

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 26, 2008

MEMORIAL GROVE CEREMONY

Friends and family of those remembered in the Blake Memorial Grove will gather for the annual Dedication Service on Sunday, June 29, 2008.

The ceremony will take place at the Slovak Legion on Atlantic Avenue. Services begin at 2:00 p.m. and will include the reading of names of those being honoured. Prayers will be offered and representatives from the Memorial Grove partners will address the audience.

“The Memorial Grove has now surpassed the 4,900 mark in the number of trees planted,” noted Bill Bartley, Conservation Authority Chairman. “It is wonderful to see the community enjoying the beautiful setting of the Memorial Grove and Floodway.”

More than 240 trees were planted this spring from memorial donations made in 2007. Over the years, an assortment of spruce, pine, lilac, willow, cherry, crab apple and other trees has been planted. The Grove extends along both banks of the Floodway from Fort William Road east to the Harbour.

Blake Funeral Chapel, the Lakehead Conservation Foundation and the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority are partners in the Memorial Grove. Phil Jarvis, President of the Lakehead Conservation Foundation, stated, “The Memorial Grove partnership has been a great way to promote conservation. We can show the public some of the benefits that trees provide to our quality of life.”

Blake Funeral Chapel donates one tree in memory of each individual served and comprises the majority of donations to the program. A certificate is issued to the family and the name is added to a commemorative display at Blake’s. Private donations can also be made directly to the Lakehead Conservation Foundation. For a \$55 donation, one tree is planted. A tax receipt is provided to the donor and a certificate is sent to the family.

Craig Sandberg, of Blake Funeral Chapel commented, “Blake Funeral Chapel is proud of our long-standing commitment to the Memorial Grove program. We believe that each time a tree is planted a new life begins. The Blake Memorial Grove is a living tribute to the departed loved ones that have touched the lives of so many people in our community.”