

PUBLIC REVIEW – LITTLE LIMESTONE LAKE PARK RESERVE

On July 19, 2007 Manitoba Conservation established a park reserve at Little Limestone Lake. This legally protected area includes the 15-km long lake and its islands as well as a 100-metre-wide strip of shoreline, with the exception of the eastern shore which is located in the Moose Lake Indian Reserve 31J. Special protection designation of Little Limestone Lake was a commitment in Manitoba's 2006 *Green and Growing Strategy*.

Little Limestone Lake is located in the karst landscape north of Grand Rapids, about 450 kilometres north of Winnipeg. The area contains many unique caves, sinkholes, disappearing streams, underground springs and lakes that can fill and drain in a matter of days. Little Limestone Lake is known as a marl lake, which is a lake that changes colour as its water temperature rises and calcite dissolved in the water begins to settle out. In warm summer weather, the lake turns from clear to an opaque turquoise or even to a milky blue-white. It is considered by experts to be the best and most outstanding example of a marl lake in the world, and the only marl lake of its size in the world.

Little Limestone Lake lies in the traditional territory of Mosakahiken Cree Nation, with the eastern shore of the lake located within reserve land. Mosakahiken Cree Nation has indicated a willingness to work with Manitoba Conservation on joint management and protection of the lake.

The initial Park Reserve designation for the Lake has a six-month timeframe which expires on January 19, 2008. Manitoba Conservation is proposing that the Park Reserve be renewed for a further five years. This 5 year extension will allow Manitoba Conservation to conduct the necessary consultations with Mosakahiken Cree Nation, stakeholders and interested citizens on future plans and final designations for the park reserve.

Your comments respecting a five year renewal of Little Limestone Lake Park Reserve are requested before November 21, 2007. Please respond electronically to { HYPERLINK "mailto:parksystem@gov.mb.ca" } or call Ken Schykulski at (204) 945-6797 to discuss the project in more detail.

Thank you for your interest in Manitoba's provincial park system.