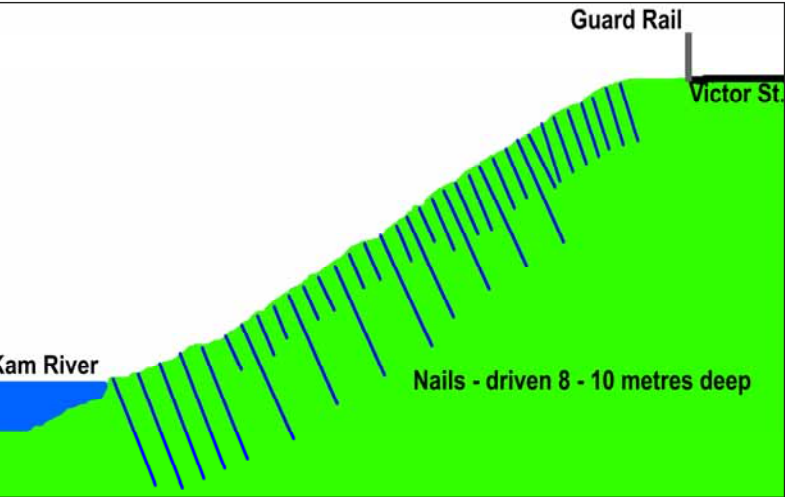


Photo: DST Consulting Engineers

A major stabilization project along the banks of the Kaministiquia River was completed in June, 2005.

A study, conducted in 2002, determined that erosion along the banks of the Kam River was endangering five locations along a two-kilometre stretch of Victor Street in Neebing Ward. At these locations, the crest of the bank had receded to within 6 metres of the roadway.

DST Consulting Engineers was contracted to fix the problem.



Through laboratory testing, they determined the best way to stabilize the bank was through a Soil Nail Stabilization System. The system is comprised of steel reinforcing bars (nails) being driven 8 to 10-metres into the slope at an angle.

Each nail is treated to protect it against corrosion giving the system a 75-year design life. Monitoring will continue for the next two years to confirm the system is working and that further erosion is minimized.

DST predicts some minor slope movement “in the order of 10mm.”

The final cost of the Kam River Bank Stabilization Project is \$1.2-million dollars. Funding was provided by the City of Thunder Bay and Province of Ontario.

# 2005 Financial Summary

Lakehead Conservation’s budgeted 2005 revenues and expenditures were approximately \$1.6-million. Expenses include administration of flood and erosion control programs; flood forecasting and warning; plan input and review; watershed planning; operations and development of Conservation Areas and associated lands; Hazelwood Lake Centre; and community relations.

Significant changes occurred at Lakehead Conservation during 2005. Long awaited funding for Source Water Protection (SWP) Planning from the Province was received.

A Groundwater Aquifer Study was completed which will assist with the preparation of the Work Plan for the SWP Planning initiative.

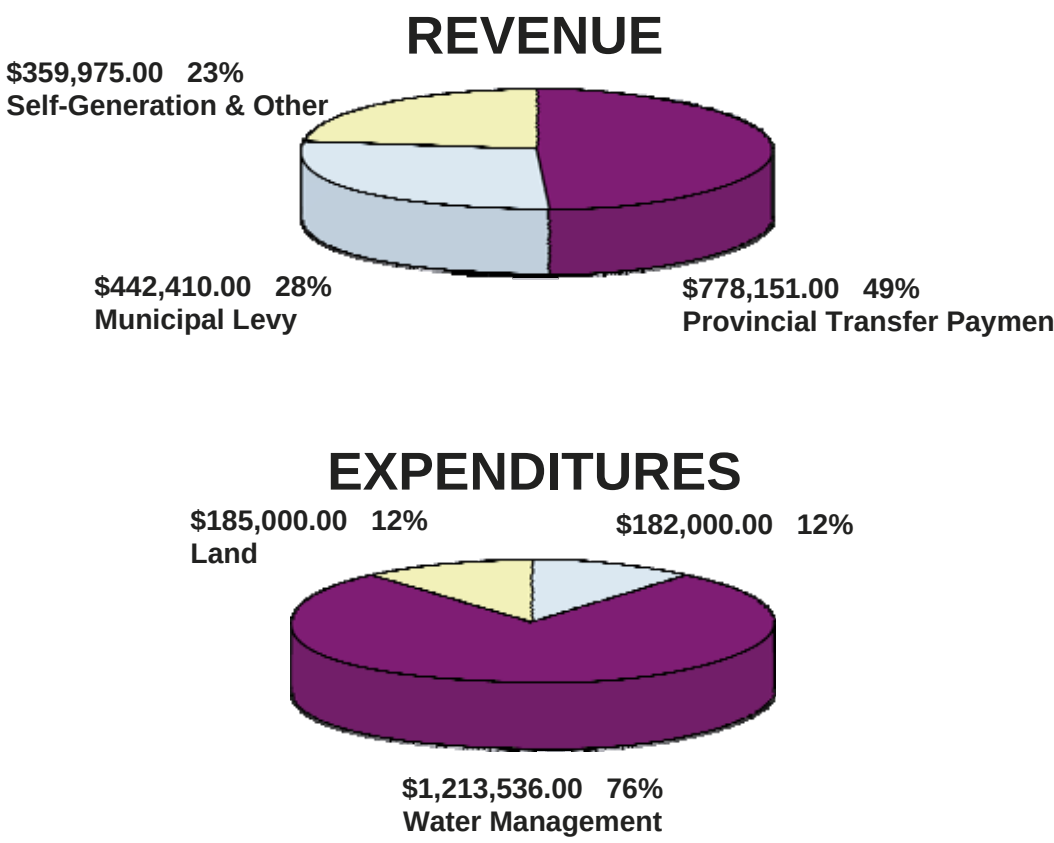
The Blake Memorial Grove Program is a tri-party agreement among Blake’s Funeral Home, Lakehead Conservation Foundation and the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority. In 2005 a new three year agreement took effect. To date 4,164 trees have been planted.

As landowners we pay taxes on our properties. In 2005 we paid approximately \$54,164 in taxes.

For a number of years, vehicle traffic counters have been deployed at various Conservation Areas to help gather visitation information. Based on this data it is estimated that our nine areas receive more than 100,000 visitors a year.

In 2005, new interpretive signage was added on the Kam River at the north end of the new Island Drive bridge. A garbage bin and handicap accessible picnic tables were placed at the Silver Harbour Conservation Area.

Ontario Power Generation provided funding for the start of the grove plantings at the Mission Island Conservation Area. Cedar and pine trees have been planted along with a lilac grove.





# Lakehead Conservation Foundation

130 Conservation Rd, P.O. Box 10147, Thunder Bay, ON, P7B 6T6, Phone: 345-2377 [www.lakeheadca.com/foundatn.htm](http://www.lakeheadca.com/foundatn.htm)

The Lakehead Conservation Foundation was formed by concerned citizens in the community with the following objectives:

- ✳ To aid, promote and give assistance to the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority’s (LRCA) conservation and recreation land management program;
- ✳ To promote the practice of conservation; and
- ✳ To enhance the education of people with respect to proper management of natural resources.



The Foundation raises funds to support improvements to Conservation Area facilities. Recent improvements include additional docks and accessible picnic tables at Silver Harbour Conservation Area

In 2005, the Foundation presented a donation of \$25,000 to the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority. The money is to be used for the operation of the Conservation Areas. Pictured: LRCA Chairman Bill Bartley receives the cheque from Foundation President, Phil Jarvis.



2006 Foundation events include the Annual Dinner/Auction at the Valhalla Inn on February 9th. Tickets are just \$50/person and are now available.

The Annual Garden Party/Plant Sale will be held on June 3rd.

On June 25, the Annual Tree Planting Ceremony for the Memorial Grove will be held at the Slovak Legion on Atlantic Avenue.

----- LCF RESPONSE FORM ----- ✂

**DINNER TICKETS**

Send me tickets to the Lakehead Conservation Foundation's Fundraising Dinner & Auction on Feb. 9, 2006 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* 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: ☐ Please send me more information about

Lakehead Conservation Foundation \_\_\_\_\_

P.O. Box 10147 Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T6 \_\_\_\_\_



## **2006 Calendar of Events**

February 9 - Lakehead Conservation Foundation Dinner/Auction,  
Valhalla Inn

April 29 - Spring Waterfowl Viewing Day, Mission Island Marsh\*

May 14-20 - Arbour Week

May 4-6 - display at Chamber of Commerce Trade Show

June 3 - Lakehead Conservation Foundation Garden Party/Plant Sale,  
Conservation Authority office

June 25 - Memorial Grove Dedication Ceremony,  
Slovak Legion, Atlantic Avenue

July 9 - Family Fishing Day, Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area\*

August 7-11 - Purple Loosestrife Control Days

August 20 - Family Picnic Day, Hurkett Cove Conservation Area\*

September 17 - Fall Craft Fair & Farmers Market,  
Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area\*

October 14 - Fall Waterfowl Viewing Day, Mission Island Marsh\*

*Watch for other exciting events!*

*\* Admission included with purchase of 2006 Explorer Card*

*To organize a special event or assist as a volunteer call us at 344-5857.*

*- all events subject to change. Call to confirm details -*