

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Popular Conservation Area to Temporarily Close

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) is closing the Cascades Conservation Area for at least three weeks in order to clean-up damage caused by last September's wind storm.

"The September 28th storm caused significant blow down at Cascades," says LRCA Chairman Bill Bartley. "Although our Staff cleared more than 160 trees that had fallen across trails, there are trees that fell onto other trees which are in danger of coming down onto the trails."

The Authority usually leaves deadfall to decay naturally and return valuable nutrients to the soil; however, due to the high volume of people who visit the Cascades and out of Health and Safety concerns a more comprehensive clean-up is required.

The clean-up will involve the removal of trees which have blown down, are leaning on other trees or which are in danger of falling. Due to the presence of heavy machinery and trucks it is necessary to completely close Cascades Conservation Area trails and the parking lot from Tuesday, February 16, 2010 to Monday, March 8, 2010. Eco-logging has been engaged to carry out the work using a Qualified Logging Professional (QLP).

Signs will be posted advising the public of the closure and barricades will be put in place to prevent vehicles from getting into the parking lot. The public is asked to cooperate by not entering the Conservation Area at anytime during the closure.

"The Authority will undertake re-planting in the summer of 2010 to promote re-growth in the damaged areas," Bartley adds. "The clean-up efforts and re-planting will ensure the area remains a healthy, green eco-system for future generations to enjoy."

During the closure, the public is invited to visit other Conservation Areas such as Mission Island Marsh or Hazelwood Lake.