

**Waubashene Beaches
Provincial Nature
Reserve**

**Interim Management
Statement**



Ontario

Ministry of
Natural
Resources

January, 1994

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL STATEMENT

This Interim Management Statement will provide Interim direction for the management of Waubaushene Beaches Provincial Nature Reserve until a comprehensive Park Management Plan is prepared.

This Statement will provide the basis for the subsequent preparation of the Park Management Plan.

I am pleased to approve this Interim Management Statement for Waubaushene Beaches Provincial Nature Reserve.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David Johnstone", written over a horizontal line.

D. Johnstone
Regional Director
Southern Region

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

NAME: WAUBAUSHENE BEACHES PROVINCIAL PARK	Regional Setting Map Scale 1:125,000
Proposed Class: Nature Reserve	
M.N.R. Parks Zone: Midhurst	
M.N.R. Region: Southern Region	
Total Area(ha): 34 Land: Water:	
Site Region: 6E	
Site District: 6-6	
Date In Regulation: Reg. 245/69	

TARGETS

1. Life Science Representation

site type/landscape unit	feature
-Nipissing Shorebluff System	-Shorebluff slope and rim terrace complex -Successional pasture and meadow spp.
-Post-Nipissing Foreshore Sand Plain and Embayments	-Shorebluff and embayment complex -Fen meadow, scrub and grove spp.
-Post-Nipissing Foreshore Plain Depression	-Lagoonal depression -Cedar-willow-dogwood grove
-Post-Nipissing Foreshore Sand Plain	-Fescue-dominated meadow -Early successional groves and thickets
-Backslope Enpondment Basin	-Pond to shore meadow -Wetland aquatic, meadow, scrub fringe and forest fringe
-Disturbed Backslope	-Open barrens, disturbed forb meadows, dogwood scrublands

2. Earth Science Representation

geological theme	feature
-Glacial Lake Algonquin	-Shoreline, raised beaches
-Post-glacial Lake Nipissing	-Shorebluffs, terrace plain

3. Cultural Resources Representation

theme	theme segment
Early Historic Huron, circa 1600 - 1620	Waubashene Beach Ridge Site. An ancient native village with middens.

4. Recreation Opportunities

day use	car camping	wilderness/back country
hiking, viewing	N/A	N/A

INVENTORIES

level \ type	earth science	life science	cultural	recreational	other
reconnaissance completion date		1983			
detailed completion date					
required?	detailed		Historical and Archaeological reconnaissance		

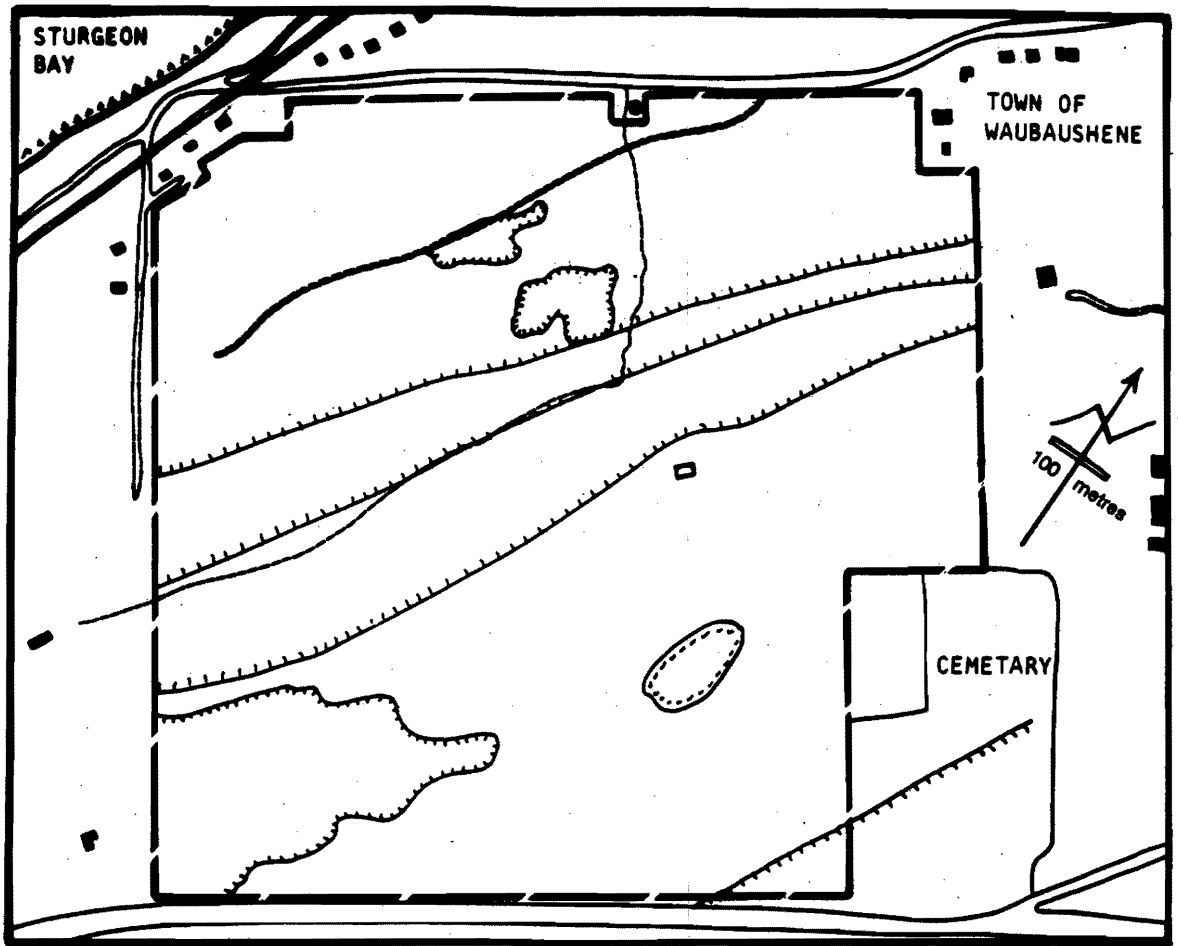















Figure 1: Major Landmarks and Boundaries of Waubaushene Beaches Provincial Nature Reserve

-  study area boundary
-  county road and highway
-  unpaved access road
-  established footpath
-  major shorebluff crest
-  landform depression (gravel extraction pit, blowout)
-  building
-  former building foundation
-  empondment basin
-  railway track
-  shoreline
-  fence
-  spring water well

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

I. Land Tenure

The Crown presently owns a total of 34 hectares which was regulated under the Provincial Parks Act in 1969 as Waubaushene Beaches Provincial Nature Reserve (Ont. Reg. 245/69).

Guideline:

The Reconnaissance Biological Inventory of Waubaushene Beaches Provincial Nature Reserve recommended that the park retain its status as a Nature Reserve class provincial park.

Bell Canada has guying anchors situated on park property for two angle poles located along the north side of Highway 12 between the west entrance to Waubaushene and Neekawanis Road (Lot 10, Concession 10, Tay Township).

Guideline:

The present permission for Bell Canada will continue.

II. Land Acquisition/Disposition

The Reconnaissance Biological Inventory of Waubaushene Beaches Provincial Nature Reserve states that the shoreline features associated with the park include a moderate 1.5 metre post-Nipissing bluff which is referred to as the Waubaushene stage. This stage is located just outside the northern boundary of the park, and the possibility of acquiring a portion of this level should be considered.

Guideline:

Acquisition of a portion of the Waubaushene stage will be considered in the park management plan review.

III. Existing Development

Existing development is limited to an established footpath.

Guideline:

The existing facilities will not be maintained on a regular basis.

IV. Proposed Development

Future development may include a limited number of parking spaces, washrooms and a small picnic site off Highway No. 12 near the south corner of the park. Future development may also include a formal trail system with interpretive panels.

Guidelines:

Further development (excluding those related to public health and safety) will not be undertaken prior to completion of a park management plan.

A trail plan should be completed prior to preparation of a park management plan.

V. Recreation Activities

No visitation figures are recorded.

While there are no access or interpretive facilities present, incidental use currently occurs from a neighbouring religious camp and common-use well site for viewing purposes. Illicit picnics and "partying" occur within the northwest area of the park in the cedar grove and in the former gravel pit (sand blowout). There is the occasional misuse of the foot trails by mountain bikes, trail bikes, all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles, particularly in the vicinity of the two gravel pits and along the crest and face of the shorebluff.

Guidelines:

Steps which may be taken to exclude inappropriate, destructive uses include the following:

- a) increase vigilance patrols about the area by O.P.P., Ministry staff and/or local cooperative residents ("Park Watch"),
- b) sign the area adequately indicating permitted and excluded uses, with consideration for educational messages about protection objective and the areas significance and sensitivity,
- c) establish fencing systems around those points which suffer from chronic vandalism or which allow inappropriate intruders access (e.g. at the well site).

VI. Commercial Activities

Guideline:

No commercial activities will be permitted.

VII. Native Interests

An ancient native village site exists in the park which may be of local interest.

Guideline:

Local native communities will be consulted during the park management planning process and prior to any archaeological studies or inventories of the site.

VIII. Natural Resources

The display of the various shorebluffs is greatly enhanced by the current open meadow vegetation in its central portions. However, successional trends here are towards increased forb, scrub and grove cover which will steadily obscure the contours of the shorebluffs and terraces. Vegetation management to maintain the present open cover may be desirable for any future interpretation of the natural features and maintenance of the scenic views, at least in the central portions of the shorebluff complex.

Guidelines:

Vegetation management may be utilized to maintain the desired scenic views. The use of broadleaf herbicides will not be considered. Those forested and successional grove portions already existing at the southern and northern portions of the complex should be retained to illustrate the range of successional communities, and hence should not be so managed.

A vegetation management plan should be prepared in advance of any actual management activities.

The small gravel pit cut into the base of the Nipissing bluff has been stabilized to some extent by natural regeneration.

Guideline:

The pit face should be monitored over time to determine whether further stabilization and rehabilitation are required, as part of a vegetation management plan.

VIII. Natural Resources (continued)

The bluffs are cut into unconsolidated material and are susceptible to slumping and gullyng processes if the vegetative cover is disturbed.

Guideline:

Subject to future approved development supported by a trail plan and park management plan, a set of stairs and/or a side slope trail down this slope may be carefully designed and located to direct foot traffic.

The low relief post-Nipissing ridges below the main Nipissing bluff are composed of fine-grained sands and are open to erosion at the present time, with several blowouts in various stages of development.

Guideline:

This site should be carefully monitored and possibly temporarily fenced off to prevent further erosion and encourage natural or assisted revegetation.

As a scientific and interpretive site, Waubaushene Beaches ranks highly on a provincial scale. This site was identified as a provincially significant site in a study on raised beaches of southern Ontario. The open pasture surface of the property enhances the visibility of the shoreline features. Also, the uplift curves of glacial Lake Algonquin are based on the elevation of the shorelines in Waubaushene Beaches, and are even more critical in the extension of these curves to Northern Ontario. Recent studies indicate that a hinge zone for Algonquin shorelines may exist in the head of Georgian Bay, further enhancing the scientific value of this site.

Guidelines:

Interpretation of the site will not be undertaken until after completion of a park management plan.

This site could serve as a datum point for a long-term monitoring program of post-glacial uplift.

A detailed earth science inventory should be undertaken prior to the preparation of a park management plan.

VIII. Natural Resources (continued)

Waubashene Beaches has been subjected to considerable disturbance in the form of forest clearing, grazing, sand and gravel extraction and the use of motorized recreation vehicles (snowmobiles all-terrain vehicles and motorbikes).

Guideline:

All of the above activities should be posted and banned in the Nature Reserve, with the possible exception of some vegetation management.

IX. Cultural Resources

A one to two hectare archaeological site, known as the Waubashene Beach Ridge Site, is located within the boundary of the Nature Reserve. The site is situated along the Algonquin beach terrace below the major promontory of the area. The site had been ploughed and one midden was slightly disturbed by pot hunting and fence construction (pre-1979).

Initial research in 1979 identified three midden deposits, but this might not indicate the complete site area. A large portion of the site, which was not extensively tested, extends beyond the Nature Reserve boundary. The site was tentatively placed in early Historic Huron, circa 1600-1620.

Guidelines:

Future management planning for the park should include preservation of the site.

Historical and archaeological inventories are required, prior to completion of a park management plan, in consultation with the Ministry of Culture and Communications and local native communities.

The site will be protected from disturbance.

X. Client Services

In the foreseeable future, no additional facilities will be provided.

X. Client Services (continued)

Information

Basic information about the park, including photographs, maps and text, was produced in leaflet form as one of a series from the publication Provincial Nature Reserves in Ontario.

Guideline:

Basic information about the park may be updated and reproduced as required.

Education

Guideline:

Prospective visitors may be made aware of the vulnerability of the Nature Reserve's resources to damage from inappropriate uses in any publications and/or signs produced for the park.

Interpretation

Guideline:

An interpretive program is not required at this time. The need for, and type of interpretive program will be determined during the park management planning process.

XI. Research

Guidelines:

The following studies should be conducted as priorities and funding permits:

- earth science
- cultural/historical/archaeological
- faunal

This site could serve as a datum point for a long term monitoring program of post-glacial uplift (e.g. through university research).

XII. Marketing

Guideline:

There are no plans in the near future to promote use of the Nature Reserve apart from general information provided to the public regarding provincial nature reserves.

XIII. References

Blachut, S. Earth Science Inventory Checklist: Waubauskene Beaches Nature Reserve. Division of Parks, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Toronto, Ontario, 1977.

MacDonald, I.D. A Reconnaissance Biological Inventory of Waubauskene Beaches Provincial Nature Reserve. Central Region Parks, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Richmond Hill, Ontario, 1983.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. A Summary of the Earth Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest in Huronia District. Central Region Parks, Richmond Hill, Ontario, 1983.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Huron District Land Use Guidelines. Midhurst, Ontario, 1983.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Provincial Nature Reserves in Ontario. Parks and Recreational Areas Branch, Toronto, 1981.