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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lakes Region Household Hazardous Waste Collections Achieve Record

Each year Lakes Region residents and property owners have a safe opportunity to dispose of hazardous products from their household, reducing dangers in their home and ensuring that the material does not end up in our drinking water. In 2010 nearly 1,800 households dropped off hazardous products, representing a 15% increase over last year in the number of households taking advantage of this annual regional program.

Since 1987, the Lakes Region Planning Commission has coordinated regional household hazardous waste (HHW) collections. This year 24 Lakes Region communities pooled their resources, along with a small grant from the NH Department of Environmental Resources, to provide their residents and property owners the chance to rid their homes of some toxic materials without endangering the Lakes Region's groundwater or soil. These hazardous materials included oil-based paints, household cleaners, automotive fluids, pool chemicals, and lawn and garden products. The collection, held at eight different locations on July 31 and August 7, saw a record amount of over 22,000 gallons of waste collected, ensuring that these materials will not enter our environment, on which our local economy is so dependent. The Swap Table at the Laconia site was active as people found unused containers of paints, stains, and cleaners that they could make use of in their homes.

This was also the third year of an Unwanted Medications Collection sponsored by the Gilford Police Department and School District. Located at the Gilford HHW collection site, it was open to all residents and homeowners in the 24 participating Lakes Region communities.

Lakes Region residents and homeowners are encouraged to learn more about how to reduce their use of hazardous household products by visiting the LRPC website http://www.lakesrpc.org/services_hhw.asp where there is information on Alternatives to HHW. If you do still have hazardous products in your home that you wish to dispose of, the Lakes Region Household Hazardous Product Facility in Wolfeboro will be open August 21, September 18, and October 16 from 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM (Call 569-5826 or 651-7530 for details.).