



IN THE WATERSHED

2005 Annual Report

Lakehead Region Conservation Authority

2005 2005 2005 2005 2005 2005 2005 2005 2005



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

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).

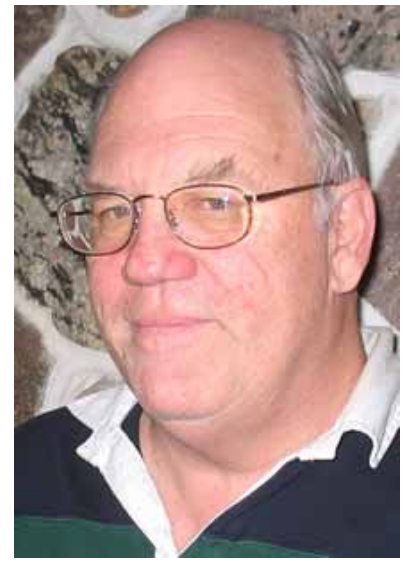
It is anticipated that the first round of sampling will be completed in late fall or the spring of 2006.

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 which contains a vast amount of information relative to our organization.