

For Release – September 14, 2009

Retire old tires in a responsible manner

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority encourages property owners to continue with cleanup activities on their properties this fall as a way to protect the sources of drinking water.

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority will be sending out a flyer in the mail this week that promotes the cleanup of old tires from properties throughout the watershed of the Lakehead Source Protection Area. The flyer is being produced as part of a special project entitled “Protecting Source Water - Take Pride in Your Property” under the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program.

The flyer supports the new Ontario Tire Stewardship (OTS) program launched on September 1, 2009. Under the program, Ontario residents can now bring up to four (4) old tires for “free” disposal to a collection location registered with Ontario Tire Stewardship. Registered collection locations include Pack Pros Plus, a tire recycling business on Rosslyn Road and tire dealers – Twinport Tire and Fountain Tire. The Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge and City of Thunder Bay are also collectors but limit the disposal of tires to their Municipal residents only. Check your flyer for detail. A list of registered collectors is posted on the OTS website – www.ontarioTS.ca.

“The removal and disposal of old tires from properties will help reduce the risk of contamination of the ground or surface water that feeds the wells or intakes that supply water to our taps”, said Bill Bartley, who is the Chair of both the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority and the Lakehead Source Protection Authority, which provides support to the Lakehead Source Protection Committee in the development of a local Source Protection Plan under the “Clean Water Act”. The Source Protection Plan is intended to protect the sources of Municipal residential drinking water in our area.

The flyer provides a reminder that what we do in our yards and homes can impact the sources of our drinking water. It is everyone’s responsibility to protect sources of water whether we obtain our water from a private well or the Municipal systems operated by the City of Thunder Bay and Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge for Rosslyn Village.

To learn more about “Retire Your Tires”, call the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority office at 344-5857 or visit www.lakeheadca.com or www.sourceprotection.net.