

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 25, 2006

**LAKEHEAD CONSERVATION APPLAUDS
THE PASSAGE OF THE *CLEAN WATER ACT***

THUNDER BAY October 25, 2006 – The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority applauds the passage of Bill 43, the *Clean Water Act*, on October 18, 2006 by the Ontario legislature.

“The *Clean Water Act* is essential to protecting the Lakehead Region’s Municipal drinking water sources”, said Bill Bartley, Chairman of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority. “With the *Act* in place, the Conservation Authority, Municipalities, landowners and other stakeholders will work together to ensure Municipal sources of drinking water are properly protected.”

Since the tragedy at Walkerton in May 2000, Ontario Conservation Authorities have worked with the Province and other stakeholders, including municipalities to provide expertise in developing the best approach to source water protection. Source water protection builds on past science and studies and links directly to the water management programs Conservation Authorities and their partner municipalities have been doing for years.

“Ensuring a sustainable supply of clean drinking water provides a clear benefit to public health, the environment and our economy.” said Bartley. “We are eager to get to work under this important new *Act*.”

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority is a community-based environmental agency, responsible for the wise management of renewable natural resources in our watershed. Conservation Authorities undertake a broad range of programs, including: flood control; floodplain management; wetland protection; erosion control; reforestation; conservation lands; and conservation education. Conservation Authorities are this province’s leading watershed managers. Source Protection legislation will provide an important framework on how best to protect sources of drinking water such as rivers, lakes, streams and groundwater.

For more information about the Clean Water Act and Source Water Protection Planning, please visit the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority’s Source Water Protection website located at www.sourceprotection.net.