



Lakehead Region Conservation Authority

Conserve today...for a better tomorrow



2007 ANNUAL REPORT

Message from the Chair



2007 was a significant year for the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority as it proceeded with establishing a Source Protection Authority and Source Protection Committee which will be responsible for the creation of a local plan to protect the sources of our

municipal drinking water systems.

In addition to the work on municipal drinking water source protection, the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority continued to deliver on its programs of flood control, floodplain management; wetland protection, erosion control, reforestation, conservation lands and education.

In 2007 we were pleased to deliver the McVicar Creek Stewardship Project to residents living along McVicar Creek. By providing these residents with information on how to care for the creek along their property, the entire creek will be healthier in the future. Hundreds of trees were planted along the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway and at our Conservation Areas, helping to improve our environment. A study of Brule Creek in Conmee Township was carried out to help determine the health of the creek. We were also pleased to present our second Lakehead Children's Water Festival which taught Grade 3 and 4 students from throughout the region about the importance of water in our lives.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Directors for their time, expertise and commitment. Thanks to our eight member municipalities as well as the Province of Ontario and Government of Canada for their support. I would also like to thank the Staff at the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority who work tirelessly to improve the environment for the benefit of everyone in the region.

For more information about the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority's programs, please drop by our office located at 130 Conservation Road in Thunder Bay or visit our website: www.lakeheadca.com.

Bill Bartley, Chairman

2007 Board of Directors

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

Chairman	Bill Bartley, Thunder Bay
Vice-Chairman	Ed Chambers, Dorion
Grant Arnold	Conmee
Rick Kieri	Gillies
Beverley Dale	Neebing
LeeAnn Nygard	O'Connor
David Hearn	Oliver Paipoonge
Donna Blunt	Shuniah
Iain Angus	Thunder Bay
Gary Murchison	Thunder Bay
Linda Rydholm	Thunder Bay

Staff

Mervi Henttonen	General Manager/ Secretary-Treasurer
Tammy Cook	Watershed Manager
Ryne Gilliam	Field Operations Supervisor
Richard Boon	Community Relations Officer
Melanie O'Riley	Administrative Clerk
Laurie Henderson	Finance/Administrative Clerk
Roman Augustyn	GIS/Data Specialist
Michelle Sixsmith	Water Resources Technologist
Melanie Mathieson	Source Protection Project Manager
John Cameron	Source Protection Communications Officer

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.

Visit us for Regulation related inquiries, brochures and conservation information.

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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 (LRCA), one of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities, is a community based environmental protection agency that provides cost-effective environmental expertise and leadership that develops and delivers programs to ensure the healthy coexistence between the community, its environment and its economy.

The LRCA's area of jurisdiction includes the municipalities of Conmee, Dorion, Gillies, Neebing, O'Connor, Oliver Paipoonge, Thunder Bay and Shuniah and encompasses an area of 2,600 square kilometers, extending along 200 kilometers of Lake Superior shoreline.

Conservation Authorities were founded on three fundamental principles:

- Municipal and provincial partnership;
- Local initiative and involvement;
- Management of renewable natural resources on a watershed basis

Conservation Authorities, created in 1946 by an Act of the Provincial Legislature, are mandated to ensure the conservation, restoration and responsible management of Ontario's water, land and natural habitats through programs that balance human, environmental and economic needs.

Our objectives are:

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

The LRCA's 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.

ONTARIO

LOW WATER RESPONSE

Ontario Low Water Response is intended to ensure provincial preparedness, to assist in coordination and to support local response in the event of a drought.

Local conditions are determined by analyzing data collected through the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority's **Streamflow Gauge Network** and manual precipitation gauges.

The LRCA's Streamflow Gauge Network consists of gauges on the Slate, Neebing, McIntyre, Current, Whitefish and North Current Rivers as well as McVicar and Corbett Creek.

Other gauges are operated by Environment Canada, Ontario Power Generation and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. The gauges provide data on rainfall and water levels.

The fall of 2007 brought welcomed rain, ending a drought that began in the spring of 2006.

During the drought period the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority, through its participation in the Ontario Low Water Response Program, declared Level I and Level II Low Water Advisories.

In rural areas, wells were running dry as were some streams. The region experienced extreme forest fire conditions in the fall of 2006 and spring of 2007.

In the spring, LRCA Chairman Bill Bartley noted that "In the three month period from February to April, the Region received only 59% of average precipitation levels."

Lake Superior dipped to record low levels not seen since 1926 leaving docks high and dry and beaches exposed where there used to be water.



Low water levels on Lake Superior in the spring of 2007 left docks high and dry and beaches exposed.

Conditions started to improve in late summer and by September the drought was well on its way to ending with above average precipitation reported. October also recorded higher than normal precipitation levels and the Level I Low Water Advisory was rescinded.

"The drought should remind us all of the importance of water conservation and everyone should do their part to use as little water as possible every day, regardless of conditions," said Bartley.

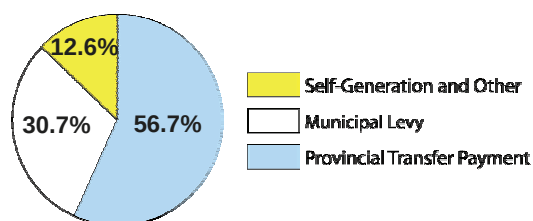
At a special meeting hosted by the LRCA in June, officials with the Lake Superior Board of Control said it will take two to three years of average precipitation around the entire basin for water levels on Lake Superior to return to normal.

More information on the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority's Low Water Response Plan is available on our website: www.lakeheadca.com.

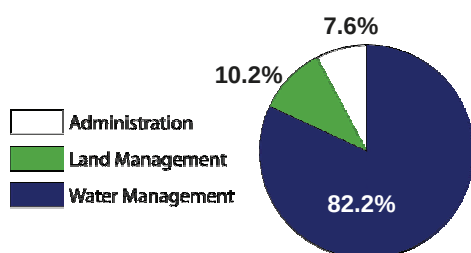
For water conservation tips visit:

www.ene.gov.on.ca/cons/3780-e.pdf

Financial Report



Revenue



Expenses

Lakehead Conservation's budgeted 2007 revenue and expenditures were approximately \$2.3-million dollars.

This money allowed the Authority to administer its water and land management services. This included the management of our 8 Conservation Areas, Hazelwood Lake Centre, Managed Forests and other lands that include floodplain and erosion control lands. Also included was the operation and maintenance of water control structures and erosion control, flood forecasting/warning, provided advice on erosion control, plan input and review, tree planting and forestry activities on our Managed Forest properties, watershed planning and education/outreach within our watershed jurisdiction.

Revenue is derived from three primary sources: Provincial/Federal Government Grants, Municipal Levies and self-generation which comprises of user fees, partnerships with other agencies, donations and sponsorships.

For the third year in a row, the provincial government has funded at 100% our activities related to Source Water Protection. This funding is reflected in the Provincial Transfer Payment of the Revenue pie chart.

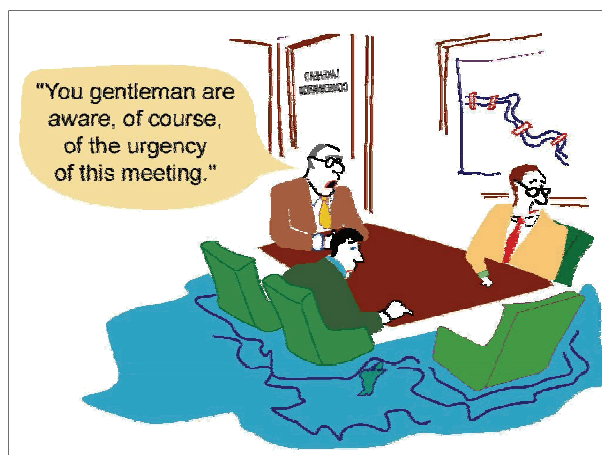
As property owners we pay taxes on our 6,000 acres of land. During 2007 our taxes totaled more than \$59,800.00.

Much of our work is highlighted throughout this Annual Report.

Property Donation

In 2007, the family of Captain A.H. Harpell and L. Lyle Bocking donated a 31 hectare piece of property located in the Township of Ware to the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority. The "Harpell/Bocking Area" will be maintained in a natural state.

Regulations



The principle mandate of Conservation Authorities is to prevent the loss of life and property damage due to flooding and erosion and to conserve and enhance natural resources.

The Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation is a key tool in fulfilling this mandate because it prevents or restricts development in areas where the control of flooding, erosion, pollution or the conservation of land may be affected by development. It also protects the mutual needs of the watercourse and the landowners adjacent to it.

Areas considered to be regulated by the Conservation Authority include all watercourses including streams, rivers and creeks; Provincially Significant Wetlands; In-land lakes and shorelines; ravines, valleys, steep slopes and talus slopes; property zoned "Hazard Land" or "Use Limitation."

If you are planning to do any work near lakes, rivers, streams or wetlands you may require a permit from the Conservation Authority.

Play it safe! Call the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority before working on or near waterbodies!



Education

Every year more than 410,000 students -- that's one fifth of Ontario students -- participate in Conservation Authority education programs.

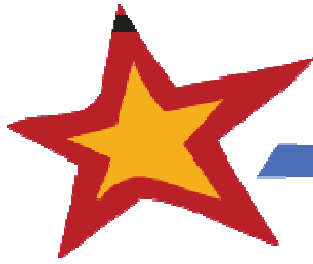
Our Conservation Areas are a living classroom. Raising awareness of conservation issues and developing an appreciation for the wonders of nature are essential to the conservation of our watershed. The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority provides a number of resources to the general public and to educators in particular.

Each year Lakehead Conservation visits schools for Arbour Week; provides guided tours of our Conservation Areas; and hosts the Lakehead Children's Water Festival for Grade 3 and 4 students from across the region.

Study Kits on a range of subjects are available for teachers. Interpretive pavilions at several Conservation Areas educate the public. Our Resource Library contains a large selection of books, reports and videos on nature conservation.

We also support students pursuing careers in environmental studies and other fields of academia by sponsoring two bursaries: one at Confederation College and the other at Lakehead University. The LRCA also supports the Northwestern Ontario Regional Science Fair.

The main sources of funding for our education programs include program fees such as fees charged per student for tours; donations or funds from the Lakehead Conservation Foundation; the LRCA budget; and other sources of revenue such as facility rental fees and program sponsorships.



PARTNERS

With the support of many community partners, the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority is able to deliver a variety of programs that benefit the region as a whole.

Since 1994, Ontario Power Generation has invested more than \$50,000.00 toward improvements at Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area. Their support is essential in order to maintain and upgrade these facilities for the benefit of the entire community.

Each year, OPG sponsors the lease of two Viewing Scopes, Fall Waterfowl Viewing Day and the planting of trees at Mission Island Marsh. They were also a sponsor of Lakehead Children's Water Festival.

The Authority and Hill's Greenhouses gave away about 1,700 seedlings at Mission Island Marsh and Cascades Conservation Areas as part of Arbour Week last year. We were also able to give away seedlings to students at Nor'Wester View School during Arbour Week.

Lakehead Conservation also appreciates the support of groups like the students of Gron Morgan School who planted several hundred seedlings at Mission Island Marsh during a class field trip and Ontario Rangers from Sleeping Giant Provincial Park and Nipigon who helped to destroy more than six tonnes of Purple Loosestrife in 2007. There were also individuals like Ken Simard who donated trees which were planted at the entry way of Mission Island Marsh and Harvey Lemelin and John and Elliot Hefford who personally planted hundreds of trees during Arbour Week.

Members of the Lakehead Conservation Foundation host a fundraising dinner auction and plant sale while students of the Thunder Bay Christian School assist at the Lakehead Children's Water Festival.

Another partnership is with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). The LRCA has a Level II Agreement with the DFO, Ontario Great Lakes Area (OGLA). The Authority is responsible for the initial evaluation of the proposed work as to its potential impact on fish habitat within the LRCA Area of Jurisdiction. More information is available in our "Ontario Regulation 180/06" brochure which is available at our office or online.

The Authority has worked with the City of Thunder Bay to develop recreation trails along the Neebing McIntyre Floodway and accessible fishing docks at the Mountdale Boat Launch and Island Drive Bridge.

We thank the dozens of other volunteers who help from time to time throughout the year with our many events and projects.



**Lakehead
Conservation
Foundation**



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada



**Ontario-Great Lakes Area
Fish Habitat Conservation and Protection**



**Friends of the
Environment
Foundation**



Ontario

1977



In February 1977, the Chronicle Journal reported that the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority planned to conduct a survey of water conditions in the spring and, if conditions warranted, would fund the drilling of up to three area water wells to help local farmers affected by drought conditions.

By May the Chronicle Journal reported McVicar Creek was running at about half the volume of a year earlier and said municipal and provincial government officials were hoping for more precipitation to help alleviate the dry conditions which had been plaguing the region for a year.

In June 1977, low water was being blamed for a lack of oxygen in the Kaministiquia River which led to a die-off of fish.

Then, on September 8 and 9 1977 the year and a half drought came to a dramatic end.

More than 152 mm (6 inches) of rain fell over two days as, according to the Chronicle Journal, "roads washed out, basements flooded and rivers spilled over their banks in the worst 24-hour deluge ever to hit Thunder Bay."

The storm battered the entire region as far as Kenora. Old Fort William was swamped with "six foot torrents" of water. The Ontario government offered relief of \$4 for every dollar raised in the communities of Hymers and Nolalu.

For the entire month of September, 227.2 mm (8.9 inches) of rain was recorded at the Thunder Bay airport.

In a report presented to City Council following the storm, construction of a Floodway along the Neebing and McIntyre Rivers was included on a list of recommendations to reduce the risk of flooding problems in the Intercity area in the future. Construction of the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway began in 1980 and was completed in 1984. It was designed to handle 193 mm of rain in a 12 hour period.

Storm worst ever to hit Thunder Bay



2007
2007

Jump ahead to 2007 and climate conditions were nearly identical.

A drought which started in the spring of 2006 resulted in water levels on Lake Superior being at their lowest since 1926.

In recent years, the Ontario Government has created the Ontario Low Water Response program and through this Level I and Level II Low Water Advisories were issued for the Region in 2007 as area wells began running dry and some rivers were reduced to little more than trickles of water.

Heading into the summer of 2007, there were concerns that a prolonged drought could result in fish kills on the Kaministiquia River.

Fortunately, the drought began to subside late in the summer. While the Region remained in a Level I Low Water Condition, regular rainfalls began to raise the water table and by the end of summer, rural residents were reporting plenty of water in their wells and that sump pumps had kicked in for the first time in over a year.

Official Environment Canada data indicates total precipitation for the month of September was 94.5 mm and 134 mm in October.

Rain gauges monitored by the LRCA indicate more than 200 mm of rain was received at some areas in September and 147 mm at some locations in October.

In a one week period, from October 14th to 18th, 72 mm of rain was recorded at the airport, leading to the issuance of Flood Advisories. While total rainfall and damage did not approach the levels of the 1977 storm, minor local flooding and some washouts were reported.

The Neebing - McIntyre Floodway began diverting excess water from the Neebing River on October 18th, preventing damaging floods from affecting homes and businesses in the Intercity area.



Stewardship

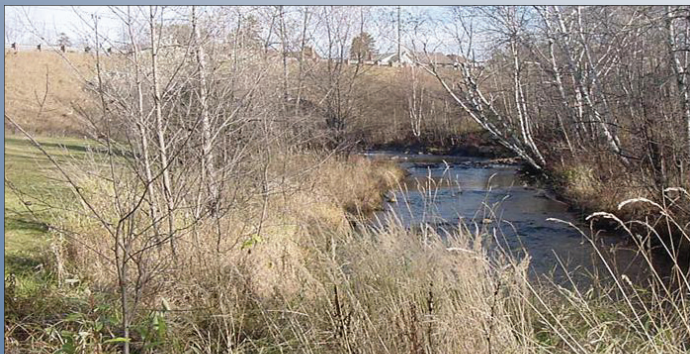
Watershed stewardship is caring for our water, land, air and biodiversity on a watershed basis recognizing that everything is connected in a watershed and is affected by natural and human activities.



A well groomed lawn right to the edge of this creek may look nice, but it doesn't provide enough protection from erosion and is not effective at filtering pollution.

THINGS THAT YOU CAN DO:

- Be careful with fertilizers or chemicals that can wash into storm sewers and streams
- Never refuel near the water
- Keep your septic system properly maintained
- Leave a buffer zone of natural vegetation along shorelines
- Reduce erosion by planting native trees and bushes along shorelines.



This Buffer Zone consisting of trees, shrubs and tall grasses, protects the creek from erosion and helps to filter pollutants which could be harmful.

In The Watershed



Residents living along McVicar Creek attend a Stewardship meeting at Castlegreen Community Centre.



Hundreds of seedlings were planted at Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area during Arbour Week. Ontario Power Generation donated large trees while the seedlings were provided by Hill's Greenhouses. Pictured (L-R): Wray Clement and Jane Todd (OPG), Kevin Vanduyn (Hill's Greenhouses), Bill Bartley (LRCA Chairman), Derrick Brooks (OPG).

In 2007 the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority undertook several stewardship projects.

The McVicar Creek Stewardship Program provided information to residents living along McVicar Creek on measures they could take in their own yard which would benefit the health of the Creek. A similar project is planned for residents along the Neebing River in 2008 however; being a good steward is something anyone can do regardless of where they live. All it takes is some thought about what you do in and around your home and yard and what impact it could have on the environment.

One of the best natural ways to combat the effects of pollution is to plant trees. Trees "breathe" the carbon dioxide which is released into the atmosphere by humans and industry. The trees then "exhale" life giving oxygen. Plus, the many varieties of trees which are native to Northwestern Ontario provide a beautiful playground for everyone to enjoy through activities such as bird watching, hiking in the forest or building a treehouse in the backyard.

Lakehead Conservation participates in annual Arbour Week activities. In 2007 this included planting or giving away nearly 1,700 seedlings thanks to Hill's Greenhouses. Many of the trees were planted at Mission Island Marsh and Cascades Conservation Areas. Members of the public who attended our Arbour Week activities had the chance to take a seedling to plant in their own yard.

In 2007, Summer Experience Program students conducted an assessment of Brule Creek in Conmee Township. They conducted an inventory of the Creek's characteristics such as water quality, plant and animal life. The information gathered will be used as a benchmark for future monitoring of the watershed.

Each summer, when funding is available, the Authority hires river clean up crews. In 2007 they removed over 6.5 tonnes of garbage from three area waterways within the City of Thunder Bay.

Conservation Areas



The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority owns and maintains eight Conservation Areas which offer visitors a range of recreational opportunities including hiking, wildlife viewing, picnic facilities and access to boating on Lake Superior.

In 2007, a new dock was installed at Silver Harbour Conservation Area to replace one damaged during a storm.

Some Conservation Areas include accessible picnic tables while Cascades has a paved, accessible trail and Mission Island Marsh has an accessible boardwalk.

In partnership with the City of Thunder Bay, paved recreation trails have been developed along sections of the Neebing - McIntyre Floodway. In 2007, a new Floodway Trail Guide was produced and is available at the LRCA office, located at 130 Conservation Road, or on our website: www.lakeheadca.com.

To enjoy unlimited access to all our Conservation Areas, purchase a 2008 Explorer Card using the attached order form.



VISITOR FACILITIES													
Lakehead Region Conservation Areas and Lands	Parking Lot	Picnic Tables	Pavilion	Barbecue Grills	Nature Viewing Facilities	Boat Launch Ramp	Canoe Launch Site	Trails	Interpretive Nature Trails	Interpretive Facilities	Snowshoeing	Outdoor Privies	Land Area (hectares)
Cascades C.A.													162
Cedar Falls C.A.													23
Hazelwood Lake C.A. *													618
Hurkett Cove C.A.													125
Little Trout Bay C.A.													18
MacKenzie Point C.A.													1
Mission Island Marsh C.A. *													292
Silver Harbour C.A.													47
* These Conservation Areas feature four seasons access with limited features available in winter. Pavilions may be reserved at a nominal fee for private or group picnics. Call 344-5857 for details.													



2008 Explorer Card - ORDER FORM

I want to order ____ Explorer Cards @ \$25.00 per card = \$_____ TOTAL.

PAYMENT METHOD

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

☐ CASH (do not mail cash; drop it off at our Office).

☐ I wish to charge the amount shown above to my VISA card:

Card #: _____ Expiry Date: ____/____

Cardholder Name: _____ Signature: _____

MAILING INFORMATION

____ New ____ Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

MAIL:

130 Conservation Road,
P.O. Box 10427
Thunder Bay, ON, P7B 6T8
FAX: 807-345-9156



Community Outreach

Raising awareness of conservation issues and developing an appreciation for the wonders of nature are essential to the conservation of our watershed. To accomplish this the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority undertakes several special events throughout the year and welcomes school tours at its Conservation Areas.



On May 2nd, about 100 people attended the City Walk (top left) hosted by the Thunder Bay District Health Unit, Lakehead Region Conservation Authority and Thunder Bay Hiking Association. The walk, along the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway was held in conjunction with Turn Off The Screens Week and also marked the launch of the Authority's new Floodway Trail Guide.

Students from Nor'Wester View School water a tree (top centre) they just planted as part of the LRCA's Arbour Week activities.

Wilderness Supply Company provided free canoe rides (top right) during Lakehead Conservation's Community Picnic held in July at Little Trout Bay Conservation Area.

Stephanie Semeniuk's painting "Emily's Madness" (left) won the People's Choice and Conservation Area Scene awards at the 2007 Plein Air Festival.



Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area hosts Waterfowl Viewing Days in the spring and fall (left).

Hazelwood Lake Centre is filled each September for our Fall Craft Fair (bottom left).

In August, the Authority participated in O'Connor Day (bottom centre) which also marked the community's 100th Anniversary.

Nearly 400 area grade 3 and 4 students attended the 2007 Lakehead Children's Water Festival at the CLE (lower right).



2008 Calendar of Events

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority is pleased to be presenting or participating in these events during 2008:

February 7 Lakehead Conservation Foundation Dinner Auction - Valhalla Inn

April 26 Earth Day/Waterfowl Viewing Day - Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area

May 9 - 11 Chamber of Commerce Trade Show - LU Hangar

May 19 - 23 Arbour Week

June 7 Lakehead Conservation Foundation Garden Party & Plant Sale - Conservation Authority office

June 29 Memorial Grove Ceremony - Slovak Legion

July 6 Family Fishing Day - Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area

July 20 Lake Superior Day Picnic - Silver Harbour Conservation Area

August 11 - 15 Purple Loosestrife Control Days

September 14 Fall Craft Fair Hazelwood Lake Centre

September 24 - 25 2008 Lakehead Children's Water Festival CLE Heritage Building

October 18 Fall Waterfowl Viewing Day - Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area

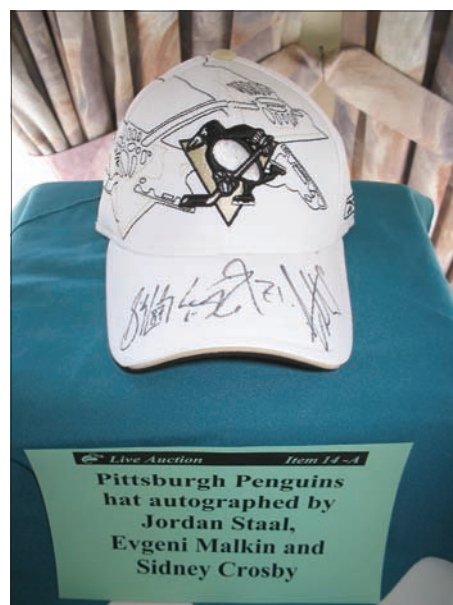
Call 344-5857 for more information or visit www.lakeheadca.com.

All events subject to change.



Ontario Rangers from Sleeping Giant Provincial Park (above), along with Rangers from Nipigon, destroyed over 6 -tonnes of Purple Loosestrife in August 2007.

A Pittsburgh Penguins hat, autographed by Jordan Staal, Evgeni Malkin and Sidney Crosby (below) was up for bid at the Lakehead Conservation Foundation annual Dinner Auction in 2007.



HAZELWOOD LAKE CENTRE



Available for rental and catered events May to October. Call 767-3565 for information.



MOVING FORWARD WITH SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

NEW FOCUS

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) continues to move forward with its work relating to Source Protection. The focus is now on protecting the sources of water for Municipal residential drinking water systems as mandated by Regulations of the "Clean Water Act".

There are two Municipal residential drinking water systems within the designated Lakehead Source Protection Area. The systems are the City of Thunder Bay's Bare Point Water Treatment Plant which gets its water from Lake Superior and Rosslyn Village system in the Municipality of Oliver Paipooonge which is supplied by two groundwater wells.



Rosslyn Village near the Municipal wellhead

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority provides oversight and human resources to assist with planning for Municipal residential drinking water source protection through a funding agreement with the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources and Conservation Ontario. The process for preparing a local Source Protection Plan to protect the sources of Municipal residential drinking water systems in our area is just getting underway and it is expected to take three to five years to complete.



Lake Superior shoreline

THE ACT FOR CLEAN WATER

The "Clean Water Act, 2006" passed into law on July 3, 2007 bringing into effect Regulations to address recommendations of the Walkerton Inquiry to provide safe, clean drinking water for all Ontarians.

The first set of Regulations directed the establishment of Source Protection Areas/Regions, Source Protection Authorities and Source Protection Committees on a watershed-basis across the province. The new entities were formed to drive the process for delivery of local, science-based Source Protection Plans to protect the supply of water to Municipal residential drinking water systems.

The scope and coverage of the "Clean Water Act" contains provisions to protect the Great Lakes as sources of drinking water. It is recognized protection goes beyond the Municipal water intake and will require collaboration across multiple watersheds at a provincial, federal and international level.



Bare Point Water Treatment Plant

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

MUNICIPAL RESIDENTIAL DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION

LAKEHEAD SOURCE PROTECTION AUTHORITY (SPA)

The Lakehead Source Protection Authority for the Lakehead Source Protection Area was created by Regulation of the “Clean Water Act”. The Lakehead Source Protection Authority, which held its first meeting July 30, 2007, is made up of the same Board Members appointed by the Municipal councils that serve on the Board of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority.



The Lakehead Source Protection Authority is governed by the “Clean Water Act” and operates as a separate entity from the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority which is directed by the “Conservation Authorities Act”. The Lakehead Source Protection Authority is responsible for establishing the Source Protection Committee and providing administrative support. Bill Bartley is the Chair of both the Lakehead Source Protection Authority and Lakehead Region Conservation Authority.

Bill Bartley, Chair of the Lakehead Source Protection Authority explains roles and responsibilities at media briefing.

LAKEHEAD SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE (SPC)

The process to select the Lakehead Source Protection Committee began in July 2007 with the recruitment of a Chair for the Source Protection Committee. Bob Hartley was appointed to the position by the Minister of Environment on August 20, 2007. Members were appointed to Lakehead Source Protection Committee by the Lakehead Source Protection Authority on November 20, 2007. The application and nomination process began in August following open and transparent guidelines outlined by Regulation of the “Clean Water Act”.



Bob Hartley, Chair of the Lakehead Source Protection Committee talks to media.

The Committee, by Regulation, includes three Municipal representatives, three Members from the “Industry and Economic Sector” and three Members from the “Public & Other Interests Sector”. An additional voting seat is available to a First Nation Member with three non-voting Liaison Members assigned by the Ministry of Environment, Source Protection Authority and a Health Representative designated by the Minister of Environment.

This multi-stakeholder, technical Committee is charged with developing the local Source Protection Plan for the sources of Municipal residential drinking water in the Lakehead Source Protection Area. A three-to-five year commitment is expected to complete the plan which will identify and address existing and potential threats to the sources of water for the two Municipal residential drinking water systems in our area. The Source Protection Committee will produce three key documents; Terms of Reference, Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan.

MUNICIPALITIES

The two Municipalities with Municipal residential drinking water systems, the City of Thunder Bay and the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge, have direct input through membership on the Source Protection Committee. They will also provide technical and administrative support to create the plan. The Municipalities without Municipal drinking water systems participate through their Municipal representatives on the Source Protection Committee, Source Protection Authority or as required under public consultation.

LAKEHEAD SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE		
CHAIR OF THE SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE BOB HARTLEY		
MUNICIPAL SECTOR	INDUSTRY & ECONOMIC SECTOR	PUBLIC & OTHER INTERESTS SECTOR
JIM VUKMANICH City of Thunder Bay	GUY JARVIS Thunder Bay Port Authority	ROBERT STEWART, Ph. D. Education
KEN McWHIRTER City of Thunder Bay	HARTLEY MULTAMAKI, R.P.F. Forest Industry	PAUL McALISTER, R.P.F. Tourism
VEIKKO LONG Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge	BERNIE KAMPHOF Agriculture	ROSS CHUCHMAN Public at Large
FIRST NATIONS SECTOR REPRESENTATIVE - Fort William First Nation		
COMMITTEE LIAISONS		
JAKE NOORDHOF Ministry of Environment	MERVI HENTTONEN Lakehead Source Protection Authority	HEALTH LIAISON Thunder Bay District Health Unit

DID YOU KNOW?....

Municipal residential drinking water systems supply the homes of more than 80 per cent of Ontarians.



Homes in Rosslyn Village in the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge

KEY DOCUMENTS IN THE SOURCE PROTECTION PLANNING PROCESS

Terms of Reference

The Committee will create a "Terms of Reference". The work plan will outline tasks and duties, and who will perform the work in the development of the Assessment Report and the Source Protection Plan with timelines specified in the Regulations of the "Clean Water Act, 2006". The associated costs with delivery of the Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan will be included in the budget for the Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference, after undergoing public review, must be submitted to the Minister of Environment by the Source Protection Authority by October 20, 2008.

Assessment Report

The Assessment Report is a science-based report generated locally for each Source Protection area. The Report will identify the vulnerable areas within the watershed of the Source Protection Area. Threats to the vulnerable areas will be assessed and determined if they pose a significant threat to Municipal residential drinking water systems. The Assessment Report must be submitted to the Director of the Ministry of Environment by the Source Protection Authority by the first anniversary of the date that the Terms of Reference is approved.

Source Protection Plan

The Source Protection Plan is a strategic document for a Source Protection Area that outlines policies and procedures to ensure that all significant and potential threats to the sources of Municipal residential drinking water systems are managed in a way that they will never become significant drinking water risks. The Source Protection Plan must be submitted to the Minister of Environment by the Source Protection Authority by August 20, 2012.



PROJECT UPDATE - SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

WATERSHED CHARACTERIZATION REPORT

The Watershed Characterization Report, expected in December 2007, was prepared to support the work of the Source Protection Committee in development of the Assessment Report. The Report is a documentation of the water resources within the boundaries of the Lakehead Source Protection Area. It includes scientific data, historical accounts, background information and maps that define the geography, geology, hydrology and socio-economic makeup of the watershed.

WATER BUDGET

The Water Budget, expected in December 2007, is a scientific document which provides a description and calculation of the water available within the watershed. The report identifies the inventory of surface and ground water in the watershed and shows how the water moves through the lakes, streams and underground aquifers within the watershed. The Water Budget considers all the activities that require water for people and the environment, both now and in the future. The Source Protection Committee will utilize this scientific report to guide the development of the Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan for the Lakehead Source Protection Area.



Water testing near the Intake Protection Zone off of Bare Point with homes on the Shuniah shore in the background.



TECHNICAL STUDIES

The Ministry of the Environment has provided funding for technical studies to identify existing and potential threats to wellheads and intakes from which Municipal residential drinking water systems draw their water. The studies which include vulnerability analysis, issues and threats inventories and water quality risk assessments of the water supply will provide the scientific documentation required to prepare the Assessment Report by the Source Protection Committee.

The City of Thunder Bay is overseeing the Intake Protection Zone Study for the Municipal residential drinking water supply from Lake Superior at Bare Point. The study was started in April 2005 with technical support provided by the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority and is expected to be completed in April 2008.

The Wellhead Protection Area Study for the Rosslyn Village Municipal residential drinking water supply was started in June. The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority in partnership with the Municipality of Oliver Paipooonge contracted a consultant to complete the analysis of the ground water system and produce a report by end of year 2007.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION - ACRONYM DEFINITIONS

AR - Assessment Report	SPC - Source Protection Committee
CWA - Clean Water Act, 2006	SPP - Source Protection Plan
IPZ - Intake Protection Zone	ToR - Terms of Reference
SPA - Source Protection Authority	WHPA - Wellhead Protection Area





THIS IS YOUR HOUSE ON THE FLOODPLAIN



***THIS IS THE FLOODPLAIN ON YOUR HOUSE...
ANY QUESTIONS?***

Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority participates in the Ministry of Environment's Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN).

The program consists of the installation and the collection of water quality and level data from monitoring wells. Funding for well installation has been received with eight installations complete. Wells are located at Hazelwood Lake, Kakabeka Falls, Murillo, Loon Lake, Birch Beach, in the City of Thunder Bay, Township of Dorion and Gorham Township.

The locations of the wells were selected so the data collected would be beneficial to residents living nearby. Member municipalities will gain knowledge about the water quality and water level conditions in these areas where very limited data has been available in the past.



A well is drilled for the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (above).

Automated gauges monitor water levels on area watercourses (below).

Flood Forecasting and Warning

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority maintains a flood forecasting system for the municipalities within our area of jurisdiction. The goal of the system is to reduce the risk of loss of life and property damage from the hazards of flooding and/or erosion.

Remote gauges have been placed along several area watercourses, including the Neebing River, McIntyre River, McVicar Creek, Current River, Whitefish River, North Current River, Slate River and Corbett Creek. These gauges provide data on rainfall and water levels which is used to determine rainfall distribution patterns and flow volumes.

Volunteers in Dorion and O'Connor Townships as well as in the City of Thunder Bay also monitor and report rainfall amounts.

In the winter, snow surveys are conducted and ice conditions are monitored.

When necessary the Authority may issue bulletins, advisories or warnings about flood safety or watershed conditions.





Lakehead Conservation Foundation

The Lakehead Conservation Foundation raises funds to support improvements to Conservation Area facilities and education programs.

In 2007, the Foundation donated \$25,000.00 to the LRCA. A portion of that funding was used for the Lakehead Children's Water Festival which teaches grade 3 and 4 students about the importance of water through fun, hands-on activities.

The money is raised through several methods. Each February, the Foundation holds a fundraising Dinner Auction at the Valhalla Inn. In addition to a delicious gourmet meal, participants can purchase amazing artwork by talented local painters or the likes of Robert Bateman as well as valuable merchandise donated by local businesses and individuals. Tickets for the 2008 Dinner, to be held February 7th, are now on sale. Call 345-2377 for your ticket today as this event usually sells out!

Through the Memorial Grove program the public can make a \$55.00 donation to the Foundation for which a tree is planted in memory of a departed loved one. A dedication ceremony is held in June each year during which the names of the departed are read.

The Foundation also raises money during its annual Garden Party and Plant Sale held the first Saturday in June and through other initiatives such as a bake table at the Fall Craft Fair. Public donations to the Foundation are also gratefully accepted with Charitable Receipts being issued to donors.



Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Chairman, Bill Bartley (left) accepts a donation of \$25,000.00 from Foundation Vice-President, Lauri Pajamaki (right).

2007 Foundation Board Members

President	Philip Jarvis
Vice-President	Lauri Pajamaki
Secretary	Darlene Guinn
Treasurer	Mary Provenzano
	Glen Dale
	Doug Guinn
	Norma Hunt
	Marlene Jarvis
	Garry Maxwell
	John Palko
	Paul Straiton

For more information about the Lakehead Conservation Foundation and how your contribution helps, call 345-2377 or write:

130 Conservation Road,
P.O. Box 10147,
Thunder Bay, ON, P7B 6T6

The Lakehead Conservation Foundation is a registered Charitable Organization.

For a better tomorrow!

After looking after your family in your Will, consider leaving a gift to the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority. You'll have the peace of mind and satisfaction of knowing you are living on through your gift and that your gift will benefit generations to come.

There is great concern today about the impact of climate change.

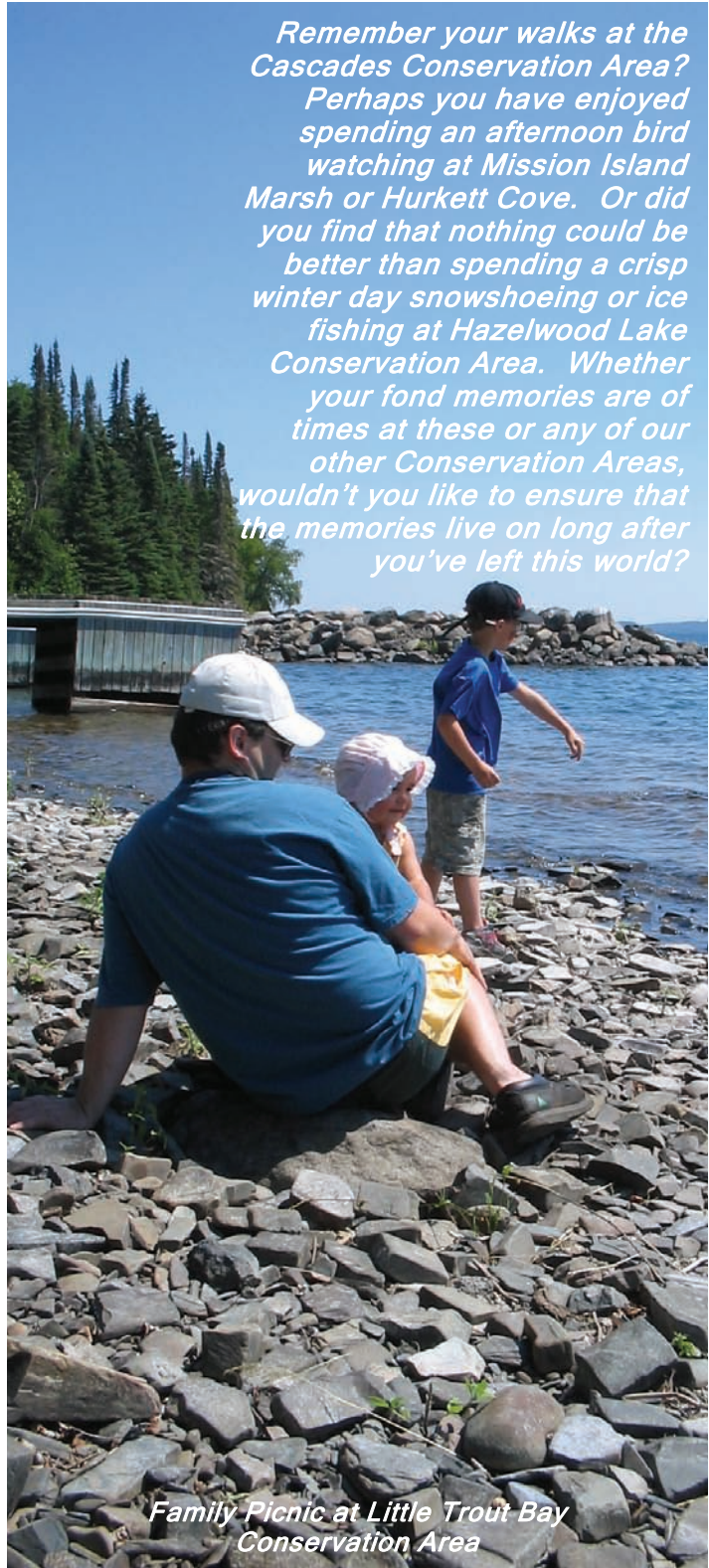
Among the goals of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority is to ensure that the region's rivers, lakes and streams are properly safeguarded, managed and restored; as well as to protect, manage and restore our woodlands, wetlands and natural habitats.

With your gift to the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority, a registered charitable organization, you will help to make reaching those goals a reality.

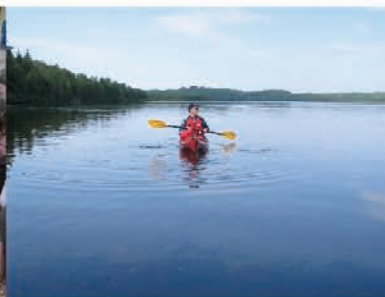
You may also wish to support the Authority today by donating publicly-listed securities. Recent changes in laws allow you to contribute securities to charitable organizations, such as the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority, and receive a tax credit for the donation while avoiding paying taxes on the capital gains accumulated. This is superior to selling the securities and donating the cash received.

For more information about leaving a legacy or donating securities to the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority talk to your lawyer or investment advisor then call us at 344-5857. If you have, or are thinking of leaving a legacy it would really help us to know your intentions. Knowing if you plan to leave us a legacy will help us plan ahead and allow us to say thank you appropriately.

Remember your walks at the Cascades Conservation Area? Perhaps you have enjoyed spending an afternoon bird watching at Mission Island Marsh or Hurkett Cove. Or did you find that nothing could be better than spending a crisp winter day snowshoeing or ice fishing at Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area. Whether your fond memories are of times at these or any of our other Conservation Areas, wouldn't you like to ensure that the memories live on long after you've left this world?



*Family Picnic at Little Trout Bay
Conservation Area*



Conservation Authorities



MANDATE

Conservation Authorities, created in 1946 by an Act of the Provincial Legislature, are mandated to ensure the conservation, restoration and responsible management of Ontario's water, land and natural habitats through programs that balance human, environmental and economic needs.

GOALS

- 🌲 To ensure that Ontario's rivers, lakes and streams are properly safeguarded, managed and restored.
- 🌲 To protect, manage and restore Ontario's woodlands, wetlands and natural habitat.
- 🌲 To develop and maintain programs that will protect life and property from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion.
- 🌲 To provide opportunities for the public to enjoy, learn from and respect Ontario's natural environment.

For more information contact:



**Lakehead Region
Conservation Authority**

Conserve today...for a better tomorrow

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