

# Awenda Provincial Park Management Plan



Ministry of  
Natural  
Resources

Ontario

## Ontario Parks

Planning and  
Research Section



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# **AWENDA PROVINCIAL PARK**

## **MANAGEMENT PLAN**



Ministry of  
Natural  
Resources

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We are pleased to approve Awenda Provincial Park Management Plan, as official policy for the management and development of this park. The plan reflects this Ministry's intent to protect the natural and cultural features of Awenda Provincial Park and maintain and develop high quality opportunities for outdoor recreation and heritage appreciation for both residents of Ontario and visitors to the Province.

A. S. Holder  
Regional Director  
Central Region.

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Recreational Areas Branch

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## **Résumé du plan de gestion du parc provincial Awenda**

### **Introduction:**

L'objet du plan de gestion du parc provincial Awenda est de tracer les grandes orientations du parc en matière de gestion et d'aménagement pour les dix années à venir. Les grandes lignes du plan concernent les politiques qu'il conviendra de mettre en oeuvre pour la protection des caractéristiques naturelles et culturelles les plus remarquables du parc et des propositions pour l'agrandissement d'un certain nombre d'installations de loisirs existantes.

Le parc provincial Awenda est situé sur la baie Georgienne, tout à fait au nord du canton Tiny, à 12 km de Penetanguishene. Le parc s'étend sur 2 917 hectares. L'île Giant's Tomb, qui fait partie du parc, est située à 3 km de la partie continentale du parc.

En 1988, le parc a reçu 57 000 visiteurs, qui se répartissent ainsi: 10 000 visiteurs d'une journée et 47 000 campeurs. Le taux d'occupation des terrains de camping pendant les mois de juillet et d'août dépasse 81 %. La contribution du parc à l'économie de la province s'est chiffrée à 3,3 millions de dollars.

### **Résumé des points importants:**

*Chemin d'accès au parc* le chemin d'accès au parc est emprunté par les propriétaires de chalets et par les résidents permanents du canton Tiny. Selon un rapport réalisé par une source indépendante, il serait désirable d'aménager deux voies d'accès distinctes, mais le coût de tels travaux étant prohibitif, aucune transformation n'est prévue pour l'instant.

*Limites du parc* il est possible qu'une portion de terrain de 226 ha soit acquise afin de donner au parc les limites originellement prévues. Cinq zones sont actuellement à l'étude dans le cadre du programme d'acquisition de terres.

1. Angle nord—ouest - 10 ha
2. Propriété Quesnelle - 1 ha (Giant's Tomb)
3. Tourbière du lac Farlain - 30 ha
4. Lac Gignac - 80 ha
5. Tourbière du lac Macey - 105 ha

Ces zones ne seront achetées que si leurs propriétaires consentent à les mettre en vente et si le financement est suffisant.

### **Classification du parc:**

Awenda est classé comme parc naturel.

### **Objectif du parc:**

Préserver les richesses géologiques, culturelles et biologiques les plus estimables du parc et créer des possibilités de loisirs variées et des programmes d'interprétation de la nature.

### **Zonage:**

Le parc Awenda sera divisé en plusieurs zones établies comme suit : zone naturel, zone historique, réserve naturelle, zone d'aménagement et zone d'accès. L'objet de la constitution de telles zones est double : d'une part, protéger les richesses qu'elles renferment; d'autre part, servir de repère pour une gestion efficace du parc (voir figure 1).

### **Politique en matière de gestion des richesses**

#### **naturelles**

*Gestion de la végétation:*

- Aucune activité liée à l'exploitation forestière ne sera autorisée.
- Sur la partie continentale du parc, les parasites et les maladies qui constituent une menace pour les arbres du parc, en particulier la spongieuse et la tordeuse printanière du chêne, seront combattues.
- Aucune mesure de lutte n'est envisagée sur l'île Giant's Tomb, à moins que les forêts n'y soient menacées par les parasites ou les maladies.
- Les incendies de forêt seront combattus aussi bien sur la partie continentale que sur l'île.

#### *Pêches et faune*

- La chasse sportive sera défendue dans l'enceinte du parc.
- Il sera peut-être nécessaire de mettre en oeuvre un programme de piégeage, sous la houlette du ministère, afin d'exercer une régulation des populations d'animaux nuisibles.
- Il sera envisagé de mettre en oeuvre un programme d'amélioration de l'habitat des pêches pour les lacs Second et Gignac.
- En cas d'acquisition des terres attenantes au lac Gignac, des mesures de limitation de taille et du nombre de prises quotidiennes seront instaurées afin de restreindre la demande.
- La pêche sportive dans la baie Georgienne sera encouragée.
- La pêche, commerciale sera absolument défendue dans les eaux riveraines à l'intérieur des limites de la partie continentale du parc. Elle ne sera autorisée que dans les eaux entourant l'île.

#### *Reliefs et gestion des eaux:*

- Lutte contre l'érosion sur le promontoire de Nipissing et en d'autres parties élevées du littoral de la baie Georgienne.
- Les tourbières, les fens, les zones marécageuses, les sources, les eaux d'infiltration ainsi que les deux lacs seront protégés à l'intérieur de la réserve naturelle et des zones historiques du parc.

#### *Gestion des ressources culturelles*

- Il existe 17 sites archéologiques, de toutes et d'époques différents, tous situés dans la partie continentale du parc.
- Les sites archéologiques feront l'objet d'une surveillance étroite contre les pilliers de fouilles.
- Avant le commencement de grands travaux d'aménagement, des études de sites seront réalisées afin d'éviter d'éventuelles dégradations des sites archéologiques.

### **Politiques en matière de fonctionnement**

#### *Services touristiques:*

- Un contrat d'exploitation pour une cour à bois sera accordé dans le parc.
- Le Centre d'accueil proposera comprendra notamment un café—restaurant et un centre de

produits artisanaux.

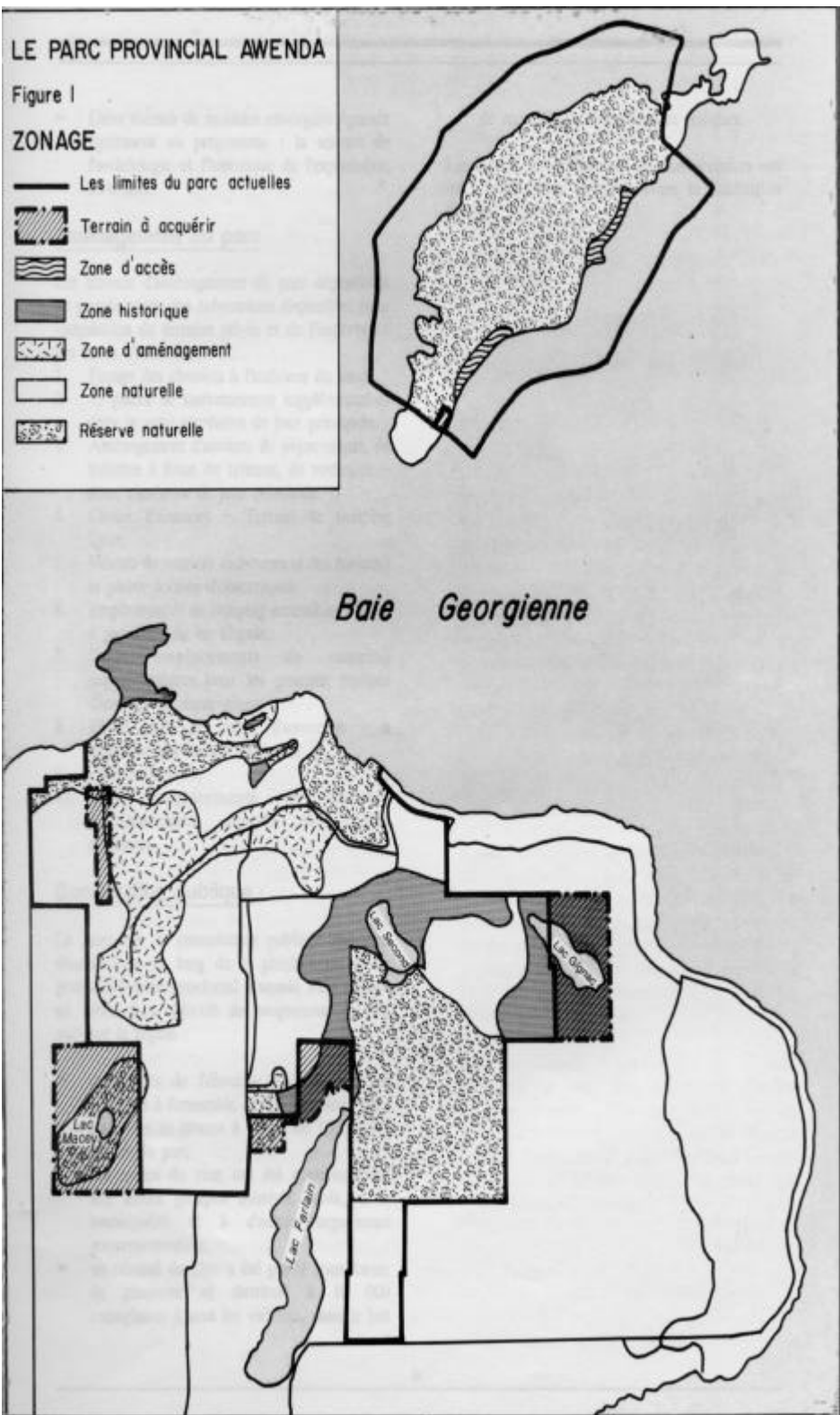
#### *LoLcirs:*

- Les installations existantes sont conservées; des places de stationnement ainsi que des tables de pique—nique supplémentaires seront aménagées dans la zone de la grande plage. Deux terrains de camping supplémentaires de 50 emplacements chacun seront aménagés.
- Le camping sauvage sur l'île Giant's Tomb sera déconseillé. En revanche, la baignade, la voile, les bains de soleil et le pique—nique seront approuvés.
- Les plages naturelles ne feront l'objet d'aucune transformation.
- L'accès du lac Second est interdit aux bateaux à moteur.
- En cas d'acquisition de terres privées attenantes au lac Gignac, l'accès au lac sera défendu aux bateaux à moteur.
- Un vaste réseau de sentiers sera aménagé et entretenu sur la partie continentale Ct sur l'île.

#### *Services aux visiteurs:*

- Le Centre d'accueil projeté servira de lieu principal à l'organisation de tous les programmes offerts aux visiteurs.
- Renseignements, programmes d'interprétation et loisirs de plein air seront les principaux services offerts aux visiteurs.
- Awenda a été désigné comme centre de services en français.
- Les programmes interprétatifs offerts au parc Awenda s'articuleront sur trois grands thèmes : richesses archéologiques, géologiques et biologiques.





Deux thèmes de moindre envergure figurent également au programme : la science de l'archéologie et l'histoire de l'exploitation forestière.

### Amenagement du parc

Les travaux d'aménagement du parc dépendront en grande partie des subventions disponibles pour l'acquisition de terrains privés et de l'importance des fonds d'investissement.

1. Pavage des chemins à l'intérieur du parc.
2. 75 places de stationnement supplémentaires dans la zone récréative de jour principale.
3. Aménagement d'auvents de pique-nique, de toilettes à fosse de rétention, de vestiaires — zone récréative de jour principale.
4. Chalet d'aisances — Terrain de camping Deer.
5. Réseau de sentiers (achèvement des travaux) et plates-formes d'observation.
6. Emplacements de camping accessibles à pied, à proximité du lac Gignac.
7. Deux emplacements de camping supplémentaires pour les groupes, équipés d'auvents de pique-nique.
8. Digue, quai et rampe d'amarrage — à condition que ce soit réalisable.
9. Centre d'accueil.
10. Cent emplacements de camping supplémentaires, équipés de chalets d'aisances.

### **Consultation publique :**

Le processus de consultation publique qui s'est déroulé tout au long de la planification de la gestion du parc provincial Awenda s'est achevé en 1988. Les objectifs du programme ont été axés sur la région

- des copies de l'ébauche du plan ont été envoyées à l'ensemble des propriétaires dont les terres se situent à moins de 150 m des limites du parc.
- des copies du plan ont été communiquées aux divers groupes d'intérêt public, à la municipalité et à d'autres organismes gouvernementaux.
- un résumé du plan a été publié sous forme de plaquette et distribué à 10,000 exemplaires à tous les visiteurs, dans le but de recueillir commentaires et critiques.

Les lettres, les critiques et les commentaires ont été attentivement examinés avant la finalisation du plan.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

A WENDA Provincial Park is located on Georgian Bay at the north tip of Tiny Township (Figure 2). The mainland portion of the park has a land area of 1863 ha and a water area of 199 ha.

Giant's Tomb Island is located three kilometres north of Awenda Provincial Park in Georgian Bay. A total of 462 ha of the island plus 393 ha of surrounding water are part of Awenda Provincial Park. The total park area including Giant's Tomb Island is 2917 ha.

Provincially significant geological, biological and cultural values combine to make this park a very special place. There is a well-preserved sequence of post-glacial Lake Algonquin shorelines on the island and mainland. In addition there are several beautiful Georgian Bay beaches, sand dunes, upland forests, fen and bogs. There are a large number of provincially significant archaeological sites on the mainland ranging in chronology from Archaic to Post-European contact.

The park is within the Georgian Lakelands Tourist Region, which provides a wide variety of recreation opportunities for both residents and tourists. The area is well known for its cottaging, boating and water based recreation activities. The park is within a two-hour drive of Toronto. Several tourist attraction are located near the park including Georgian Bay Islands National Park, Sainte Marie Among the Hurons, The Historic Naval and Military Establishments, Martyr's Shrine, the Big Chute Marine Railway, the Wye Marsh Interpretive Centre and the Tiny Marsh Wildlife Management Area.

The mainland portion of Awenda Provincial Park was brought into regulation as a provincial park in 1975 and opened for business in 1979 with 150 campsites and day use facilities for swimming and picnicking. In 1982, 50 additional campsites were opened and day use parking capacity was increased. In 1985, Giant's Tomb Island was regulated as part of the park. At present the only park development on Giant's Tomb Island is limited picnic facilities and vault privies.

## **2.2 Land Acquisition**

There are several properties within the approved park

In 1988 the park recorded 46,865 camper nights. The July/August occupancy rate was 81% with the park being full on most weekends. Park occupancy rates have increased steadily since the park opened. The number of day use visitors to the park in 1988 was 10,038, which included 1600 visitors in the winter for cross-country skiing.

## **2.0 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

### **2.1 Access**

The Park entrance road is used by residents of the Kettle's Beach and Georgian Bay Estates subdivision adjacent to the northeast corner of the park use the park entrance road. The entrance road is part of the municipal road system for the Township of Tiny and is used by many residents and cottagers northeast of the park. This road will be maintained in winter as access to residences and cottages.

Year round maintenance responsibilities for this access road will be shared by the Township of Tiny and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

A feasibility study was conducted in 1980—81 by consulting engineers for the Township of Tiny to examine alternatives to re-route the traffic to the Kettle's Beach Cottages outside the park. It concluded that until such time as the road system in the area needed major reconstruction the present system was the only logical one. It is likely that it will be a considerable period before reconstruction is necessary.

An internal traffic circulation plan was prepared to ensure all park users are routed past the entrance control office and access to the developed portion of the park cannot be obtained through Kettle's Beach road. The main internal park roads will be hard surfaced to reduce dust and maintenance problems.

boundaries, which remain in private ownership. These lands will be acquired from willing sellers if funding is available. A list of properties is found under section 6.0 dealing with park boundaries.

### **3.0 PARK**

#### **CLASSIFICATION**

Awenda is classified as a natural environment provincial park because of the provincially significant natural and cultural resources and the high quality recreational and educational opportunities it provides.

#### **4.0 PARK GOAL**

The goal for Awenda Provincial Park will be:

- TO PROTECT THE PROVINCIALLY SIGNIFICANT GEOLOGICAL, CULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES OF THE PARK AND TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR A WIDE VARIETY OF HIGH QUALITY RECREATIONAL AND INTERPRETIVE EXPERIENCES.

#### **5.0 PARK OBJECTIVES**

##### **5.1 Protection Objective**

- TO PROTECT THE PROVINCIALLY SIGNIFICANT GEOLOGICAL, CULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES OF THE PARK.

The park contains a variety of provincially significant post-glacial Lake Algonquin features including raised beaches, baymouth bars, shorecliffs and sand dunes.

Cultural resources include 17 known archaeological sites providing evidence of human occupation throughout a time span of possibly as

much as 11,000 years. This resource is considered to be one of the most concentrated patterns of archaeological sites in Canada. The total significance of these sites is not completely known at this time since they are still relatively undisturbed and have only been partially investigated. Biological resources include excellent representative examples of a number of vegetative communities including upland forests of red oak, sugar maple and beech and lowlands communities of cedar, red maple, birch, hemlock and balsam fir. Two sphagnum bogs, Great Lakes shoreline beaches, shoreline fens and dune communities are also represented.

The combination of the outstanding geological, biological and archaeological resources is quite unusual, and makes Awenda one of the most significant provincial parks in Ontario.

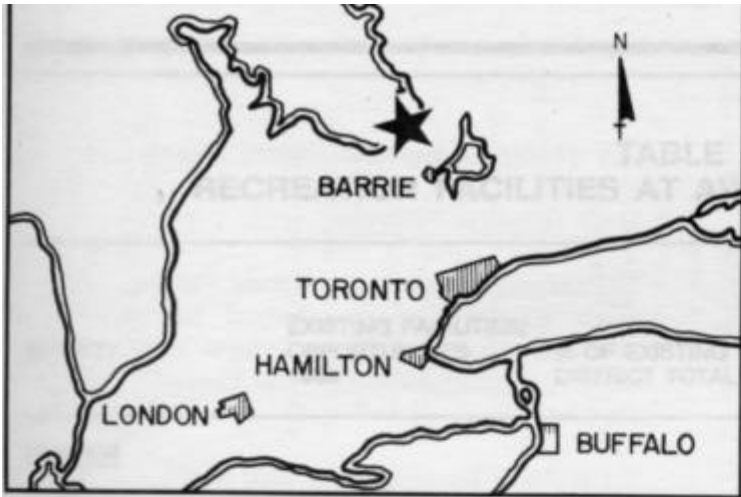
##### **5.2 Recreation Objective**

- TO PROVIDE VISITORS WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO ENJOY A WIDE RANGE OF YEAR ROUND LAND AND WATER BASED RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING SUMMER SEASON CAMPING, SWIMMING, PICNICKING, HIKING, BOATING AND FISHING, AND WINTER SEASON CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING.

In 1983 the Ministry concluded a major planning exercise for the Huronia District The Huronia District Land Use Guidelines establish policies for land and water management and targets for resource production, resource protection and recreation. The contribution of Awenda Provincial Park to these targets is contained in Table 1.

The main day use area adjacent to the mainland beaches has parking for approximately 225 cars and about 40 picnic tables.

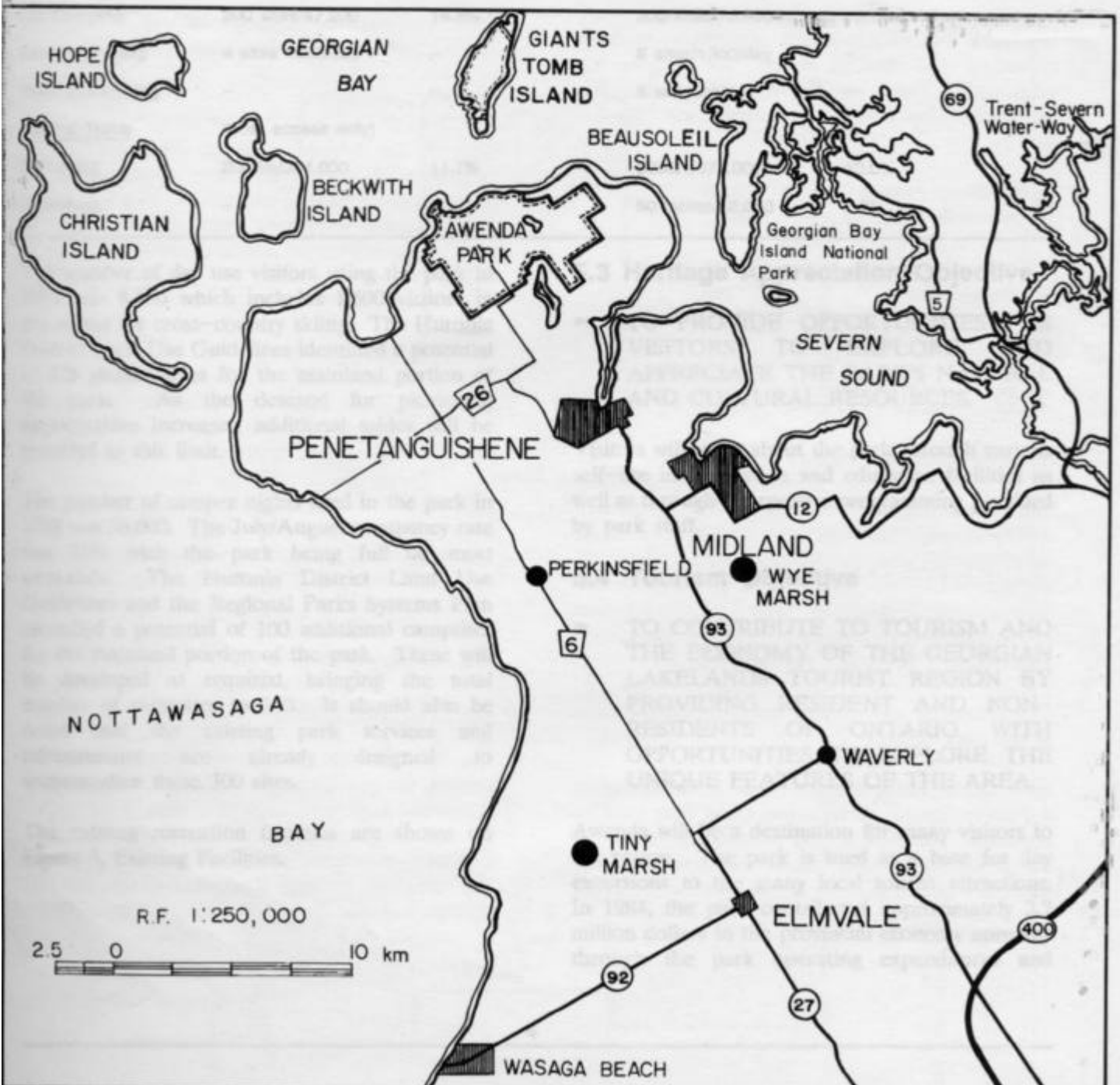
Figure 2



# Regional Context

Legend:

- ★ Park Location
- Provincial Park Boundary
- 91 Provincial Highway
- 2 County Road



**TABLE 1  
RECREATION FACILITIES AT AWENDA PROVINCIAL PARK**

ACTIVITY	EXISTING FACILITIES/ OF DI ST RI CT OPPORTUNITIES 1983	% OF EXISTING DISTRICT TOTAL	FACILITIES/ AFTER REDEVELOPMENT	% (AFTER REDEVELOPMENT) OPPORTUNITIES TARGET TO THE YEAR 2000
<u>Mainland</u>				
Swimming	1500m/280,500	8.9%	1500m/280,500	7.4%
Picnicking	70 tables/i 6.800	3.1%	225 tables/54.000	4.0%
Car Camping	200 sites/47.200	14.3%	300 sites/70.800	12.5%
Group Camping	4 sites 1200/day	—	6 sites/1300/day	—
Walk—in Camping	—	—	8 sites 24/day	—
<u>Giant's Tomb</u> (boat access only)				
Swimming	2000m/374,000	11.7%	2000m/374,000	10.0%
Picnicking			50 tables/i 2,000	0.7%.

The number of day use visitors using the park in 1987 was 8,500, which includes 1,600 visitors in the winter for cross—country skiing. The Huronia District Land Use Guidelines identified a potential of 225 picnic tables for the mainland portion of the park. As the demand for picnicking opportunities increases, additional tables will be provided to this limit

The number of camper nights used in the park in 1988 was 38,000. The July/August occupancy rate was 76% with the park being full on most weekends. The Huronia District Land Use Guidelines and the Regional Parks Systems Plan identified a potential of 100 additional campsites for the mainland portion of the park. These will be developed as required, bringing the total number of campsites to 300. It should also be noted that the existing park services and infrastructure are already designed to accommodate these 300 sites.

The existing recreation facilities are shown on Figure 3, Existing Facilities.

**5.3 Heritage Appreciation Objective**

- TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR VISITORS TO EXPLORE AND

**APPRECIATE THE PARK'S NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES.**

Visitors will learn about the park through various self—use interpretation and education facilities as well as through interpretive programming provided by park staff.

**5.4 Tourism Objective**

- TO CONTRIBUTE TO TOURISM AND THE ECONOMY OF THE GEORGIAN LAKELANDS TOURIST REGION BY PROVIDING RESIDENT AND NON-RESIDENTS OF ONTARIO WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE THE UNIQUE FEATURES OF THE AREA.

Awenda will be a destination for many visitors to the region. The park is used as a base for day excursions to the many local tourist attractions. In 1984, the park contributed approximately 2.7 million dollars to the provincial economy annually through the park operating expenditures and visitor spending.

## 6.0 PARK BOUNDARY

Additional land (226 ha) may be purchased to complete the proposed boundaries for the mainland and the island. This land is located in five separate areas. These properties will be acquired only if they are offered for sale by willing sellers and the funds become available. The properties will be re-evaluated at the time they are offered for sale to determine if they will still contribute to park values. In particular, ongoing peat extraction near Macey Lake could eliminate the values, which contribute to park objectives and thereby remove the reasons for acquisition. There are five areas included in the land acquisition program as follows (see Figure 3 and 5):

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| 1. Northwest corner                               | 10 ha  |
| 2. Quesnelle Property<br>(on Giant's Tomb Island) | 1 ha   |
| 3. Farlain Lake Bog                               | 30 ha  |
| 4. Gignac Lake                                    | 80 ha  |
| 5. Macey Lake Bog                                 | 105 ha |

## 7.0 ZONING

Awenda park will contain the following zones based on the Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies 1978: natural environment, historical, nature reserve, development and access. These zones are designated to protect the resources and guide the management of the park. The size and location of each zone is illustrated in Figure 4 (mainland) and Figure 5 (Giant's Tomb Island).

More detailed mapping of the zones is available at the park office.

It should be noted that the areas zoned in Figure 4 (the mainland) include the areas that may be acquired. The park zoning policies will not affect the private properties unless they are acquired. The park zoning policies do not include the lands under water.

### 7.1 Natural Environment Zones

#### 7.1.1 General Policies

Natural environment zones total 827 ha. These zones will protect the natural habitat, while providing low intensity recreation opportunities such as trail activities, and limited walk-in camping.

#### 7.1.2 Zone Descriptions and Policies

*NE1* (74 ha)

This southern extension of the park is predominantly upland deciduous forest.

*NE2* (598 ha)

This is the largest zone in the park and is predominantly upland deciduous forest, with a few scattered areas of pine plantation. Two very small archaeological sites have been identified in this zone. The zone also contains extensive sections of the Algonquin Bluff.

*NE3* (75 ha)

The zone extends from the uplands above the Nipissing Bluff which are primarily covered in deciduous forest, to the Stoney Point area, which has a lowland mixed deciduous/coniferous forest.

*NE4* (80 ha)

The NE4 zone consists of wetlands and forested slopes between Second Lake and Gignac Lake.

### 7.2 Historical Zones

#### 7.2.1 General Policies

The five historical zones, which total 235 ha, will protect the provincially significant archaeological resources associated with the history of native peoples ranging in age from archaic to post-European contact. Portions of zones H1, H2 and H3 will also protect significant earth and life science features.

Interpretive and research facilities may be provided. The existing picnic area at Second Lake will be maintained. The only new recreational facility in a historical zone will be a picnic shelter at the picnic area on Second Lake. Low intensity trail oriented recreational activities will be permitted.

Figure 3

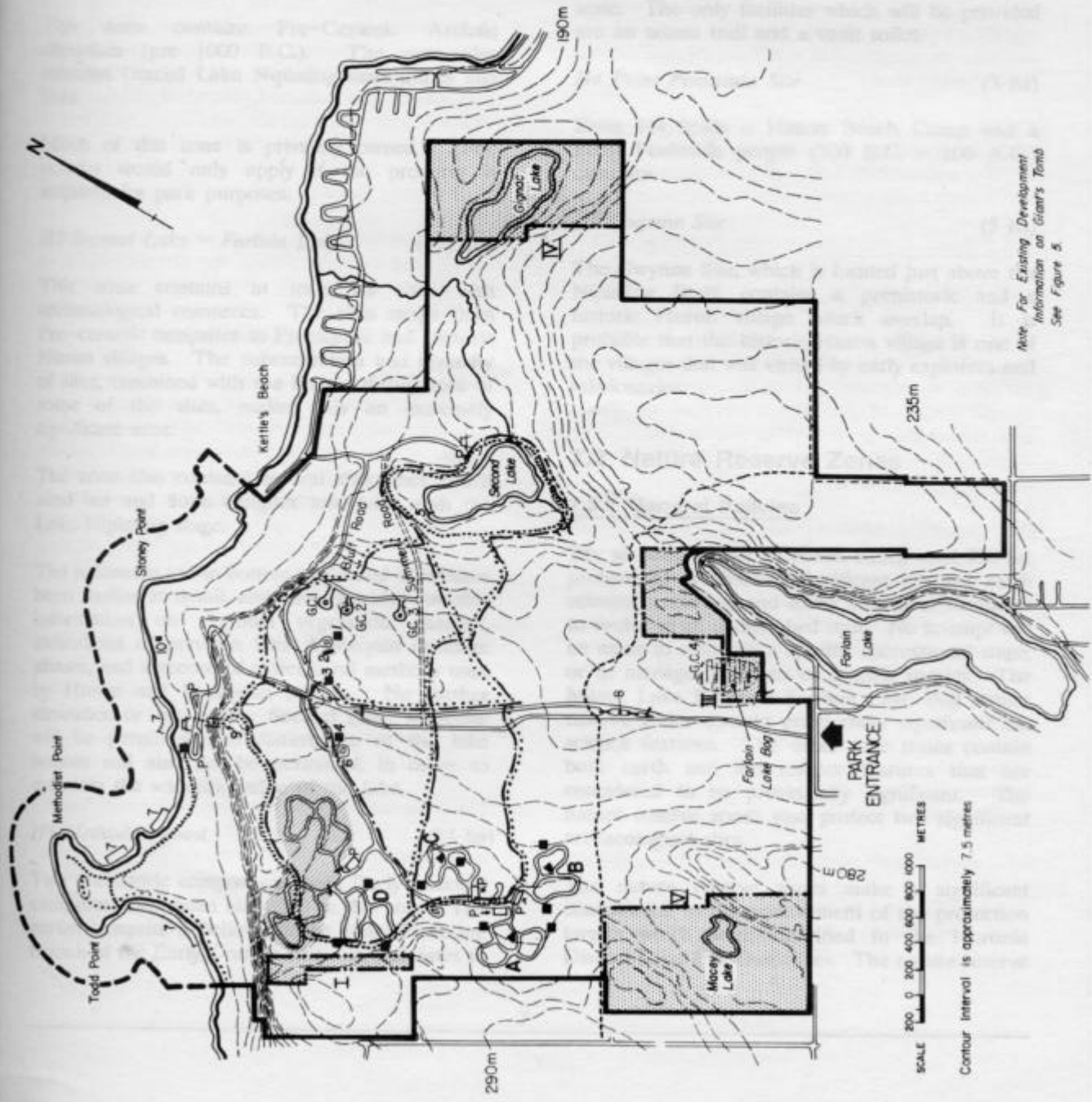
# Existing Facilities

Legend :

- Proposed Park Boundary
- - - Proposed Waterlot Boundary
- · - Existing Park Boundary
- · - · Snowmobile Trail
- · - · Hiking Trail
- · - · Cross Country Ski Trail
- ▨ Proposed Acquisition Areas
- ▩ Partially Developed Campground
- A Hawk Campground
- B Turtle Campground
- C Bear Campground
- D Deer Campground
- ⊥ Road Closed to Vehicular Traffic
- P Vehicle Parking
- Vault Privies
- Comfort Station
- GC Group Campground
- ⌒ Picnic Area
- 1 Park Office and Administration
- 2 Maintenance Building
- 3 Winter Warm-up Shelter
- 4 Entrance Control Office
- 5 Dock and Parking
- 6 Trailer Dumping Station
- 7 Sand Beach
- 8 Entrance Control Office (Inactive)
- 9 Stairs
- 10 Store Cottage

## PROPOSED ACQUISITION AREAS

- I North West Corner
- II Giants Tomb Island
- III Farion Lake Bog
- IV Gigzac Lake
- V Macey Lake Bog



Note: For Existing Development Information on Giant's Tomb See Figure 5



### **7.2.2 Zone Descriptions and Policies**

#### *Hi Gignac Lake (88 ha)*

This zone contains Pre-Ceramic Archaic campsites (pre 1000 B.C.). The zone also contains Glacial Lake Nipissing sand dunes and bars.

Much of this zone is privately owned. Zone policies would only apply if the property were acquired for park purposes.

#### *H2 Second Lake — Fairlain Lake (115 ha)*

This zone contains at least six sites with archaeological resources. The sites range from Pre-ceramic campsites to Prehistoric and Historic Huron villages. The concentration and diversity of sites, combined with the limited disturbance of some of the sites, makes this an extremely significant area.

The zone also contains several shorelines and a sand bar and dune complex associated with the Lake Nipissing stage.

The sediments at the bottom of Second Lake have - been studied in detail, and have provided valuable information on regional vegetation changes, indications of previous lake Algonquin drainage phases, and a record of agricultural methods used by Huron and European settlers. No further clearance or use of the Second Lake shoreline will be permitted and disturbance of the lake bottom will also not be permitted, in order to maintain the scientific value of the lake.

#### *H3 Methodist Point (24 ha)*

Two prehistoric components, both likely seasonal campsites, have been identified in this zone. The earlier campsite is believed to be a late Pickering branch of the Early Ontario Iroquois, and dates to about A.D. 1150-1250. The later camp, which dates to about A.D. 1340 -1360, is Middle Ontario Iroquois.

The zone also contains significant biological features, including Great Lakes shorelines of boulder and sand beaches, shoreline alder thickets, drier shoreline back

beach forests and cold mixed swamp forests in the interior.

Two of the park's best beaches are located in this zone. The only facilities, which will be provided, are an access trail and a vault toilet

#### *H4 Point Peninsula Site (3 ha)*

Zone H4 holds a Huron Beach Camp and a Point Peninsula people (700 B.C. — 100 A.D.) campsite.

#### *H5 Gwynne Site (5 ha)*

The Gwynne Site, which is located just above the Nipissing Bluff, contains a prehistoric and a historic Huron village, which overlap. It is probable that the historic Huron village is one of the villages that was visited by early explorers and missionaries.

## **7.3 Nature Reserve Zones**

### **7.3.1 General Policies**

The six nature reserves zones, which total 990 ha, protect the provincially significant life and earth science resources, and allow biological resources to evolve in an undisturbed state. No attempt will be made to maintain a specific successional stage, or to manage in favour of specific species. The Macey Lake Bog and Fairlain Lake Bog nature reserve zones contain provincially significant life science features. The other four zones contain both earth and life science features that are considered to be provincially significant. The nature reserve zones also protect two significant archaeological sites.

The nature reserve zones make a significant contribution to the achievement of the protection targets, which were identified in the Huronia District Land Use Guidelines. The nature reserve

zones contain virtually all of two provincially significant life science areas (Awenda and Giant's Tomb Island), and approximately ten percent of Macey Lake Bog, another provincially significant life science area (The remainder is privately owned).

Two provincially significant earth science areas, which were identified in the Huronia District Land Use Guidelines, are also protected within the park. Virtually all of the Giant's Tomb Island area is included in a nature reserve zone, while a significant portion of the mainland earth science features are contained in the historical and natural environment zones.

Development will be limited to low intensity trail activities including cross-country ski trails. The existing snowmobile trail will be relocated outside the nature reserve zones where possible.

### **7.3.2 Zone Descriptions and Policies**

#### *NRJ Macey Lake Bog (68 ha)*

Most of this zone is currently in private ownership. Zone policies would only apply if the property were acquired for park purposes. The central feature of this zone is the peat bog, which has developed in a kettle depression. Any acquisition would focus on protecting the bog and adjacent buffer areas.

#### *NR2 Nipissing-Modern Shoreline (East) (78 ha)*

This zone includes the Lake Nipissing bluffs and more modern terraces below it. The northern aspect of this zone, and the cold water springs originating in the bluffs, create optimal conditions for beaver ponds and swamps, and rare Great Lakes shoreline "fen" wetlands on the cobble beaches of the modern shore. Numerous rare and unusual plant species flourish in these small fens, maintained in the zone of natural disturbance between the highs and lows of fluctuating Great Lakes water levels.

#### *NR3 Nipissing-Modern Shoreline (West) (80 ha)*

Zone NR3 focuses on the area at the base of Methodist Point. The area below the bluffs contains lag deposits of high boulders from

ancient beaches, cool deciduous forests, mixed swamps around beaver ponds, and drier near shore forests and sand beaches. The zone also includes the Lake Algonquin and post-glacial Lake Nipissing bluffs, the latter featured on the staircase trail to the modern shoreline beaches, and a sand dune complex above the bluffs.

#### *NR4 Farlain Lake Bog (16 ha)*

This zone contains a spring-fed floating bog in a kettle depression. The bog is surrounded by pine plantations, which are considered to be managed portions of the nature reserve zone. Part of the bog is privately owned and is proposed for acquisition. The adjacent plantation, a portion of which is also proposed for acquisition as a buffer area, contains a prehistoric Huron village.

#### *NRS Second Lake and Upland Terraces (16 ha)*

Nature reserve zone 5, which encompasses part of the Second Lake shoreline, the terraces south of it, and the upland Wyebridge terrace, is provincially significant because of its biological, geological and archaeological values.

South of Second Lake there is a diverse cross section of Awenda's forest environments from oak-dominated stands to cool cedar swamps. The upland forests are both extensive and relatively undisturbed, although most of the original white pine has been removed. At the southwestern corner of Second Lake there is a very rich cedar swamp which includes one of the major springs feeding Second Lake. A number of significant plant species are found in the swamp.

The sequence and morphology of shorelines surrounding Second Lake is considered to be unique in Ontario, particularly because of its state of relative preservation. The nature reserve contains sections of the Payette, Penetang, Cedar Point and Wyebridge shorelines.

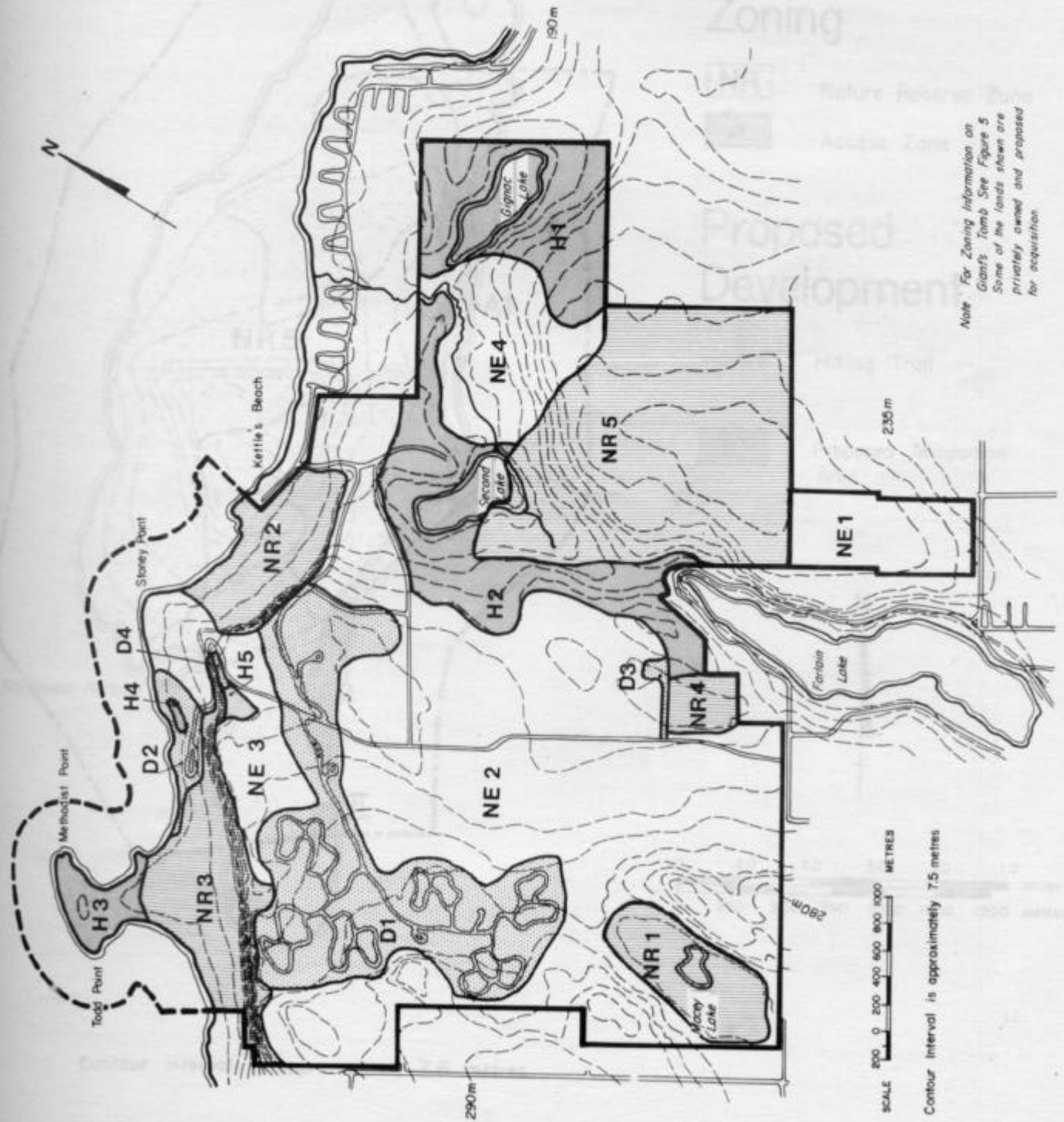
The zone also contains a late prehistoric Huron village, which may include an early Huron component

Figure 4

# Zoning

Legend:

- H** Historical
- D** Development
- NE** Natural Environment
- NR** Nature Reserve
- Proposed Park Boundary



*Note: For Zoning information on Giant's Tomb See Figure 5. Some of the lands shown are privately owned and proposed for acquisition.*

# GIANTS TOMB ISLAND

Figure 5

## Existing Facilities

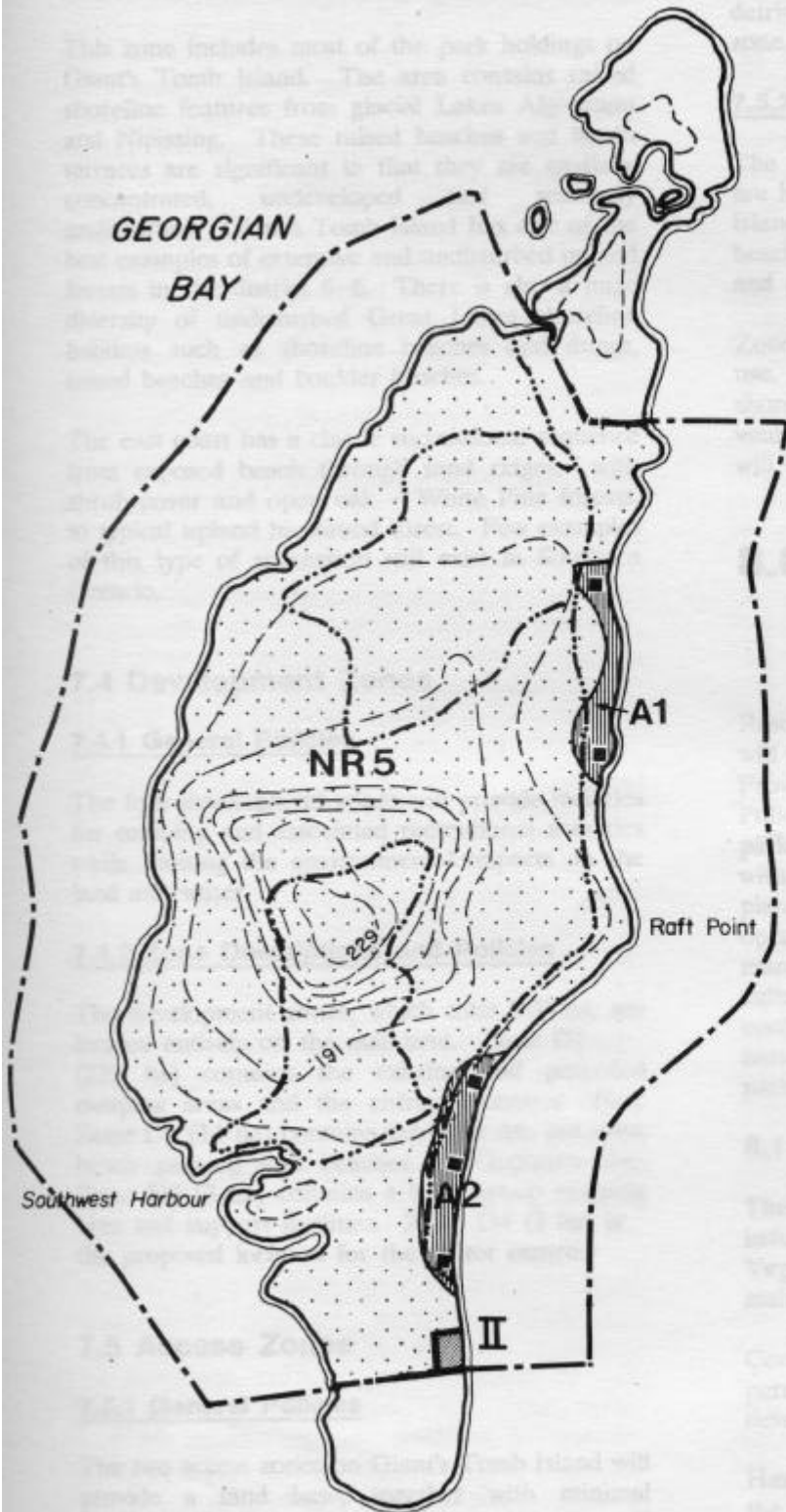
- Contour Lines
- Vault Privies
- - - Park Boundary

## Zoning

- NR** Nature Reserve Zone
- A** Access Zone

## Proposed Development

- · - · - Hiking Trail
- II** Proposed Acquisition Area



Contour interval is approximately 7.6 metres.

NR6 Giant's Tomb Island (398 ha)

This zone includes most of the park holdings on Giant's Tomb Island. The area contains raised shoreline features from glacial Lakes Algonquin and Nipissing. These raised beaches and beach terraces are significant in that they are spatially concentrated, undeveloped and relatively undisturbed. Giant's Tomb Island has one of the best examples of extensive and undisturbed upland forests in site district 6-6. There is also a huge diversity of undisturbed Great Lakes shoreline habitats such as shoreline beaches and dunes, raised beaches and boulder beaches.

The east coast has a classic successional sequence from exposed beach through sand ridges, with shrub cover and open oak-White Pine forests, to typical upland hardwood forest. Few examples of this type of succession still exist in Southern Ontario.

## **7.4 Development Zones**

### **7.4.1 General Policies**

The four development zones will provide facilities for camping and associated recreational activities while limiting the environmental impacts on the land and water.

### **7.4.2 Zone Descriptions and Policies**

The development zones, which total 249 ha, are located entirely on the mainland. Zone D1 (229 ha) contains the existing and proposed camping areas and the entrance control office. Zone D2 (14 ha) contains the main day use area, beach parking and beaches on Georgian Bay. Zone D3 (3 ha) contains a large group camping area and support facilities. Zone D4 (3 ha) is the proposed location for the visitor centre.

## **7.5 Access Zones**

### **7.5.1 General Policies**

The two access zones on Giant's Tomb Island will be saved where possible.

There are several small Scot's Pine plantations, which are primarily located in the NE1 zone. Because the Scot's Pine is a non-native, weedy species, which excludes regeneration of native species, the long -

provide a land base, together with minimal facilities, for boat-in day use. Management will seek to ensure that use of these zones will not detrimentally affect the adjacent nature reserve zone.

### **7.5.2 Zone Descriptions and Policies**

The two access zones (A1 14 ha and A2 10 ha) are located along the east shore of Giant's Tomb Island. These zones contain excellent sand beaches and limited user facilities (vault toilets and picnic tables).

Zone A1 and A2 will be managed only for day use. In order to minimize the impact on back shore resources camping will be discouraged. Two vault toilets and a small number of picnic tables will be provided in this zone.

## **8.0 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT POLICIES**

Resource management in Awenda Provincial Park will be carried out in accordance with the Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies and the park management plan. The park operations plan will be updated in keeping with the direction provided in the management plan. The operations plan will comprise specific operational guidelines on how to carry out the management of the park's water, land, natural and cultural features. Approved research will be encouraged to discover, identify and analyze the natural and cultural resources contained in the park.

### **8.1 Vegetation Management**

The vegetation resources of the park are an indispensable element of the environment. Vegetation management will be directed towards maintaining an evolving natural succession.

Commercial forest operations will not be permitted. Trees may be selectively removed for development or park management objectives.

Hazardous standing trees will be removed within the Development Zone and along managed trails in all park zones. Wildlife den trees will be range objective will be to eliminate all Scot's Pine.

In the past the red oak have been damaged by repeated infestations of oak leaf shredder. Control efforts using chemical insecticides have been

successful in limiting losses.

There is also considerable concern that the hardwood forest of Awenda could be destroyed by gypsy moth infestation. Experience in Eastern Ontario suggests conditions within the park are ideal for gypsy moths.

On the mainland, forest insects and diseases such as gypsy moth and oak leaf shredder, which substantially threatens the park's forest resources, will be controlled. Control measures may include use of approved aerial sprays. Care will be taken to restrict applications as much as possible, to the most severely affected areas and to avoid privately owned areas bordering on the park.

On the island, action will not be taken to control forest insects and diseases unless they threaten the mainland.

Where warranted, noxious weeds (poison ivy) will be controlled in the development zones on the mainland and access zones on the island, and along trails. Control measures may involve use of chemical herbicides.

All wild fires will be suppressed both on the mainland and the island.

Tree planting and turf management programs for aesthetics and erosion control will utilize only native plant species. The largest area requiring a turf management program is in development zone D3 containing the large group camping site. The sandy soils in this area will not support recreation activity without turf improvement and maintenance.

## **8.2 Fish and Wildlife Management**

Sport hunting will not be permitted in the park. Nuisance animals such as raccoons, skunks and porcupines may require population control measures through a ministry supervised trapping program.

An alternative to trapping porcupines would be to return a fisher population into the mainland portion of the park for the purpose of achieving a biological method of controlling the porcupine population. The program would be considered experimental and would be intensively monitored to determine its effectiveness.

A network of trails on the mainland and the island will provide wildlife viewing opportunities.

A fisheries habitat improvement program will be prepared for Second and Gignac Lakes. This program will be the primary method of maintaining and improving populations of indigenous fish species. Stocking of the lakes will occur only if required to replenish depleted stocks.

If the properties surrounding Gignac Lake are purchased, regulations will be established to limit the size of daily limits for the two inland lakes to control fishing pressure.

Sport fishing on Georgian Bay will be encouraged. Water access facilities will be provided on the mainland. The existing protected basin will be upgraded, if feasible, and a boat launch will be provided.

Commercial fishing, including bait fishing will not be permitted within the mainland water lot boundary of the park. It will be permitted within the water lot boundary around the island.

## **8.3 Landform and Water Management**

Erosion control along the Nipissing Bluff, and other raised shorelines will be the primary element of landform management in the park. Erosion control measures such as steps, waterbars may be required along hiking trails Campsites may be closed periodically due to soil compaction and vegetation damage. No alterations will be made to the natural beaches.

Most water resources in the park are situated on the mainland. They are varied consisting of springs, seepages, small streams and bogs (Macey Lake and Farlain Bog) two marshes (one on the island) a shoreline fen and two small lakes (Second and Gignac). The most sensitive of these resources, the bogs, fen, one marsh, springs and seepages are located within Nature Reserve zones while the two lakes are within Historical zones. The two zones will protect these water resources. Facilities including trails will be located to avoid these springs and seepage areas.

## **8.4 Cultural Resources Management**

The cultural resources of Awenda Park are of provincial significance and require special recognition and consideration within the park's management and operations programs. There are 17

known archaeological sites of varying size and ages, all located on the mainland portion of the park.

The other elements of the cultural resources of the park relate to minor historical themes, which include:

- 19th and 20th Century lumbering
- agricultural settlement
- recreational land use along the Georgian Bay shore

The following policy statements will direct cultural resource management in the park.

Approved research will continue, designed to discover, identify and analyze all archaeological sites within the park, including Giant's Tomb Island.

Archaeological sites will be regularly monitored to protect them from relic hunters. Site locations will not be published or otherwise advertised except to persons involved in approved research projects.

In order to protect the archaeological resources, site investigations will be carried out prior to commencement of any major facility development project.

## **9.0 OPERATIONS POLICIES**

A Park Operations Plan will be prepared to provide park staff with necessary information required to operate the park on a day—to—day basis. In addition to addressing the operations policies, which follow, the plan will include such topics as budget, staffing, and maintenance schedules, enforcement and emergency services. The provisions of the plan will be consistent with the approved Ontario Provincial Parks Operating Standards, and will be reviewed annually and updated as required.

### **9.1 Tourism Services**

At the present time the only concession in the park is a woodyard. This will be maintained. When the visitor centre is constructed, it is expected that a coffee shop will be included. Additional commercial facilities will be considered if they complement park values and follow park policy guidelines.

### **9.2 Recreation Management**

Awenda will be managed to provide a wide variety of

high quality recreational opportunities.

#### **9.2.1 Camping**

It may be necessary to implement a campsite rehabilitation program due to soil compaction and associated damage to vegetation. This program may require closure of loops within the campground, for varying periods of time, on a rotating basis.

#### **9.2.2 Walk-in and Boat-in Camping**

A remote walk—in camping experience will be provided on the mainland near Gignac Lake. Campers' vehicles will be parked at the Second Lake picnic area parking area. This proposal will not be implemented until private lands adjacent to Gignac Lake have been acquired.

Boat—in camping at Giant's Tomb Island will not be encouraged and no camping facilities will be provided. Some overnight boat mooring and occasional camping on the island does occur. This will be closely monitored to determine the impacts on the island.

#### **9.2.3 Group Camping**

The park's four group campsites currently provide additional camping opportunities for members of organized groups. Use of the sites will be managed by the reservation system.

The three sites, located in the main group camping area, each have capacity for 75 campers. Vault toilets and drinking water will be provided. A fourth group campsite capable of serving special groups of up to 1,000 people is available. Vault privies are located on site; however, large groups will require additional vault toilets. Drinking water is available for large groups but it must be transported to the group campsite. The closest treated water supply is 2 km from this site. In all cases, large groups must comply with regulations established by the Medical Officer of Health for Simcoe County.

#### **9.2.4 Day Use Recreation**

The park contains five-day use areas including the main beach area, Second Lake picnic area, the winter cross—country ski warm up shelter and access area, and two access zones on Giant's Tomb Island.

The mainland with four separate beaches and the two

beaches on the island provide opportunities for swimming, sunbathing, sailing, picnicking and fishing. No alterations will be made to the natural beaches. The beach areas will vary in size due to fluctuations in the water level of Georgian Bay.

The Second Lake area provides opportunities for picnicking; canoeing and fishing, however swimming is discouraged. There are a total of 50 tables and parking for 50 cars as well as fire grates, garbage receptacles and a vault toilet

Picnic facilities at the main beach area include tables, garbage receptacles and fire grates. There are approximately 40 picnic tables provided in the beach areas. These will be increased to 175 tables. There are parking spaces for 225 vehicles. The distance between the campground and these facilities may influence campers to drive to the beach thus utilizing a high percentage of the day use area parking capacity. Campers will therefore be encouraged to walk or bicycle to the beach.

Swimming, sailing, sunbathing and picnicking will all be encouraged at Giant's Tomb Island. These and all other day use activities will be directed to the Island's access zone and proposed nature trail. Up to 50 picnic tables may be provided on Giant's Tomb Island.

The trail centre and warm—up shelter is used by cross—country skiers and snowshoers in the winter and hikers in the summer.

### **9.2.5 Boating**

Motor boats are not permitted on Second Lake because of its small size and to coincide with the natural values of the park. If private land abutting Gignac Lake is acquired, the use of motorboats on the lake will be prohibited.

### **9.2.6 Trail System**

The park will provide a large number of high quality recreational opportunities for a variety of trail user groups including hikers, equestrians, bicyclists, and cross—country skiers, snowshoers and snowmobilers. The 50-kilometre trail system will be an essential component of the interpretive program both on the island and the mainland. Hiking will be the main trail activity on Giant's Tomb Island.

The snowmobile trail was established before the park was developed and is an important link in a regional

trail system. Equestrians use the park, with permission, three to four times a year. They too have used the park for years.

Equestrians and snowmobilers will continue to use the same portion of the mainland trails. These trails do not significantly affect any of the natural or cultural features of the park. Although portions of this trail system go through a nature reserve zone; the impact is minimal since they follow old logging roads. If the snowmobile club, which operates the trail, should choose to re—route it outside the park, the segment of the trail within the park will be closed. No additional snowmobile trail development will be considered in the park.

The cross—country skiers will utilize different trails systems to eliminate possible conflicts.

The trails network is large enough to comfortably accommodate all of the anticipated demand for trail based recreation. Some portions of the system will be used more than others and will require monitoring and maintenance especially on slopes. Whenever possible new trails will be located on former logging roads. The trails will be designed so that they do not detrimentally affect the significant natural and cultural features.

### **9.2.7 View Points**

Views of Georgian Bay from the Nipissing bluff are spectacular especially during the leaf free season. Three viewing points will be maintained on the bluff. Erosion has been responsible for vegetation loss at two sites and stabilization of soils is required.

## **9.3 Visitor Services**

The goal of the visitor services program is to increase visitor awareness of Awenda's provincially significant archaeological, biological and geological resources and its outstanding recreational features. This will be achieved through staff—led interpretive programs, and self—use facilities including an extensive system of trails, interpretive signs and displays. A visitor centre is proposed to act as a focal point for the visitor services program.

Awenda will offer a major activity level visitor services program. The three components of visitor services will be carried out according to the following priorities: information, interpretation, and outdoor recreation.



### **9.3.1 Information**

Park users will be informed of the facilities and the management activities in the park, points of interest in the area and the programs of the ministry. This will be achieved at the visitor centre and campground office through the use of publications, bulletin boards, displays, and personal contact. A newsletter or tabloid will be produced at least once during the operating season to provide visitors with current information about the park's resources, management issues and nearby attractions and facilities.

A system of communicating with the boaters on Giant's Tomb Island will be developed (bulletin boards etc.) as most of these users do not visit the mainland portion of the park.

Awenda has been designated as a French language centre. French language services and signs are therefore provided in the park.

### **9.3.2 Interpretation**

There will be three major interpretive themes at Awenda.

- archaeological, focusing on the occupation of the site by a variety of native cultures;
- geological, glacial history of Lake Algonquin;
- biological, upland forests and lowland vegetation.

Two minor themes will include:

- the science of archaeology; and
- the lumbering history of the park.

A proposed demonstration archaeological dig and on-going research will be highlights of the interpretive program. There will be close communications and cooperation with Sainte Marie among the Hurons and the Ministry of Culture and Communications for this program.

Personal service interpretive programs will be presented to foster an appreciation for the park's resource features and stories, and to encourage visitors to further explore and experience the park resources. The proposed park visitor centre with its displays, theatre and research facilities will be the focus of the program. Self-use interpretation may occur at the trail centre and along the trails. Provision will be made in the park to assist school groups and

other organizations in interpretation and outdoor education.

Facilities will be provided to accommodate school groups for both day use and group camping. A comprehensive information package or education kit outlining park resources and facilities will be prepared. Staff assistance with outdoor education programs will be provided as time allows.

### **9.3.3 Outdoor Recreation**

Emphasis will be on self-use recreation facilities such as a winter and summer trails system, play areas and facilities compatible with the environment

## **9.4 Research**

Given the significant archaeological, biological and geological resources of Awenda Provincial Park, further research by the academic community will be encouraged. It is essential to be continually adding to and refining our knowledge of the park features and stories. Park staff will co-ordinate and monitor researchers and their projects. All research initiatives will require ministry approval.

## **9.5 Marketing**

The current marketing plan for Awenda Provincial Park will be updated and will focus on the following items listed in order of priority:

- increasing occupancy rate is attempting to hold present customers longer and encouraging shoulder season and weekday camping;
- increasing day use throughout the season by raising the park's profile locally, including informing schools of the outdoor education opportunities; and
- increasing use of the park's cross-country ski trails system will be encouraged.

## **10.0 DEVELOPMENT POLICIES**

In all instances detailed site plans identifying the location of the proposed development (Figure 5 and 6) will be completed and approved in advance of any development. The requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act will be followed.

### **10.1 Camping**

#### **10.1.1 Car Access Campsites**

A comfort station is required for the Deer

Campground, the loop most recently opened.

Two additional loops, each with 50 campsites, will be completed giving the park a total of 300 sites (Figure 6). These sites were included in the 1975 park development plan, and the existing park services and infrastructure are designed to accommodate this expansion.

Each loop will require a comfort station, similar in size to the existing stations, and two sets of vault toilets and drinking water stations.

Development will proceed only after it has been determined that sufficient demand exists.

### **10.1.2 Group Campsites**

Two additional campsites will be developed east of the existing small sites (Figure 6). They will be similar to the three existing small sites, featuring vault toilets, drinking water and picnic tables. Each site will accommodate approximately 75 campers. Small picnic shelters will be provided at each of the group camping sites.

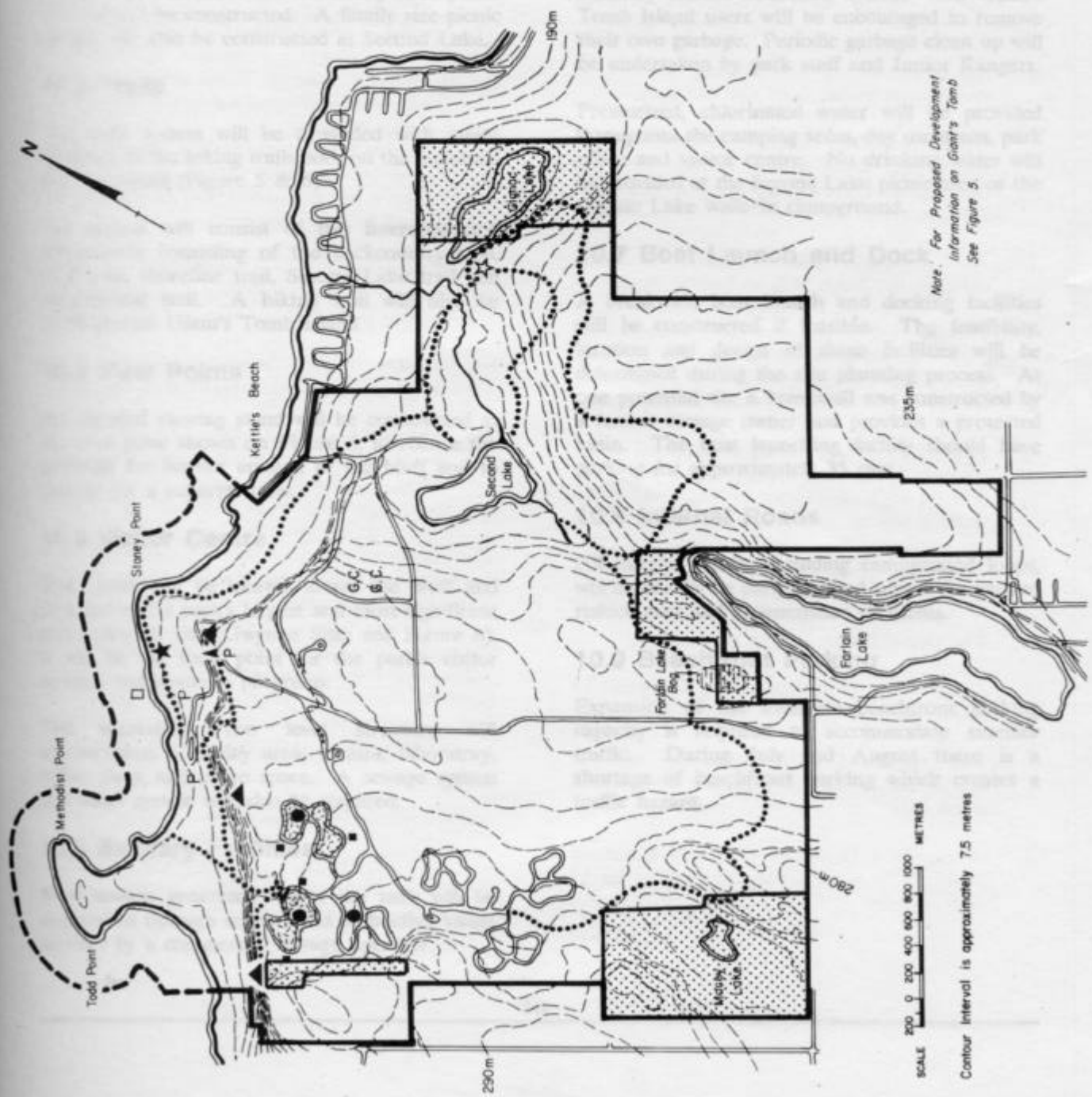
### **10.1.3 Walk—in Campsites**

Eight campsites will be developed immediately west of Gignac Lake (Figure 6). Each site will be large enough to accommodate two tents. The sites will be well separated to enhance the experience. The only facilities provided will be a fire pit and earth pit toilets. These sites will not be constructed until private lands on Gignac Lake have been acquired.

Figure 6

# Proposed Development

- Boat Launch, Dock and Breckwall
- ▲ Vista Point
- Visitor Centre
- Comfort Station
- ★ Vault Privies
- ☆ Stone Cottage
- ☆ Walk-in Camping Area
- P Parking Area
- G.C. Group Campground
- Additional Car Access
- Hiking Trail
- Water Lot Boundary
- Proposed Park Boundary
- Proposed Acquisition Areas



Note: For Proposed Development Information on Gant's Tomb See Figure 5.

## **10.2 Day Use**

As the demand for day use facilities increases, parking for an additional 75 cars will be constructed at the main day use area providing a total capacity of 300 cars. When the final phase of campground development is completed (100 campsites) and there are a total of 300 campsites in the park, a further 100 parking spaces will be constructed in accordance with an approved site plan. Three sets of additional vault privies with change house facilities and two family sized picnic shelters will be constructed. A family size picnic shelter will also be constructed at Second Lake.

## **10.3 Trails**

The trails system will be expanded with major additions to the hiking trails both on the mainland and the island (Figure 5 & 6).

The system will consist of five interconnected components consisting of the backcountry trail, bluff trail, shoreline trail, Second Lake trail and campground trail. A hiking trail will also be developed on Giant's Tomb Island.

## **10.4 View Points**

An elevated viewing stand will be constructed at the vista point shown on Figure 6, to reduce the potential for further erosion of the bluff and to provide for a superior view.

## **10.5 Visitor Centre**

The centre will be located above the bluff and adjacent to the park's largest and most significant archaeological site (Gwynne Site; see Figure 6). It will be the focal point for the park's visitor services and research programs.

The winterized, two level structure will accommodate a display area, theatre, laboratory, coffee shop, and office space. A sewage system and water system will also be required.

## **10.6 Sanitary Facilities**

Most sewage generated within the park will be disposed of through septic tanks or holding vaults serviced by a commercial sewage operator.

New comfort stations will be constructed, initially for the existing Deer campground loop and then for the

undeveloped loops as required.

On the island, vaults will be used and when necessary sewage will be removed by commercial waterbased sewage handling operators. Earth pit toilets, located in the walk—in camping area will be relocated as necessary.

A private waste management company utilizing a centrally located collection system will handle garbage on the mainland. On Giant's Tomb Island users will be encouraged to remove their own garbage. Periodic garbage clean up will be undertaken by park staff and Junior Rangers.

Pressurized, chlorinated water will be provided throughout the camping areas, day use areas, park office and visitor centre. No drinking water will be provided at the Second Lake picnic area or the Gignac Lake walk—in campground.

## **10.7 Boat Launch and Dock**

A breakwall, boat launch and docking facilities will be constructed if feasible. The feasibility, location and design of these facilities will be determined during the site planning process. At one potential site a breakwall was constructed by a former cottage owner and provides a protected basin. The boat launching facility should have parking for approximately 35 cars.

## **10.8 Internal Roads**

All internal roads, excluding campground loops, will eventually be hard surfaced within the park to reduce dust and maintenance problems.

## **10.9 Beachfront Parking**

Expansion of the available beachfront parking capacity is required to accommodate summer traffic. During July and August there is a shortage of beachfront parking which creates a traffic hazard.

## **11.0 IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES**

Implementation of the management plan will be dependent upon the availability of funds for land acquisition and capital development. Therefore, it is not possible to accurately determine when development will occur. As funding becomes available the plan will be implemented in a logical,

cost efficient manner. The following priority list of projects will be used as a guide for park development

1. An additional 75-car parking lot will be constructed in the main day use area.

Upon completion of the final 100 campsites (total 300 campsites) a further 100 car parking lot will be constructed in the main day use area.

2. All internal park roads, excluding campground loops, will be hardsurfaced.
3. The main day use area will be expanded including picnic shelters and tables, vault toilets and change houses. A small picnic shelter will be constructed at Second Lake.
4. A comfort station will be constructed in the recently opened car access campground loop (Deer Loop). Extension of water and hydro systems will be required.
5. The trails network and viewpoints will be completed.
6. The visitor centre will be constructed.
7. The walk—in campsites will be developed (if additional land has been acquired).
8. Two additional group campsites will be developed. Picnic shelters will be constructed at all sites.
9. If feasible, a breakwall, dock and launching ramp will be constructed with parking for 35 vehicles.
10. The development of 100 additional campsites including two comfort stations and four vault toilets will be completed.
11. Eradication of Scot's Pine Plantations.

- copies of the draft plan were sent to all property owners within 400 feet of the park boundary (over 100 copies)
- copies of the plan were sent to public interest groups, the local municipality, the county and other government ministries
- a copy of the plan was sent to local businesses having an interest in the park
- a summary of the master plan was published in 10,000 park tabloids circulated to park users, requesting their comments or concerns.

The greatest response to the proposed park management plan came from park users. Most park users support the direction of the plan. The response was evenly split on favouring road improvements and boat launch facilities with those opposed to these initiatives. All comments were carefully considered prior to preparation of the final plan.

## **12.0 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

The public consultation process during the management planning exercise for Awenda Provincial Park occurred in the summer of 1988. The focus of this program was the local area and included the following:

### 13.0 PLAN REVIEW AND AMENDMENT

This management plan will be reviewed at least once every ten years to confirm or revise the policies. Minor amendments may be made in the interim as required. Major amendments having broad implications for the park management will receive public review.

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