

May 20, 2008

Local Employers Support Lakehead Conservation Arbour Week

Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area is looking a lot greener this week thanks to Ontario Power Generation (OPG), Union Gas and Hill's Greenhouses.

OPG and Union Gas have each generously donated funds to the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) to purchase several large trees which have been planted at the Marsh as part of local Arbour Week activities. The trees are part of a grove of trees which have been planted over the past few years.

Additionally, Hill's Greenhouses donated 1,500 Blue Spruce, Red Pine and Jack Pine seedlings which were either planted at the Marsh or taken home by area residents to beautify their neighbourhoods. Seedlings will also be provided to Grade 4 students at Woodcrest Public School on Friday.

Originally a landfill site, Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area features a boardwalk, recreation trails, interpretive pavilion and displays. The view of Lake Superior and the Sleeping Giant is spectacular. Mission Marsh is also regarded as one of the top bird watching spots in the region, with more than 200 species recorded. Educational field trips are very popular and children enjoy looking for aquatic life in the ponds and marsh habitat.

OPG's Thunder Bay Generating Station is located at the southeast corner of Mission Island, while the Conservation Area lies at the northeast corner. Mission Island Marsh extends between the two sites for an entire kilometre and covers an area of more than forty hectares.

"We are pleased to have Ontario Power Generation, Union Gas and Hill's Greenhouses as partners in this beautiful Conservation Area," stated Bill Bartley, LRCA Chairman. "They are demonstrating their commitment to improving our environment through the planting of trees which help produce the oxygen we breathe."