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### **Vandalism A Concern To Conservation Authority**

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) is concerned that some visitors to its Conservation Areas aren't there to enjoy nature.

Several Conservation Areas have been hit by malicious acts of vandalism most notably the destruction of several interpretive displays in a bonfire at Cascades last May. More recently, a garbage can at the popular recreation area was set ablaze with gasoline.

Trail markers have been removed or vandalized at several Authority properties including Cascades and Mills Block Forest.

"There have been situations where visitors inadvertently leave our properties because trail markers have been removed," says LRCA Chairman Bill Bartley. "This has resulted in emergency personnel being called to conduct searches."

Anyone with knowledge about trail vandalism is encouraged to report incidents to the police or Crimestoppers.

Conservation Areas offer a bounty of fun winter recreational opportunities such as ice fishing, snowshoeing, wildlife viewing and hiking. The LRCA reminds visitors to review Conservation Regulations which are available online ([www.lakeheadca.com](http://www.lakeheadca.com)) or at the Authority office, 130 Conservation Road in Thunder Bay. Regulations prohibit the operation of off-road vehicles or motorized snow vehicles in Conservation Areas.

"If everyone remembers to 'Take Nothing But Pictures and Leave Nothing But Footprints' our Conservation Areas will be around for a long time for everyone to enjoy," Bartley added.