

LAKEHEAD REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

130 CONSERVATION ROAD, P.O. BOX 10427, THUNDER BAY, ON P7B 6T8
Telephone (807) 344-5857 Fax (807)345-9156
E-mail: info@lakeheadca.com Website: www.lakeheadca.com



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Celebrate Lake Superior Day at Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) is celebrating Lake Superior Day at Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area. That's where a Community Picnic will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 18th.

The popular Conservation Area is a success story when it comes to wetland rehabilitation. The portion of land where the parking lot, pavilion and trails are located was the City of Fort William Landfill from the 1940's until the mid-1960's. In the 1980's the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority led efforts to preserve the marshes along the City's waterfront including Mission Island Marsh. This led to a long term lease with the City of Thunder Bay and the development of Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area which was officially opened 21 years ago -- on September 17th, 1989.

"Lake Superior contains 10-percent of the World's fresh water," says LRCA Chairman, Bill Bartley. "We hope to create awareness about how fragile the environment is and what needs to be done to protect the lake while still being able to enjoy a wide variety of exciting recreational activities."

Activities planned for Lake Superior Day include displays about the importance of water, conservation and the City of Thunder Bay Kam River and Islands Land Use Study. Wild Winds Windsurfing will have a windsurfing display and dry land simulator, children and adults can test their water wisdom with a challenging game of Dripial Pursuit, Wilderness Supply will be on site offering canoe and kayak rides, the Peng You Taiji Quan Association will present a Tai Chi demonstration, there will be a home made bird house demonstration and give away, and there will also be a concession on site.

In recognition of Mission Island Marsh's significance as a migrating bird nesting and staging area, admission this year to the Lake Superior Day Picnic is \$2/vehicle, a 2010 Explorer Card OR a donation of wild bird seed for the feeders at the Conservation Area.

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CONTACT:

Bill Bartley, Chairman
344-5857