

PLAY IN OUR BACKYARD!

Our Conservation Areas offer fantastic recreational opportunities for the public. Birding and wildlife viewing, photography, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, snowshoeing; the opportunities are endless! Throughout the year the staff of the LRCA put on many different events and activities for the public. Come out and enjoy the natural beauty of a Conservation Area, and have fun!

The Cedar Falls Conservation Area benefited this year from the addition of stairs along some steep areas of the walking trail. These improvements have made the area more accessible and safe.

2011 again saw some severe damage to our beautiful Areas at the hands of vandals. The coin box at Silver Harbour was physically ripped from the concrete. Coin boxes at our other Areas have also been damaged by welding equip-

ment in an attempt to steal the contents. Any future replacements of coin boxes will likely not occur due to the costs involved. If you have any information regarding these acts, or witness vandalism occurring, please contact the police.

Another major concern is the high volume of trash and broken glass being left in our Areas. Also, alcohol and campfires are not permitted in our Areas. Remember, take nothing but pictures, and leave nothing but footprints!



CONSERVATION AREAS:

- ★ Mission Island Marsh
- ★ Hazelwood Lake
- ★ Cedar Falls
- ★ Little Trout Bay
- ★ Cascades
- ★ Hurkett Cove
- ★ MacKenzie Point
- ★ Silver Harbour

Admission to our conservation areas is only \$2 per vehicle, or show your Explorer Card for only \$30 +HST! (available for purchase at our office). Receive a durable, waterproof map with the purchase of a 2012 Explorer Card!



LAKEHEAD REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBERS:

- BILL BARTLEY- CHAIRMAN/THUNDER BAY
- DONNA BLUNT- VICE-CHAIR/SHUNIAH
- GRANT ARNOLD- CONMEE TOWNSHIP
- ED CHAMBERS- DORION TOWNSHIP
- RICK KIERI- GILLIES TOWNSHIP
- ZIGGY POLKOWSKI- NEEBING
- JIM VEZINA- O'CONNOR TOWNSHIP
- JIM BYERS- OLIVER PAIPOONGE
- KEN BOSHCOFF- THUNDER BAY
- GARY MURCHISON- THUNDER BAY
- LINDA RYDHOLM- THUNDER BAY

CONTACT US:

P.O. BOX 10427
130 CONSERVATION ROAD
THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO
P7B 6T8

P: (807) 344-5857
F: (807) 345-9156

info@lakeheadca.com

www.lakeheadca.com



STAFF:

- MERVI HENTTONEN.....GENERAL MANAGER/SECRETARY-TREASURER
 - TAMMY COOK.....WATERSHED MANAGER
 - RYNE GILLIAM.....FIELD OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR
 - MICHELLE SIXSMITH.....WATER RESOURCES TECHNOLOGIST
 - RYAN MACKETT.....COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP/PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER
 - NORMA HUNT.....FINANCIAL ASSISTANT
 - MELANIE O'RILEY.....ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/RECEPTIONIST
 - ROMAN AUGUSTYN.....GIS/DATA SPECIALIST
 - SCOTT DREBIT.....GIS TECHNICIAN/PLANNER
 - ERIN NUDDS.....ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR (CONTRACT)
 - JULIE BEACH.....SWP MANAGER
 - NEAL ZAGO.....SWP COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER (CONTRACT)
 - VINCE PONKA.....SWP ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (CONTRACT)
- VARIOUS SEASONAL, CONTRACT AND INTERN POSITIONS ARE ALSO FILLED.



Established 1954



Lakehead Region Conservation Authority is a member of Conservation Ontario, which represents 36 Ontario Conservation Authorities.

LAKEHEAD REGION
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

2011
ANNUAL REPORT



Conserve Today...
For A Better Tomorrow



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION:

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority is working towards becoming a first-rate provider of environmental education. New this year was our Wilderness Day Camp, which took place at the Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area. In 2012 we will be running two Wilderness Day Camp sessions: July 16-20 and August 13-17. Look for our ad in the Spring

2012 issue of The Key. The Authority also provides public outreach programs such as Waterfowl Viewing Day, Mushroom Hikes, Ontario Curriculum-based school and community group programming. Contact the Authority office for more information, programming rates, and information on our Living Classroom program.



2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

FEBRUARY 9
LAKHEAD CONSERVATION FOUNDATION DINNER AUCTION
SLOVAK LEGION

MARCH 30-APRIL 1
HOME & GARDEN SHOW
CLE GROUNDS - SPORTS DOME

APRIL 2-MAY 7
PRIVATE LANDOWNERS TREE SEEDLING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
LRCA OFFICE/HILL'S GREENHOUSE

MAY 13
MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH
HAZELWOOD LAKE NATURE CENTRE

JUNE 2
GARDEN PARTY AND PLANT SALE
LRCA OFFICE

JUNE 10-16
CONSERVATION WEEK

JULY 8
FAMILY FISHING DAY
HAZELWOOD LAKE

JULY 15
LAKE SUPERIOR DAY
MISSION ISLAND MARSH

JULY 16-20
WILDERNESS DAY CAMP
HAZELWOOD LAKE

AUGUST 13-17
WILDERNESS DAY CAMP
HAZELWOOD LAKE

DATE TBD
MURILLO FALL FAIR

SEPTEMBER 2-3
HYMERS FALL FAIR
VILLAGE OF HYMERS

SEPTEMBER 9
HAZELWOOD HARVEST FALL FESTIVAL AND CRAFT FAIR
HAZELWOOD LAKE

OCTOBER 13
WATER FOWL VIEWING DAY
MISSION ISLAND MARSH



FLOOD FORECASTING AND WATER LEVEL MONITORING:

The LRCA monitors daily watershed conditions which help provide advance warning of high water levels, and in times of drought, low water levels. We then issue Flood Bulletins, Advisories, and Warnings to our Member Municipalities, emergency staff and local media.

The LRCA also conducts snow surveys between November and May of each year. Snow depth and weight (water content) are collected and forwarded to MNR's Surface Water Monitoring Centre as part of the Flood Forecasting Program.



Damage caused by flooding in 2008.

There were no flood advisory warnings issued. A Level 1 Low Water Condition was declared on October 14, 2011. There were no bathing beach advisories posted at Hazelwood Lake, while other beaches in Thunder Bay did have swim advisories issued.

As part of the Canada-Ontario Agreement Climate Change Monitoring Project, the Neebing River stream flow gauge site was upgraded to include additional monitoring parameters. The site will be used to monitor climate change detection adaptation monitoring.

NEEBING-MCINTYRE FLOODWAY:

During the summer of 2011 required maintenance dredging of the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway between the CPR Bridge (near Home Depot) and Island Drive was conducted. This maintenance was required to restore the Floodway channel back to the original design profile to ensure that the Floodway continues to protect the Intercity area from flooding up to the design level of the Regional Storm, as it has for the past 27 years. Subsequent dredging phases are scheduled for 2012 and 2013, which will see the section between Island Drive and Lake Superior dredged. In

order for equipment to complete the required dredging, it was necessary to remove 385 Memorial Grove trees from the area. Every removed tree has been replaced with a new tree in a new section of the Blake Memorial Grove located in the Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area. The new section of Memorial Grove, which is the location of future plantings, will result in the continued beautification of the area for all residents to enjoy. To commemorate the replanting, a re-dedication ceremony was held on Sunday, October 2, 2011.



PLANNING AND REGULATION:

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority is responsible for the protection of loss of life and property damage due to flooding and erosion and to conserve and enhance natural resources. In this effort, Ontario Regulation 180/06 regulates development in areas where the control of flooding, erosion, pollution or conservation of land may be affected.

The LRCA has had a Level II agreement with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Ontario Great Lakes Area (OGLA) since 1998. The LRCA is responsible for the initial evaluation of proposed projects to determine if the work would result in a harmful alteration, disruption or destruction (HADD) of fish habitat. If you are planning on doing any type of work near a lake, river, stream, or wetland within the LRCA Area of Jurisdiction, a permit may be required from the LRCA. A total of 40 permits were issued in 2011. Permits are issued by the LRCA Board, which meets once a month. Property owners are advised to submit applications as early as possible to allow for adequate evaluation and permit processing time. Contact us for more information.



LAKHEAD CONSERVATION FOUNDATION:

The Lakehead Conservation Foundation raises funds for the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority, specifically for the newly-developing environmental education programming initiatives. The funds are raised through several events held during the year, including the Garden Party & Plant Sale, and Fundraising Dinner & Auction.

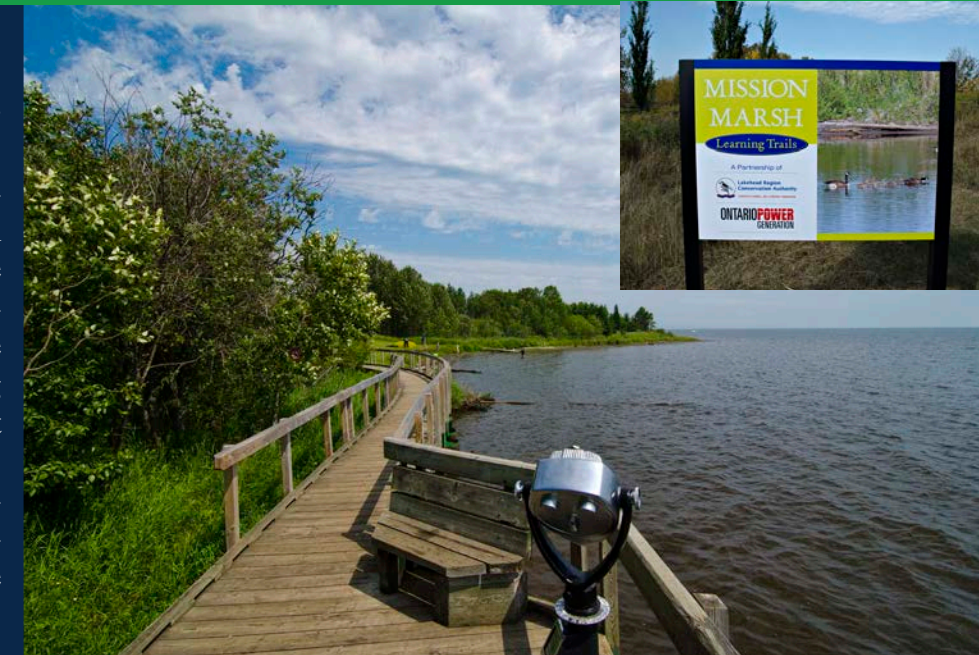
The 2011 Fundraising Dinner & Auction raised approximately \$21,000. Tickets for the 2012 Dinner & Auction, to be held on February 9, 2012, are on sale now. Contact the Authority office for tickets as soon as possible, as they sell out each year.

The Blake Memorial Grove program, which is a tri-party Agreement between the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority, Lakehead Conservation Foundation, and Blake's Funeral Chapel, began in 1991. It has resulted in 5,573 trees being planted along the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway in memory of dearly departed loved ones. Beginning in 2012 all future plantings will take place in the Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area, at the new Memorial Grove site.



FOUNDATION MEMBERS:

- PHIL JARVIS- PRESIDENT
- GARRY MAXWELL- VICE-PRESIDENT
- MELODY LUNDSTROM- SECRETARY
- NICOLE GAGNON- TREASURER
- SHELLY BROWN
- DOUG GUINN
- DARLENE GUINN
- MARLENE JARVIS
- RICHARD LUNDSTROM
- GARY MURCHISON
- JOHN PALKO
- MARY PROVENZANO
- PAUL STRAITON



PARTNERSHIPS:

Partnerships enable the LRCA to accomplish many valuable projects in the watershed. In 2011, through a partnership with Ontario Power Generation, the Mission Marsh Learning Trails were established. They are a network of self-guided trails and planting of native vegetation to the Area, and we encourage the public to explore them.

Various community groups and volunteers are also a fantastic resource. The Ontario Junior Rangers helped with a massive cleanup of the rocks at the Cascades Conservation Area. A three or four day job for our field staff was completed in a single morning with the Rangers' help. The Rangers also

helped with several tree planting efforts at Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area. The Thunder Bay Diving Club conducted an underwater cleanup of the Silver Harbour Conservation Area, removing a massive amount of garbage and debris.

This year's Lakehead Children's Water Festival was a huge success thanks to the support of the RBC Blue Water Project, the Ministry of the Environment, the City of Thunder Bay, Lakehead University, Ontario Power Generation, Thunder Bay District Health Unit, Churchill High School, Thunder Bay Christian School, Sasi Spring Water and many others.

AROUND THE WATERSHED:

The LRCA once again offered coniferous tree seedlings at a subsidized price to the public through our Private Landowners Tree Seedling Assistance Program. 194 orders were received this year, amounting to 17,771 tree seedlings being sold. This program has proven to be a huge success and will be offered again in 2012. Over 54,534 trees have been planted as a result of the Seedling Program.

The 2011 Lakehead Children's Water Festival was a huge success this year, with approximately 700 grade 3 and 4 students participating. The Festival, which is held at the CLE Heritage Building, offers students a hands-on approach to learning about the importance of water and proper conservation techniques. All activities adhere to the Ontario Curriculum. The event is a success thanks to the sponsors and volunteers

who participate. The event took place September 20-22, and will once again take place in 2012 for schools from both the Public and Catholic School Boards.

The LRCA held several fun-filled family events this year, including: Lake Superior Day activities, Waterfowl Viewing Day and the LRCA/OPG Mission Marsh Learning Trails opening at Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area; Family Fishing Day and the Hazelwood Harvest Fall Festival and Craft Fair at Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area. The LRCA continually strives to provide the public with fun, educational events each year, and will continue to do so in 2012.

In 2011, staff undertook a Watershed Assessment of the Pine River in the Municipality of Neebing. It was concluded that the watershed was considered to be in excellent condition.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2011:

The LRCA's budgeted 2011 revenue and expenditures totalled approximately \$3.9 million. Revenue is derived from three primary sources: Provincial/Federal Government grants, Municipal levies, and self-generation (comprised of user fees, partnerships, donations, and sponsorships). Source Water Protection activities are 100% Government funded. The LRCA gratefully acknowledges the support of clubs, agencies and businesses, the Lakehead Conservation Foundation and individuals for making 2011 a successful year.

