

July 31, 2007

### **Lakehead Conservation begins Purple Loosestrife Campaign**

One of the most aggressive attacks on an alien invasive species of plant in years is about to get underway.

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority, with the help of volunteers from Volunteer Thunder Bay as well as Ontario Rangers from Sleeping Giant Provincial Park and Nipigon, will be moving to eradicate several reported patches of Purple Loosestrife in the area.

The attractive, yet non-native plant began its invasion of North America more than a century ago. It was first confirmed in Thunder Bay in 1990 and since that time has been documented in several locations including the banks of the Kaministiquia River, along the Thunder Bay Expressway and in Oliver-Paipoonge and Shuniah.

Loosestrife can outgrow cattails, sedges, rushes and other native aquatic plants. Eventually, its dense mat of roots chokes out the other vegetation and Purple Loosestrife soon becomes the dominant species.

The only way to effectively get rid of the plants is to dig them up by their roots before they go to seed, seal them in garbage bags and take them to a landfill.

Between Wednesday, July 31 and Thursday, August 9, eradication campaigns will be conducted along Golf Links Road, Lakeshore Drive and Oliver Road. Other locations may be targeted if time permits. Last year, volunteers from the Ontario Rangers group at Sleeping Giant Provincial Park removed over six tonnes of Purple Loosestrife from along Oliver Road and Lakeshore Drive.

The public can get more information on how to identify and remove Purple Loosestrife from the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority office at 130 Conservation Road or online at [www.lakeheadca.com](http://www.lakeheadca.com)