

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 10, 2010

Ontario Power Generation Funds Improvements at Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area

Visitors to Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area can thank Ontario Power Generation (OPG) for some recent enhancements to the popular recreation area.

OPG generously donated funds for 14 new trees which were planted near the pavilion this spring. The trees include seven Sienna Glen (Red) Maple and seven Clump White Paper Birch which have been added to a grove of trees planted over the past few years.

OPG also funded a new interpretive display panel installed this spring on the Viewing Mound overlooking the Marsh. The panel gives visitors a unique bird's eye view of the wetland which is Federally owned land between the Conservation Area and OPG's Generating Station.

"Ontario Power Generation has been a valuable partner in the development of Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area," says Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) Chairman, Bill Bartley. "Over the years they have contributed more than \$92,000.00 to fund trail improvements, the leasing of viewing scopes, special events and the planting of hundreds of trees at the Conservation Area."

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 185 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.