

August 16, 2007

## **Discover Plein Air at local Conservation Areas**

Residents of the Lakehead Region can discover Plein Air this week while visiting local Conservation Areas.

Several artists from throughout Northwestern Ontario are participating in the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority's Plein Air Festival. Plein Air (pronounced *plen-air*) is a French term meaning "in the open." Plein Air paintings are created outdoors right from the subject rather than being created in a studio. It also means "open air" and the Italian term is "alfresco."

"Similar festivals are held throughout North America, including at Grand Marais," says LRCA Chairman Bill Bartley. "Our Conservation Areas offer artists a variety of subject matter that includes cliffs, a variety of plant life, cascading rivers and wildlife."

From Monday August 13 until Friday August 17 participating artists will be working throughout the watershed as well as at local Conservation Areas to create Plein Air paintings. Some will also be participating as photographers or stain glass artists.

All the work created this week will be displayed to the public on Saturday August 18 and Sunday August 19 at Hazelwood Lake Centre. From 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, visitors can vote for their favourite piece of Plein Air art. The winners will then be displayed Sunday between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Artists will also be offering a variety of their work for sale to the public; and some will be conducting demonstrations of their techniques.

Admission is just \$2/vehicle or use your Explorer Card.

The Thunder Bay Plein Air Festival is made possible through the generous support of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority, Thunder Bay Ventures, Chronicle Journal and Lehto Rainbow Printers.