

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 16, 2009

## **Union Gas Supports Improvements at Conservation Area**

Visitors to Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area will notice a new site map when they visit the popular Conservation Area beginning today.

The large sign features an aerial photo and trail map. The photo is a bird's eye view of the Conservation Area including key features. It provides a snap shot of what the Conservation Area looked like when the photo was taken last summer and will allow visitors in the future to observe changes such as erosion and tree growth. The trail map will help visitors to determine where they may want to walk among the many trails at Mission Island Marsh.

Visitors can enjoy a leisurely stroll along the lake shore and McKellar River shoreline to the man-made lagoons which provide habitat for fish, waterfowl and beavers. There is an accessible board walk and viewing mound overlooking the actual Marsh which is the largest of Thunder Bay's water front marshes.

It is estimated that nearly 40,000 people a year visit the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) property, including many school groups which visit the Marsh to learn about the importance of wetlands, conservation and wildlife habitat.

"The addition of this new sign is a welcome improvement to Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area," says LRCA Chairman, Bill Bartley. "Thousands of people visit the Area each year, including tourists, and this will provide them with a good first impression when they arrive."

Funding for the new sign was provided by Union Gas.

"Partnerships with good corporate citizens such as Union Gas are essential for the LRCA to be able to carry out improvements in its Conservation Areas," says Bartley.

"Union Gas has continually supported the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority due to their fine work in preserving and protecting our environment," says Glenn Burton, District Manager - Northwest District for Union Gas. "Union Gas holds the preservation of the environment as a priority value and will continue to work with organizations and the community on this front."