

April 17, 2008

**LAKEHEAD CONSERVATION URGES CAUTION AROUND ICE**

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority is urging everyone to be cautious around ice and area waterways.

“Warmer weather has resulted in many creeks and rivers starting to open up,” says Chairman Bill Bartley. “Ice that looks stable along banks probably isn’t and the water is flowing faster at this time of year.”

The public and especially children are encouraged to avoid approaching streams and keep a safe distance away.

“Even the narrowest drainage ditch poses a threat to small children,” says Bartley. “We encourage parents to discuss the dangers and to make sure they know where their children are playing.”

As part of its flood forecasting and warning program, the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority held a Spring Melt Meeting with various agencies such as Ontario Power Generation, Emergency Measures Organization, the Ministry of Natural Resources and member municipalities. It was determined that there is no immediate threat of Flooding. Conditions could change if we have an extended period of very warm temperatures coupled with heavy rainfall.

The Authority is monitoring area waterways and will issue appropriate advisories or warnings if required.