

July 28, 2009

## **Play In Our Backyard...But Play Smart**

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority is reminding visitors to their Conservation Areas to use caution and common sense.

Every summer, the Authority receives reports of people becoming disoriented at Conservation Areas, such as the Cascades. In many cases, the individuals did not review trail maps before embarking on their walk or they continued on trails beyond Authority boundaries.

Signs are posted at the boundary of Authority property warning visitors they are about to leave the Conservation Area.

“Unfortunately, these signs get removed by vandals or are blown off during storms,” says LRCA Chairman, Bill Bartley who pointed out that Authority Staff regularly inspect trails and replace signs on a frequent basis.

The Authority also reminds visitors to use common sense while at a Conservation Area. With tree canopies thick with foliage, it gets dark much earlier in the dense forest than it does on a city street.

“It’s not a wise idea to be starting a hike an hour before sunset,” says Bartley.

Visitors are reminded to know where they are going by checking trail maps, know how much time is required to complete the trail and to stay in the Conservation Areas by not wandering out of bounds or off trail.

Trail maps for all Conservation Areas are available at the LRCA office located at 130 Conservation Road in Thunder Bay or online at [www.lakeheadca.com](http://www.lakeheadca.com).