

**Pointe au Baril Forests and
Wetlands Conservation
Reserve (C302)**

**Statement of
Conservation Interest**

March 2005

**Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve
(C302)**

Statement of Conservation Interest

Ministry of Natural Resources
Parry Sound District

Prepared with the assistance of:

**Meteeck & Company
Huntsville, Ontario**

March 2005

Approval Statement

We are pleased to approve this Statement of Conservation Interest for Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve (C302).

Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve (C302) is a 2,366 hectare area of Crown land lying west of Highway 69 and located within Harrison Ward of the Municipality of the Township of The Archipelago, in the Territorial District of Parry Sound. This site is located approximately 2½ kilometres west of the hamlet of Pointe au Baril Station and extends west to the shoreline of Georgian Bay. To the north this site abuts the proposed North Georgian Bay Shoreline and Islands Conservation Reserve and portions of its northern boundary lie approximately 2 ½ kilometres west of Sturgeon Bay Provincial Park. It is the intention of MNR to include the Crown land portions of Lookout Island (Island 476A) in this conservation reserve, following resolution of a number of issues.

This conservation reserve, in Hills' (1959) ecological Site District 5E-7, provides representation of a wide variety of near shore vegetation types and life science features. It contains forests of jack pine, red oak, white pine, trembling aspen, white birch, red maple and white spruce. Numerous wetlands, including swamps, marshes and peatlands can be found in bedrock depressions and along the shoreline. This conservation reserve provides representation of 50 landform/vegetation community types. It also provides habitat for a number of rare plant and animal species.

Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve is used for a variety of traditional recreational pursuits, including hunting and fishing.

Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve is one of 378 new protected areas approved through *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy*, aimed, in part, at completing Ontario's system of parks and protected areas. It is part of the Great Lakes Heritage Coast, a signature site identified through *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy*. The Great Lakes Heritage Coast is designed to protect the coastal environment and provide for recreational and tourism opportunities associated with the natural environment.

This conservation reserve is within the Georgian Bay Littoral Biosphere Reserve, which was recently designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. This designation "represents a common vision of sustainable development and environmental and cultural conservation" by a wide range of stakeholders of the area (UNESCO, 2004).

During the "Lands for Life" planning process, the public was widely consulted and provided valuable input into what became *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy*. Comments received at that time and during consultation related to the formal Public Lands Act regulation of the boundaries of this conservation reserve were generally supportive of the protection of this area. Stakeholders who provided comment during the earlier consultation for this site were subsequently consulted regarding the draft Statement of Conservation Interest and any comments were considered in the finalization of this document.

This Statement of Conservation Interest provides guidance for the management of this conservation reserve and provides the basis for the ongoing monitoring of activities. More detailed direction is not anticipated at this time. Should more complex resource management or conservation issues arise or significant facility development be considered, then a detailed Resource Management Plan will be prepared with full public consultation.

Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve is managed under the direction of the District Manager and the Parry Sound Area Supervisor of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Parry Sound District.

Approved by: R. Griffiths
District Manager
Parry Sound District

Approved by: Ron Running
Regional Director
Southern Region

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SUDBURY MNR DISTRICT

NORTH BAY MNR DISTRICT

BANCROFT MNR DISTRICT

MIDHURST MNR DISTRICT

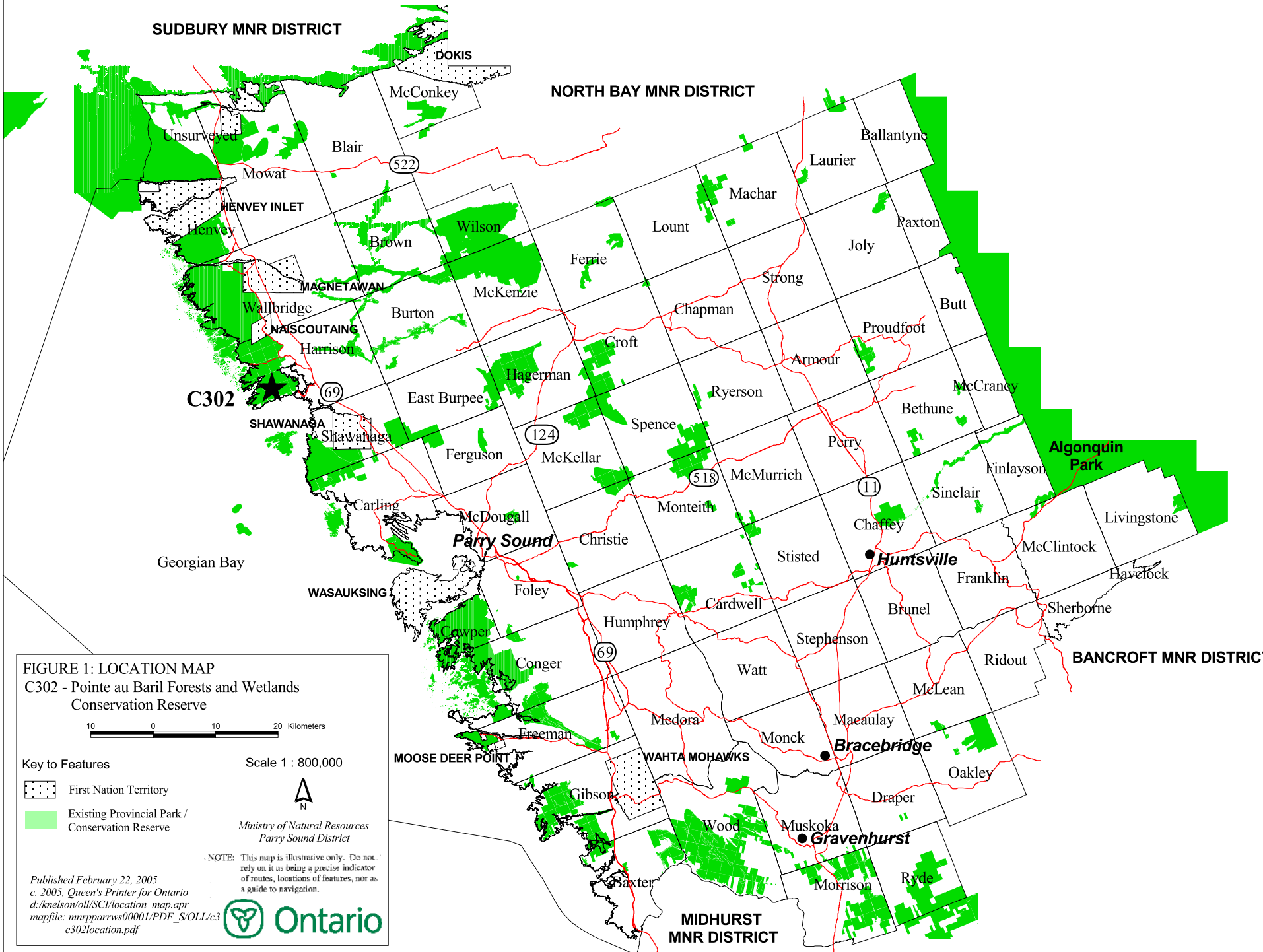




FIGURE 1: LOCATION MAP
C302 - Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands
Conservation Reserve

0 10 20 Kilometers

Scale 1 : 800,000

Key to Features

-  First Nation Territory
-  Existing Provincial Park / Conservation Reserve



Ministry of Natural Resources
 Parry Sound District

NOTE: This map is illustrative only. Do not rely on it as being a precise indicator of routes, locations of features, nor as a guide to navigation.

Published February 22, 2005
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





















FIGURE 2

Site Map

Pointe Au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve C302

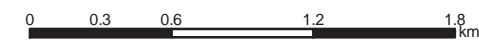
Legend

-  C302
-  Building
-  Recreation Camp
-  Railway
-  Surveyed Lot Line
-  Unsurveyed Lot Line
-  Road Allowance
-  Township Boundary
-  Primary Road
-  Secondary Road
-  Tertiary Road / Trail
-  Transmission Line
-  Intermittent Stream
-  Permanent Stream
-  Water Area, Permanent
-  Wetland Area, Permanent
-  Crown Land¹
-  Private Land
-  Enhanced Management Area - E39g
-  Provincial Park/Conservation Reserve
-  Deer Wintering Area Boundary (D.W.A.B)
-  Federal Land
-  Proposed OLL Site

Footnote:
¹This map does not reflect the municipal ownership of road allowances in this area.

Projection: UTM, NAD 83, Zone 17, Meters

NOTE: This map is illustrative only. Do not rely on it as being a precise indicator of routes, locations of features, nor as a guide to navigation.



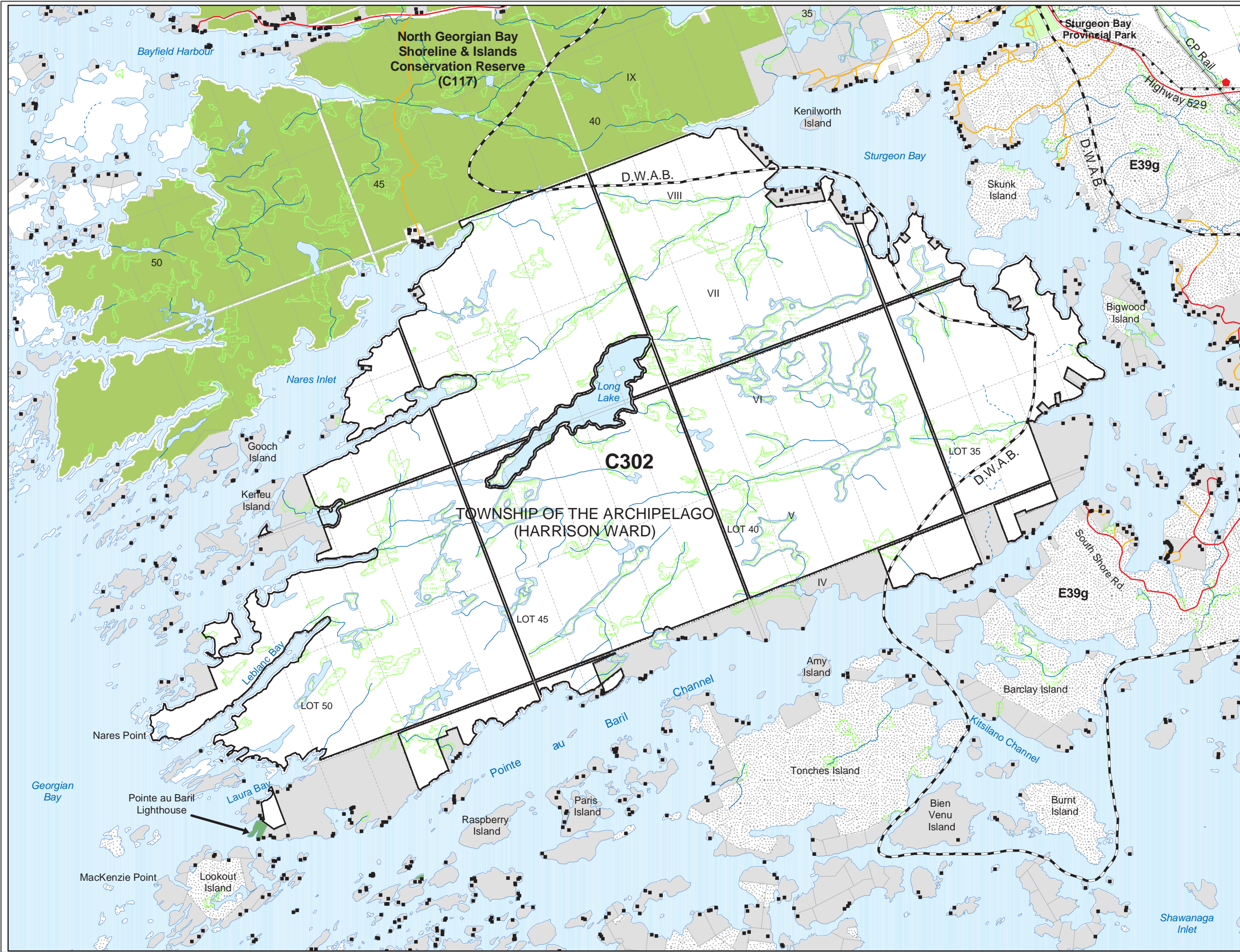
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Ministry of Natural Resources
 Parry Sound District Office

Publication Date: December 10, 2004
 Revised Date: March 29, 2005



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1.0 Introduction

Ontario's Living Legacy, the result of an extensive planning process that began in early 1997, culminated in the approval in July 1999 of a Land Use Strategy that identifies the intended strategic direction for Crown land in central and northern Ontario, including the completion of Ontario's system of parks and protected areas. This process, which included extensive public consultation, resulted in the recommendation for regulation of 378 new protected areas, including Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve (C302).

Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve (C302) is a 2,366 hectare area of Crown land lying west of Highway 69 and located within Harrison Ward of the Municipality of The Archipelago, in the Territorial District of Parry Sound. This site is located approximately 2 ½ kilometres west of the hamlet of Pointe au Baril Station and extends west to the shoreline of Georgian Bay. Access to the conservation reserve is primarily by water. Nearby boat access points are in the hamlet of Pointe au Baril and at a commercial resort located at the top of Nares Inlet.

To the north, this site abuts the proposed North Georgian Bay Shoreline and Islands Conservation Reserve and portions of its northern boundary lie approximately 2 ½ kilometres west of Sturgeon Bay Provincial Park. It is the intention of MNR to include the Crown land portions of Lookout Island (Island 476A) in this conservation reserve, following resolution of a number of issues.

Pointe au Baril Conservation Reserve, located in ecological Site District 5-E7, protects a large, roadless and relatively undisturbed tract of shoreline and interior habitats characteristic of its latitude along the eastern Georgian Bay coast. The site provides moderate representation of treed acidic rock barrens, fens, beaver-flooded wetlands and Georgian Bay coastal meadow marshes on the VIIa-7 and VIIa-1 biophysical units. The conservation reserve provides habitat for 7 provincially rare species including one that is nationally and provincially threatened, and many locally and regionally significant plant species. Life science values associated with the proposed Lookout Island addition include an inland lake and interior wetland area. It is the opinion of MNR staff that evaluation of the wetlands on Lookout Island would show them to be provincially significant (Black, 2001).

The area of Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve was also identified in 1993 as a "Candidate" Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) for its considerable life science significance and extensive wilderness landscape with limited human activity (Brunton, 1991 & 1993). Evaluation of the area identified that the bedrock barrens, wetland and upland complexes are likely provincially significant. While the Candidate ANSI reference no longer applies to this site, it led to the recommendation of this area for protection as a conservation reserve.

This conservation reserve is roadless, with no authorized trails. It is a traditional large game and waterfowl hunting area. Beyond the boundary of the conservation reserve, the adjacent waters of Georgian Bay provide exceptional fishing opportunities for pike, smallmouth and largemouth bass, perch and muskelunge. As a result, the shoreline of Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve may experience use as a shore lunch stop, picnicking and camping destination.

Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve is part of the Great Lakes Heritage Coast identified through *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy*. The Great Lakes Heritage Coast is designed to protect the coastal environment and provide for recreational and tourism opportunities associated with the natural environment.

This conservation reserve is within the Georgian Bay Littoral Biosphere Reserve, which was designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on October 29, 2004. This biosphere reserve covers the eastern coast of Georgian Bay, from Port Severn to the Key River, and extends from roughly the middle of Georgian Bay inland more or less to Highway 69/400. This designation "represents a common vision of sustainable development and environmental and cultural conservation" by a wide range of stakeholders of the area (UNESCO, 2004).

Conservation reserves are established under the authority of the Public Lands Act, Ontario Regulation 805/94. Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve was established by Ontario Regulation 237/03 on June 28, 2003.

A Statement of Conservation Interest is prepared under the direction of Procedural Guideline A – Resource Management Planning (PL. Procedure 3.03.05). The purpose of this Statement of Conservation Interest is to identify and describe the values of Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve. The Statement of Conservation Interest also outlines the activities that currently occur within the conservation reserve and provides guidelines for the management of current and future activities in the context of protecting the natural, recreational and cultural values.

1.1 Background Information:

Name	Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve (C302)
Site Region/District	Georgian Bay Site Region, Site District 5E-7
OMNR Administrative Region/District/Area	Southern Region/ Parry Sound District/ Parry Sound Area
Total Area (ha.)	2,366 hectares
Regulation Date	June 28, 2003 (O. Reg. 237/03)
First Nations	Robinson-Huron Treaty and Williams Treaty
OBM map sheets	10 17 5450 50450, 5400 50450, 5350 50450, 5400 50500
Topographic Map	Pointe-au-Baril Station 41H/9 Naiscoot River 41H/10
UTM co-ordinates	17T 54200 504870 (Centroid)

1.2 Representation:

Earth Science Representation:

Bedrock -- Bayfield gneiss association rock (one of five gneiss associations) of the Britt Domain, Algonquin Terrain, Central Gneiss Belt, Grenville Province

Surficial -- Bedrock and thin discontinuous drift over bedrock characterize the site, with small pockets of glaciolacustrine and organic deposits.

Life Science Representation:

Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve is located in ecological Site District 5E-7 and represents a mosaic of upland forest communities with numerous outcroppings of exposed bedrock in addition to a diversity of wetland types. This conservation reserve provides habitat for a number of rare plant and animal species.

Cultural Resources Representation:

No specific cultural studies or inventories have been undertaken within this conservation reserve, and no specific significant cultural resource values have been evaluated or identified to date. Recent regional evaluation (OMNR, 2003) provides generalized broad-brush mapping which shows that this conservation reserve contains areas that have a high potential for cultural heritage sites.

Recreational Opportunities:

Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve makes up part of the Great Lakes Heritage Coast which includes spectacular expanses of Great Lakes shoreline extending 2900 kilometres from Georgian Bay to Lake Superior. The area is used for a variety of traditional recreational uses including hunting and fishing.

1.3 Survey Work:

Survey Level	Earth Science	Life Science	Cultural	Recreational	Other
Reconnaissance	Blackburn, 2003	Cooper, 2001 Jalava & Ben-Oliel, 2004	OMNR,2003	Benvenuti, 2004	None
Detailed	None	None	None	None	None
Requirement	None	Monitor the status/ presence of significant species and associations.	Research to be encouraged.	Monitor use impacts	None

2.0 Values to be Protected

This conservation reserve is located entirely within Hills' (1959) ecological Site District 5E-7. Values include earth science, life science, cultural and recreational/aesthetic values, with an emphasis on the life sciences.

2.1 Earth Science:

Bedrock:

(Earth science information, unless otherwise noted, is taken from Blackburn, 2003)

Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve lies within the Britt Domain, Algonquin Terrane of the Central Gneiss Belt, in the Proterozoic Grenville Province (Fig. 1; Easton, 1992a, b).

The Britt Domain consists of highly deformed 1.8 to 1.6 billion-year-old gneisses and migmatites of supracrustal and igneous origin that have been intruded by younger, 1.5 to 1.4 billion-year-old granitic and monzonitic plutons. The Algonquin Terrane is imbricated by later thrusting, but considered to be parautochthonous (i.e. not moved far from its root zone rocks). Although structural trends in the Britt Domain vary, the dominant trend west of Highway 69 is northwesterly: regional scale folds plunge predominantly to the southeast. Metamorphic grade of the Britt Domain is dominantly amphibolite, overprinting earlier granulite grade metamorphism.

The Britt Domain has been divided (Culshaw et al, 1991; Easton, 1992a) into five gneiss associations that although primarily based on rock type, also display differences in magmatism, metamorphism or mafic dike intrusion. Only one of these associations is represented in this conservation reserve: Bayfield gneiss

association (Culshaw et al, Unpublished). These gneisses are intruded by younger granitic plutons that have been folded along with the gneisses around fold structures. To the north, major fold structures such as the northwest trending Key Harbour synform are prevalent. However, no regional scale folds have been delineated in the present conservation reserve.

Bayfield gneiss association rocks are mostly "granitoid orthogneiss.....The principal members are grey hornblende-bearing granodioritic to tonalitic orthogneiss and pink biotite granite. Map-able units of pink leucogneiss occur within the orthogneiss and also occur as small cross-cutting bodies....Two sets of metamorphosed mafic dikes crosscut...leucosomes throughout the Bayfield gneiss association." (Easton, 1992a).

This site lies immediately south of the much larger C117 site, the proposed North Georgian Bay Shoreline and Islands Conservation Reserve, but does not have the same diversity of earth science features. Unlike C117, the bedrock is all of the Bayfield gneiss association, only one of the five associations present in the Britt Domain, and lacks any of the younger granitic plutons present in C117. Although there are excellent bare bedrock outcrops along the shoreline of Georgian Bay, for the above reasons the bedrock geology of the conservation reserve is given local significance.

Surficial:

Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve lies in the Georgian Bay fringe physiographic region of Southern Ontario, a "broad belt bordering Georgian Bay, characterized by very shallow soil and bare rock knobs and ridges" (Chapman and Putnam, 1984).

Bedrock and thin discontinuous drift over bedrock is characteristic of the site, with small pockets of organic deposits (Mollard, 1981; Kor and Delorme, 1989), mostly along fault-controlled lineaments. The last (Late Wisconsinan) glacial advance across the region was south-southwest, with a slight fanning effect into Georgian Bay (Kor and Delorme, 1989). Associated Quaternary erosional features, such as the glacial striae and chattermarks, and the p-forms (streamlined bedrock forms), likely occur on exposed bedrock within this conservation reserve, although they were not specifically noted during field inventory.

2.2 Life Science:

Life science information, unless otherwise noted, is taken from Jalava & Ben-Oliel, 2004)

The area of Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve was identified in 1993 as a "Candidate" Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) for its considerable life science significance and extensive wilderness landscape with limited human activity (Brunton 1991 & 1993). Evaluation of the area identified that the bedrock barrens, wetland and upland complexes are likely provincially significant. While the Candidate ANSI reference no longer applies to this site, it led to the recommendation of this area as a conservation reserve.

Representation:

Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve is part of a discontinuous band of granite barrens extending from the Kaladar area in Eastern Ontario to Georgian Bay up to and including the French River. These granite barrens present a distinctive habitat type within Southern Ontario with unique environmental factors and specialized plants and animals. As they have limited occurrence in Southern Ontario, granite barrens warrant protection. (Catling and Brownell, 1999).

This conservation reserve protects 2366 hectares of rock barren, forest and wetland types characteristic of the northern coast of eastern Georgian Bay, as well as an interesting mix of provincially and locally significant flora and fauna. The site is situated between open Georgian Bay and Sturgeon Bay, south of Nares Inlet and north of Shawanaga Island. White pine – jack pine bedrock woodlands and rock barrens predominate at the site, while pockets of richer mixed and deciduous forests occur on deeper sandy soil deposits. A diversity of wetland types occur along the Georgian Bay and Sturgeon Bay coasts, at beaver-controlled inland lakes and ponds, and perched in isolated bedrock depressions. Site topography is generally gently undulating consisting

of irregular series of long, relatively level-topped open bedrock ridges intersected by narrow valleys. The site's interior wetlands are generally quite large, situated in deep bedrock basins bordered by moderately steep slopes and cliffs of open bedrock. The site includes the Long Lake wetland complex, as well as extensive Georgian Bay coastal meadow marsh, marsh and aquatic communities on the shores of Sturgeon Bay, Laura Bay and LeBlanc Bay, Pointe au Baril Channel and the southern shoreline of Nares Inlet.

According to coarse-scale OMNR biophysical mapping, Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve is located within two landform units (Noble, 1983). Most of the site is within the “weakly broken bare bedrock plain (organic)” (VIIa-7) unit. Georgian Bay Coast Project field studies found that in addition to the bedrock uplands and the organic substrates of wetlands of this unit, there are localized but substantial sandy deposits of glaciolacustrine origin both within the VIIa-7 unit in Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve and the adjacent proposed North Georgian Bay Shoreline and Islands Conservation Reserve. These sandy deposits tend to have relatively high concentrations of floristic diversity, sustaining interesting vegetation associations as well as plant species with more southern affinities. Approximately one-fifth of the site, along the windswept western coastal fringe, is part of the “weakly broken bare bedrock plain” (VIIa-1) unit, characterized by very shallow soils, sparse vegetation, perched peatlands and coastal meadow marshes.

The predominant cover throughout biophysical unit VIIa-7 in the eastern part of the site is a mosaic of relatively open bedrock-controlled coniferous and mixed woodlands, interspersed with open, shrub and treed rock barrens, thicket swamps, shore fens and bogs. Upland forests and woodlands are generally dominated by white pine (*Pinus strobus*) and jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*), with red oak (*Quercus rubra*) and (often sapling-sized) red maple (*Acer rubrum*) as the main deciduous associates.

More than 25% of Pointe au Baril Conservation Reserve is wetland, with several extensive interior wetland complexes. The larger wetlands are found in the VIIa-7 biophysical unit. Open water aquatic, bog, fen, shallow marsh and meadow marsh communities are all well represented. The wetlands are typically situated between east-northeast oriented bedrock ridges, often with steep bedrock slopes extending into the water. Wetlands on the eastern side of the site drain into Sturgeon Bay, while those in the western half drain into Nares Inlet, Leblanc Bay or Pointe au Baril Harbour. Some wetlands near the southern shore drain southward into Pointe au Baril Channel.

The following 50 Landform – Vegetation Types are represented in Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve.

Biophysical Landform Unit	Vegetation Community Type	Condition	Estimated Extent (ha)
VIIa-1	Acidic Open Bedrock Shore Type	undisturbed, except for natural wind and wave-wash	5-10
VIIa-1	Dry Open Acidic Rock Barren Type	no evidence of human disturbance	10-20
VIIa-1	Common Juniper Acidic Shrub Rock Barren Type	no evidence of recent human disturbance; most examples probably fire-successional, affected by drought	60-80
VIIa-1	White Pine – Jack Pine Treed Acidic Rock Barren	no evidence of recent human disturbance; most examples probably fire-successional, affected by drought	250-300
VIIa-1	White Birch – Red Maple – Trembling Aspen / Mountain Maple Type	no evidence of recent human disturbance	25-50
VIIa-1	Willow Mineral Thicket Swamp Type	no evidence of human disturbance	5-10
VIIa-1	Virginia Chain Fern Bog	no evidence of human disturbance	5-10
VIIa-1	Georgian Bay Coastal Acidic Mineral Meadow Marsh	no evidence of human disturbance, except on adjacent land near cottages	3-5

Biophysical Landform Unit	Vegetation Community Type	Condition	Estimated Extent (ha)
VIIa-1	Broad-leaved Sedge Organic Meadow Marsh Type	no evidence of human disturbance	10-15
VIIa-1	Three-way Sedge - Woolgrass / Bur-reed Organic Meadow Marsh	beaver impacts; no evidence of human disturbance	25-40
VIIa-1	Wild-rice Mineral Shallow Marsh Type	no evidence of human disturbance	8
VIIa-1	Water Lily – Bullhead Lily Floating-leaved Shallow Aquatic Type	beaver impacts; no evidence of human disturbance	15
VIIa-1	Water-shield – Water Lily Floating-leaved Shallow Aquatic Type	beaver impacts; no evidence of human disturbance	2-5
VIIa-1	Open Water, unvegetated		5-10
VIIa-7	Acidic Open Bedrock Shore Type	undisturbed, except for natural wind and wave-wash	5-10
VIIa-7	Dry Open Acidic Rock Barren Type	no evidence of human disturbance	100-120
VIIa-7	Common Juniper Acidic Shrub Rock Barren Type	no evidence of recent human disturbance; usually fire-successional, affected by drought	150-200
VIIa-7	White Pine – Jack Pine Treed Acidic Rock Barren	beaver harvesting, trails through community to wetland created and regularly used by beaver	350-500
VIIa-7	White Pine - Red Pine - Blueberry – Feather moss – Lichen	trees 30-45 cm dbh; fire-successional; no recent human disturbance	10-20
VIIa-7	Dry White Pine - Red Oak - Red Maple - Common Juniper – Blueberry	no evidence of human disturbance	200-300
VIIa-7	White Pine – Red Oak – Bracken Fern – Wintergreen	no recent human disturbance, some wind-throws; abundant fallen trees, all fallen trees pointing ESE at one example near Pointe au Baril Channel, probably as result of storm downburst	50-100
VIIa-7	White Pine – White Birch - Red Oak - Large-toothed Aspen - Bracken Fern	no evidence of human disturbance	50-100
VIIa-7	Trembling Aspen - White Birch - White Spruce – White Pine - Red Pine	intermediate age, a few dead standing aspen present, some pine logs on ground White Pine average dbh 16", Aspen average dbh 12-13"	50-100
VIIa-7	<i>Dry – Fresh Oak – Red Maple Deciduous Forest Type</i>	no evidence of human disturbance	10-20
VIIa-7	White Birch – Red Maple - Trembling Aspen / Mountain Maple Type	no evidence of human disturbance	40-80
VIIa-7	Black Spruce - Tamarack Mineral Coniferous Swamp	no evidence of human disturbance	5-10
VIIa-7	Tamarack Organic Coniferous Swamp Type	no evidence of human disturbance	30-60

Biophysical Landform Unit	Vegetation Community Type	Condition	Estimated Extent (ha)
VIIa-7	Black Ash – Hardwoods – Herb Rich	generally undisturbed; young to intermediate-aged; beaver dam affecting hydrology;	5-10
VIIa-7	Alder Mineral Thicket Swamp Type	no evidence of human disturbance	10-20
VIIa-7	Willow Mineral Thicket Swamp Type	one example flooded by beaver, with extensive shrub die-back	20-40
VIIa-7	Alder Organic Thicket Swamp Type	no evidence of human disturbance	20-40
VIIa-7	Open Graminoid Shore Fen	undisturbed	20-30
VIIa-7	Sweet Gale Deciduous Shrub Fen Type	no evidence of human disturbance	20-40
VIIa-7	Leatherleaf / Sweet Gale / Graminoid Shore Fen	beaver impacts; no evidence of human disturbance	150-250
VIIa-7	Leatherleaf – Forb Shrub Fen	no evidence of human disturbance; water levels affected by beaver	20-40
VIIa-7	Leatherleaf – Chain Fern / St. Johns-wort Shrub Fen	beaver impacts; no evidence of human disturbance	20-40
VIIa-7	Mountain Holly Deciduous Shrub Fen Type	no evidence of human disturbance	20-40
VIIa-7	Tamarack Coniferous Treed Fen Type	no evidence of human disturbance	5-10
VIIa-7	Virginia Chain Fern Open Bog Type	no evidence of human disturbance	5-10
VIIa-7	Leatherleaf Shrub Bog Type	no evidence of human disturbance	10-20
VIIa-7	Georgian Bay Coastal Acidic Mineral Meadow Marsh	undisturbed, except some areas of adjacent land on cottage lots	5-10
VIIa-7	<i>Reed-canary Grass Mineral Meadow Marsh Type</i>	no disturbance noted	3-5
VIIa-7	<i>Rice Cut-grass Organic Meadow Marsh Type</i>	no evidence of human disturbance	2-5
VIIa-7	Narrow-leaved Sedge Mineral Meadow Marsh Type	no evidence of human disturbance	5-10
VIIa-7	Broad-leaved Sedge Organic Meadow Marsh Type	no evidence of human disturbance	25-50
VIIa-7	Three-way Sedge - Woolgrass / Bur-reed Organic Meadow Marsh	beaver impacts; no evidence of human disturbance	75-125
VIIa-7	Bulrush Mineral Shallow Marsh	at one location: some scattered litter from beach users; an assortment of introduced taxa	2-5
VIIa-7	Water Lily – Bullhead Lily Floating-leaved Shallow Aquatic Type	beaver impacts; no evidence of human disturbance	25-50
VIIa-7	Water-shield - Water Lily Floating-leaved Shallow Aquatic Type	beaver impacts; no evidence of human disturbance	75-100
VIIa-7	Open Water, unvegetated		75

Life science values associated with the proposed Lookout Island addition include an inland lake and interior wetland area. It is the opinion of MNR staff that if evaluated, the wetland on Lookout Island would likely be provincially significant (Black, 2001).

Condition:

Most of the upland and wetland communities at Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve have undergone little or no human disturbance. The site is roadless, and no snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle or walking trails were encountered during Georgian Bay Coast Project fieldwork. No evidence of logging was noted, and much of the site's interior shows no persistent evidence of human visitation. The site's forest and treed barren communities are predominantly intermediate-aged with some evidence of past fire disturbance, but no major wildfires are mapped for the area in the past 80 years (NRVIS, 2002).

Based on field inventory work, only 2.5% of the vascular plant species are introduced and occurrences of these species are almost entirely limited to areas along or near shoreline locations that are visited by boaters or are adjacent to cottages.

Several areas surrounding the site are subject to relatively high boat traffic, serving as main channels (e.g., Pointe au Baril Channel, Nares Inlet, Sturgeon Bay) connecting marinas to the many local cottage areas including Shawanaga, Pointe au Baril, Nares Inlet and Sturgeon Bay. This high level of boat activity may cause greater-than-normal wave disturbance to exposed shoreline communities.

Access to the interior Crown land portions of Lookout Island is limited and may be dependent on water levels in Georgian Bay, due to surrounding private land (Heidman, 2002).

Diversity:

Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve protects a diversity of 37 vegetation communities, and 50 landform-vegetation types on two biophysical units. These communities are habitat for 319 vascular plant species, of which only 2.5% are not native to Ontario (8 of 319 species). Fifty-eight bird species were documented during the 2002 fieldwork, of which all but one showed evidence of breeding at the site. These data, combined with recent Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas data (OBBA, 2003) for atlas squares that overlap with the site, raise the breeding species total for the Pointe au Baril area to 79 species. The conservation reserve provides extensive habitat suitable for a variety of reptiles including eastern Massasauga rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus catenatus*), a provincially threatened species, and five-lined skink (*Eumeces fasciatus*), a species of "special concern". Six amphibian and 2 reptile species were recorded during recent field inventories.

Reports submitted to the Greater Georgian Bay Reptile Awareness Program (GGBRAP, 2002-2004) of species observed in the vicinity of the conservation reserve include eastern foxsnake, eastern Massasauga rattlesnake, northern map turtle, Blanding's turtle and the five-lined skink.

Ecological considerations:

Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve protects extensive shoreline and interior forest and wetland communities in the mainland area between open Georgian Bay and Sturgeon Bay. The northern boundary of the site abuts the southern boundary of the proposed North Georgian Bay Shoreline and Islands Conservation Reserve, creating a continuous protected area from Pointe au Baril Channel north to the Henvey Inlet First Nation territory.

This roadless (and nearly trail-less) site provides habitat for a number of forest interior species, as well as habitat for numerous locally and provincially rare species. This large tract of mainly undisturbed landscape provides habitat for black bear and other large mammals. A portion of the area is mapped by OMNR as being part of a wintering area for moose and white-tailed deer (NRVIS, 2002).

The presence of scattered jack pine and red pine stands indicates that wildfire has been and will continue to be an important factor in the natural succession of the drier woodlands of the site.

The conservation reserve protects over 12 kilometres of Georgian Bay shoreline (including the Sturgeon Bay portion), and many tens of kilometres of interior wetland and lakeshores. The shorelines are areas of high biodiversity, with the vast majority of aquatic species occurring in the littoral zone near the shore.

Special Features:

The following Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve vegetation types are considered provincially rare (NHIC 2002):

- VIIa-7 Dry – Fresh Oak – Red Maple Deciduous Forest Type
- VIIa-7 Mountain Holly Deciduous Shrub Fen Type
- VIIa-7 Leatherleaf – Forb Shrub Fen
- VIIa-1 & VIIa-7 Virginia Chain Fern Bog

The following provincially significant species have been documented within Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve:

***Sistrurus catenatus catenatus* Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake**

The Natural Heritage Information Centre has compiled reports of more than 200 individuals in the Sturgeon Bay area. The conservation reserve has abundant habitat for eastern Massasauga rattlesnakes, a provincially threatened species.

***Eumeces fasciatus* Five-lined Skink**

This species of “special concern” is near the northern limit of its range at the site. The conservation reserve has abundant open rock barren habitat for five-lined skink. An individual of Ontario’s only lizard species was found on an open rock barren north of the eastern end of Pointe au Baril Channel in 2002.

***Polygonum careyi* Carey’s Knotweed**

More than 100 plants of the provincially rare Carey’s knotweed, an Atlantic Coastal Plain species, were found growing south of Nares Inlet.

***Schoenoplectus smithii* var. *smithii* Smith’s Club-rush**

A population of the provincially rare Smith’s club-rush was observed in 2002 growing in a moist rocky shoreline interspersed with sandy areas

***Carex trisperma* var. *billingsii* Billings’ Three-seeded Sedge**

This inconspicuous and provincially rare variety of three-seeded sedge, currently considered provincially rare, was found to be common in an open graminoid fen.

***Triadenum virginicum* Marsh St. John’s-wort**

The provincially rare marsh St. John’s-wort was found in 2002 in a wool-grass meadow marsh.

***Utricularia geminiscapa* Hidden-fruited Bladderwort**

A probable specimen of this provincially rare bladderwort was collected by R. Ben-Oliel in a shallow marsh with scattered floating or grounded peat mats with graminoid and low shrub cover.

2.3 Cultural Values:

While there are no known assessments focused specifically on cultural or heritage values within this site, recent regional evaluation (OMNR, 2003) provides generalized broad-brush mapping which shows that this conservation reserve contains a number of small scale areas identified as having high cultural heritage potential.

Shawanaga First Nation has developed a land-use atlas outlining traditional First Nation land-use activities along the Georgian Bay coast that includes the area of Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve.

There are several areas outside the conservation reserve that contain landmarks of historic significance. The Pointe au Baril lighthouse located on the shoreline in Concession 4, Harrison Township lies just outside the conservation reserve's extreme southwest parcel. The lighthouse can be accessed by water only and is a popular destination for boaters. A large barrel hangs on a pole outside the lighthouse signifying the point of access to this area at the turn of the century. Prior to construction of the lighthouse, the barrel was ignited to serve as a beacon for safe passage and thus originated the name "Pointe au Baril" (McMullen, 2004). Directly across from the Pointe au Baril lighthouse on nearby Lookout Island stands the old Belvedere Hotel. While the hotel now stands vacant, it provides an interesting landmark for boaters and history enthusiasts (McMullen, 2004).

2.4 Recreational/Aesthetic Values:

(Recreation information, unless otherwise noted, is taken from Benvenuti, 2004)

Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve provides an excellent example of signature Georgian Bay shoreline, comprised of exposed bedrock with numerous wetland areas found in bedrock depressions. Extensive expanses of Georgian Bay shoreline included within the conservation reserve make this the site's most significant recreation feature. The conservation reserve is also included as part of the Great Lakes Heritage Coast, one of nine Ontario's Living Legacy's signature sites that was designed to protect and promote spectacular expanses of Great Lakes shoreline from Georgian Bay to Lake Superior.

The perimeter of the site includes the western shoreline of Sturgeon Bay to the east, the northern shore of Pointe au Baril Channel and the southern shoreline of Nares Inlet. The site also contains the shorelines of LeBlanc Bay and portions of shoreline in Laura Bay. Additionally, the conservation reserve includes extensive inland shoreline along the perimeter of Long Lake.

This site supports a diversity of relatively undisturbed wetlands including flooded upland forests, thicket swamps, bogs, shoreline meadow marshes, shallow aquatic ponds and peatlands (Cooper 2002). These wetland communities and complexes provide areas for wildlife viewing and opportunities to explore an abundance of wetland features and vegetation.

Long Lake is an inland lake located in the centre of the conservation reserve and is considered a mid-size lake at approximately 41 hectares in size. According to anecdotal reports, limited fishing takes place on the lake for northern pike.

The conservation reserve is a traditional large game and waterfowl hunting area and is a popular hunting location for residents living in the surrounding area. The majority of hunting activity is focused on species such as waterfowl, deer, bear and moose. The site is accessed by boat. With the exception of trails associated with fur harvesting, there are no authorized trails within the conservation reserve.

The waters of Georgian Bay surrounding this site are subject to high volumes of recreational boat traffic as well as persons travelling via boat to access marinas and island based cottages. To the west, east and south respectively, the site is surrounded by the main boating channels of Nares Inlet, Sturgeon Bay and Pointe au Baril Channel. Beyond the boundary of the conservation reserve, the adjacent waters of Georgian Bay provide exceptional fishing opportunities for pike, smallmouth and largemouth bass, perch and muskellunge. As a result, the shoreline of Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve may experience use as a shore lunch stop, picnicking and camping destination.

There is a former MNR boat-in site (decommissioned by MNR in 1999) located in Part of Lot 47, Concession IV, Harrison Township. Remnants of a crib dock platform and two outhouses likely still exist on this site. Currently this area is not commonly used, however some overnight camping and picnicking may take place (Heidman, 2001).

There are numerous parcels of private land, which are not part of the conservation reserve, adjacent to the perimeter of the site. As a result, the conservation reserve is likely used for a variety of nature activities by local cottagers. Opportunities for nature appreciation may include, but are not limited to, wildlife viewing, photography, exploring, light hiking, and nature appreciation associated with shoreline and wetland features.

The distance of this conservation reserve from urban areas has resulted in a relatively pristine night sky, which enhances the sense of remoteness and wilderness of this site. Pristine night skies are considered a significant value, given the increasingly limited areas of southern and central Ontario that are not heavily affected by light pollution.

3.0 Management Guidelines

MNR's Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves came into effect on January 10, 2005. All new MNR projects in conservation reserves, and any new approvals or permits issued, must meet the legal requirements of this Class Environmental Assessment, and any relevant amendments.

3.1 Land Tenure:

Background:

Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve is a 2366 hectare area of Crown land lying west of Highway 69 and located within Harrison Ward of the Municipality of the Township of The Archipelago, in the Territorial District of Parry Sound. This site is located approximately 2½ kilometres west of the hamlet of Pointe au Baril Station and extends west to the shoreline of Georgian Bay of Muskoka.

To the north, this site abuts the proposed North Georgian Bay Shoreline and Islands Conservation Reserve and portions of its northern boundary lie approximately 2 ½ kilometres west of Sturgeon Bay Provincial Park. It is the intention of MNR to include the Crown land portions of Lookout Island (Island 476A) in this conservation reserve following resolution of a number of issues.

The remainder of the site is bordered by Sturgeon Bay, Pointe au Baril Channel and Nares Inlet, with the exception that a number of private properties abut the conservation reserve along these shorelines. These private lands are not part of the conservation reserve and will remain privately owned. Many of these properties are used for cottaging.

All road allowances throughout and adjacent to the conservation reserve remain under the authority of the Township of The Archipelago, and are not included as part of the conservation reserve. This includes the shore road allowances around the perimeter of the conservation reserve, and around Long Lake, which lies more-or-less in the centre of the site.

There are two registered traplines (PS01N15301 and PS01N15401) that include all of Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve. The site lies within two Commercial Bait Fish Blocks (PS027 and PS032).

There are no Crown land recreation camps under land use occupational authority within the conservation reserve. The site is not part of an established Bear Management Area.

There is an unconfirmed boat cache most likely associated with a dated portage running from an embayment of Nares Inlet into Long Lake.

Guideline:

The sale of Crown lands within the conservation reserves is generally not permitted. Exceptions will only be considered under unusual circumstances, such as where a pre-existing, adjacent, privately owned parcel has inadequate area for the installation of a septic system.

There are no plans by the MNR to acquire private lands to add to the conservation reserves.

Fur harvest is permitted to continue in the registered trapline areas, but new trapline cabins are not permitted within the conservation reserve. The Bait Fish Blocks are permitted to continue. Areas of this conservation reserve will not be incorporated into a Bear Management Area.

Under current policies, non-commercial boat caching is a free use of public land, and can continue. This use will be monitored to ensure that conservation values are not being adversely impacted.

New Crown land recreation camps are not permitted within conservation reserves.

While commercial timber harvesting is not allowed within conservation reserves, there are limited situations in which adjacent land owners can harvest firewood for use on their adjacent property. Specifically, property owners who have no road access to their properties can apply for permits to cut limited amounts of firewood in the conservation reserves for their own use. This situation would apply only to water access cottages/camps on small parcels of private land immediately adjacent to conservation reserve boundaries.

3.2 Development:

Background:

There are no Crown owned buildings or other facilities within this conservation reserve. A former MNR boat-in site (decommissioned by MNR in 1999) was located in Part of Lot 47, Concession IV, Harrison Township. While remnants of a crib dock platform and two outhouses may still exist on this site, it is no longer used except, possibly, for some overnight camping and picnicking.

This site is readily accessible only by water. There are no roads or authorized trails within this site.

Over the past several years there has been major concern about water quality in Sturgeon Bay. Water quality monitoring (2001, 2002) identified exceptionally high total phosphorus levels in surface waters, coincidental with reduced water clarity, dissolved oxygen depletion, heavy plankton blooms and a significant occurrence of blue-green algae in early September. Health advisories were issued in September 2003 advising area residents to refrain from using the waters of Sturgeon Bay for domestic or recreational purposes.

Guideline:

This site contributes to the Great Lakes Heritage Coast initiative by providing important protection to the coastal environment. As well, the sites and areas immediately adjacent may provide opportunities for improved boating facilities such as mooring, day use and camping. Implementation of the Great Lakes Heritage Coast may provide for the future consideration of upgrading recreational and interpretive facilities including access, trails, campsites, as well as boating and mooring facilities. New facilities will only be considered where either long-term funding is available, or a long-term partnership will provide for long-term management of the facilities. All facility improvements will ensure the protection of natural values of this site, will meet MNR's Environmental Assessment Act requirements, including requirements for public consultation, and will comply with Procedural Guideline B – Land Uses – Test of Compatibility (see Appendix 1).

Water quality is of major concern to nearby property owners and local government. Anyone participating in water-based activities in Sturgeon Bay should take these concerns into consideration, both in the context of safeguarding personal health, and ensuring that their activities do not contribute to the further deterioration of water quality.

New private access or resource access roads, and additions to or upgrading of existing roads are not permitted.

New recreational trails may be considered on a case by case basis, as is discussed in more detail in Section 3.3 "Recreational Activities".

Any new development must meet MNR's commitments to protect cultural heritage values (see Section 3.7).

Unauthorized works within this conservation reserve will be handled in accordance with the Public Lands Act, and any required removal of these works will be at the expense of those responsible.

No mineral exploration is permitted within this conservation reserve. This policy decision is based on a commitment made by the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines in March 2002. This policy direction replaces that identified in the 1999 *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* (OMNR, 1999), which stated that controlled mineral exploration would be permitted in new conservation reserves which were identified as having provincially significant mineral potential.

While there is no intent at present to provide or permit any new development in this conservation reserve that would require lighting, should this be considered at some point in the future the MNR will not allow unnecessary, undirected light pollution. This commitment recognizes the wilderness and biological values provided by a pristine night sky.

3.3 Recreational Activities:

Background:

The perimeter of the site includes the western shoreline of Sturgeon Bay to the east, the northern shore of Pointe au Baril Channel and the southern shoreline of Nares Inlet. The site also contains the shorelines of LeBlanc Bay and portions of shoreline in Laura Bay. These extensive expanses of Georgian Bay shoreline included within the conservation reserve are the site's most significant recreation feature. The conservation reserve is included as part of the Great Lakes Heritage Coast, one of nine Ontario's Living Legacy's signature sites that was designed to protect and promote spectacular expanses of Great Lakes shoreline from Georgian Bay to Lake Superior.

The waters of Georgian Bay surrounding this site are subject to high volumes of recreational boat traffic as well as persons travelling via boat to access marinas and island based cottages. To the west, east and south respectively, the site is surrounded by the main boating channels of Nares Inlet, Sturgeon Bay and Pointe au Baril Channel. Beyond the boundary of the conservation reserve, the adjacent waters of Georgian Bay provide exceptional fishing opportunities for pike, smallmouth and largemouth bass, perch and muskelunge. As a result, the shoreline of Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve may experience use as a shore lunch stop, picnicking and camping destination.

As mentioned in Section 3.2 Development, there has been major concern about water quality in Sturgeon Bay. Health advisories were issued in September 2003 advising area residents to refrain from using the waters of Sturgeon Bay for domestic or recreational purposes.

Long Lake, an inland lake located in the centre of the conservation reserve, offers limited fishing opportunities for northern pike.

The conservation reserve is a traditional large game (white-tailed black deer, bear and moose) and waterfowl hunting area.

There are numerous parcels of private land, which are not part of the conservation reserve, adjacent to the perimeter of the site. As a result, the conservation reserve is likely used for a variety of nature activities by local cottagers. Opportunities for nature appreciation may include, but are not limited to, wildlife viewing, photography, exploring, light hiking, and nature appreciation associated with shoreline and wetland features.

There is little evidence of the use of the conservation reserve by hikers, canoeists, skiers, or snowshoers, most probably because of the remote nature of this site, and the limited access.

There is no known all-terrain vehicle use of this site. There may be some use of snowmobiles for winter access to private properties. There are no authorized trails for these either of these activities and few unauthorized trails are known within the site.

Guideline:

Hunting and sport fishing are permitted to continue within the conservation reserve.

Recreational uses such as hiking, wildlife viewing, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing, while currently very limited in extent and therefore not managed, are allowed to occur in the conservation reserve.

Shore access, mooring, camping and picnicking are allowed to continue on conservation reserve lands. These uses will be monitored. Where overuse develops, or where these uses threaten the values for which this site was established, specific uses or areas may be limited, or closed. Cooperative maintenance of portages, campsites and provision of thunder boxes will be encouraged through volunteer efforts. Overuse of campsites and the subsequent potential to damage the significant natural environment is a concern.

Anyone participating in shore line or water-based activities in Sturgeon Bay should take water quality concerns into consideration, both in the context of safeguarding personal health, and ensuring that their activities do not contribute to the further deterioration of water quality.

The location of pre-existing trails (trails that existed at the time of regulation of this conservation reserve) will be documented and their use will be monitored to ensure that conservation reserve values are not being adversely impacted. Depending on the results of monitoring, some of the pre-existing trails may need to be redirected from sensitive areas or eliminated completely. There is no intent to mark or upgrade these trails.

New recreational trails may be considered on a case by case basis provided that they meet Procedural Guideline B – Land Uses – Test of Compatibility (see Appendix 1) and the MNR's Environmental Assessment Act requirements. Public consultation will generally be required during the consideration of changes to existing trails, and will always be required for new trails. New recreational trails will not be permitted in or within 120 metres of the wetlands that have potential of being evaluated as provincially significant wetlands unless it has been demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or the ecological functions of the wetlands. Any new trails must meet MNR's commitments to protect cultural heritage values (see Section 3.7).

New recreational trails will not be permitted within the boundaries of provincially significant wetlands. In areas outside provincially significant wetlands, new trails, or upgrading of existing trails, for motorized vehicles are discouraged and will only be considered under exceptional circumstances if the following have been demonstrated:

- there is a community need for the trail, as well as community support;
- there are no alternative suitable locations outside the conservation reserve;
- the trail location would be acceptable and suitable for four-season use;
- the trail would meet the requirements applicable to all trails, as identified in the preceding paragraph.

Use of snowmobiles or all-terrain vehicles will be monitored to ensure that conservation reserve values are not being adversely impacted. Off-trail use of snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles is not permitted, except for the direct retrieval of game.

New recreational activities will be considered on a case by case basis provided they are consistent with maintaining the values of the conservation reserves and comply with Procedural Guideline B – Land Uses – Test of Compatibility (Appendix 1) and the MNR's Environmental Assessment Act requirements. Emphasis will be placed on activities that have a low impact on the environment of the conservation reserves.

Monitoring of existing and permitted activities will be undertaken as required to ensure that the conservation reserve values are not being adversely impacted.

3.4 Commercial Activities:

Background:

There has been no recent commercial forest harvesting or mining activity within the conservation reserve.

Commercial fur harvesting is authorized through two registered traplines, and bait fish harvesting is authorized through two Bait Fish Block licences within this conservation reserve. The guiding of non-resident bear hunters is not authorized in this conservation reserve, which is not within a Bear Management Area. These activities were discussed in Section 3.1 Land Tenure - Background.

Guideline:

Fur harvesting and bait fish harvesting operations are allowed to continue within the conservation reserves. New trapline cabins are not permitted within conservation reserves.

This site, or portions of it, cannot be incorporated into a Bear Management Area.

Conservation reserve regulations do not permit mineral exploration, mining, commercial forest harvesting, hydroelectric power development, the extraction of aggregate and peat or other industrial uses (Public Lands Act, Ontario Regulation 805/94). Other new commercial activities must meet the requirements of Procedural Guideline B – Land Uses – Test of Compatibility (see Appendix 1).

3.5 Aboriginal Interests:

Background:

This site is known to be of interest to First Nation communities. There are 2 treaties associated with the area: the Robinson – Huron Treaty of 1850 and the Williams Treaty, (although a Supreme Court decision in 1994 (Howard) validated that the Williams Treaty surrendered hunting, fishing and trapping rights of those First Nations affiliated with that treaty).

Guideline:

The regulation and management of this conservation reserve will not impede the exercise of existing aboriginal or treaty rights. These rights include hunting, fishing, fur harvesting, gathering of plants for a variety of purposes, and the use of ceremonial sites. It is recognized that the manner in which these rights are carried out is not limited to the manner in which they were carried out in the past, but has evolved over time with changes in technology.

The designation of this area as a conservation reserve or the preparation of this Statement of Conservation Interest will not affect any future First Nation land claim settlement. The conservation reserve designation does not preclude consideration of these lands in the settlement of a claim. If deregulation of part or all of a conservation reserve occurs as part of the settlement of a claim, this will be carried out at no cost to First Nations.

3.6 Natural Resource Stewardship:

Background:

Vegetation management for specific purposes is not known to have occurred in the past in this conservation reserve. Wildlife and fisheries management, particularly sport fishing, hunting and fur harvesting, have been occurring according to the prevailing policies and legislation.

Guideline – General:

The emphasis will be on ensuring that the natural values of the conservation reserve are not negatively affected by current and future activities. Therefore, applications for new specific uses will be carefully studied and reviewed. Necessary studies may be undertaken by proponents, the Ministry, and/or partner organizations.

Guideline – Vegetation:

The intent of this site is to allow the existing vegetation communities to evolve naturally. The Ministry will continue to monitor for the status/presence of significant species and associations.

The OMNR recognizes fire as an essential process fundamental to the ecological integrity of this conservation reserve. In accordance with existing conservation reserve policy and the Fire Management Strategy for Ontario, forest fire protection will endeavour to use “light on the land” techniques, which do not unduly disturb the landscape, in this conservation reserve. Examples of light on the land techniques may include limiting the use of heavy equipment, and limiting the number of trees felled during fire response efforts. Input from the local MNR Area Supervisor would be solicited if a forest fire threatens the area. Opportunities for prescribed burning to achieve resource management objectives may be considered. Plans for any prescribed burning will be developed in accordance with the OMNR Prescribed Burn Planning Manual.

Programs may be developed to control forest insects and diseases in the conservation reserve where these threaten significant values in or adjacent to the site. Where insects or disease threaten significant values, in or adjacent to the site, and MNR determines that control is warranted, control within the conservation reserve will be directed by the MNR as narrowly as possible to the specific insect or disease. Biological control will be used wherever possible. In all cases, regard shall be had for Procedural Guideline B – Land Uses – Test of Compatibility (Appendix 1).

Guideline – Wildlife and Fisheries:

The relevant Ontario hunting and fishing regulations will guide hunting and fishing within this conservation reserve. Fur harvesting and bait fishing will be managed through the maintenance of the current licencing system.

3.7 Cultural Resource Stewardship:

Background:

No specific cultural studies or inventories have been undertaken within this conservation reserve, and no specific significant cultural resource values have been evaluated or identified to date. Recent regional evaluation (OMNR 2003) provides generalized broad-brush mapping which shows that this conservation reserve contains areas that have a high potential for cultural heritage sites.

Guideline:

Should the MNR consider either carrying out or permitting new structural development, significant clearing of vegetation or altering of land within this conservation reserve, the MNR will adhere to the cultural heritage resource screening process as is identified in its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Culture. While the purpose of this MOU is to provide a process to identify and protect cultural heritage resources when the MNR is reviewing work permits or disposing of Crown rights under the authority of the Public Lands Act, the considerations and criteria would also enable the MNR to identify high potential cultural heritage areas for other purposes within conservation reserves. If the screening process indicates that the site of a proposed activity is within an area of high cultural heritage potential, the MNR will consult with the Ministry of Culture to determine the appropriate cultural heritage assessment requirements and will undertake a preliminary archaeological assessment if appropriate.

Interested partners will be encouraged to undertake inventories, studies, and research to document the histories of First Nations, settlement, resource harvest/management and recreation in the area. The MNR will discuss the appropriateness of any proposed archaeological assessment with local First Nations and the Ministry of Culture.

Under the Ontario Heritage Act, a licence is required to carry out any archaeological fieldwork. This includes altering or removing any artefact or any other physical evidence of past human activity.

3.8 Client Services:

Background:

Access to the conservation reserves has generally been confined to traditional uses for the current commercial and recreational activities. There are no Crown facilities or services developed on or adjacent to the conservation reserves. The information fact sheet for this conservation reserve is currently available to the public through the Parry Sound District Office or via MNR's Internet site, <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca>. Information about the values of this conservation reserve is available at the Parry Sound District Office.

Guideline:

The focus will remain on low key information and self-interpretation of conservation reserve values and features. Consideration will be given to the preparation of an information brochure (with map) to highlight the features for which this area was identified and appropriate uses to ensure the protection of those features.

There are no plans for structural development within this conservation reserve.

3.9 Research:

Background:

Research to date has included the preparation of a number of check sheets to document life science values, earth science values, and recreation potential and values.

Guideline:

Consideration will be given for additional inventory and documentation of natural values.

Research focussing on the assessment of use and activity impacts on sensitive species and habitats will be encouraged.

All research will be carried out in a non-destructive manner. Research proposals must follow Procedural Guideline C – Research Activities in Conservation Reserves (Appendix 3).

3.10 Marketing:

Background:

There has been no marketing of this conservation reserve to date. Promotion and information about this site has been primarily through the *Ontario's Living Legacy* planning process and recent MNR Parry Sound District public consultation regarding the boundaries of this site.

Guideline:

This site may be the subject of marketing as part of the Great Lakes Heritage Coast initiative. Otherwise, marketing activities of the conservation reserve will be kept to a minimum.

4.0 Implementation

Administrative responsibility for this conservation reserve belongs to the Parry Sound Area Office of the Parry Sound District of the Ministry of Natural Resources. The Area Office will continue to have the custodial care of Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve. Emphasis will be placed on awareness information highlighting reserve values, and monitoring and managing the current approved uses.

Priorities will include:

- Ensure compliance to prescribed management direction of the approved Statement of Conservation Interest;
- Ensure compliance with applicable legislation and regulations;
- GPS location of existing mooring areas, picnic sites, and camp sites and classify their status and condition;
- Monitor and evaluate existing and allowed recreational and commercial use levels and impacts as required to ensure that conservation reserve values are not being adversely impacted;
- Implement future initiatives associated with the Great Lakes Heritage Coast;
- Actively seek partnerships with interested stakeholders;
- Encourage further inventory and research of the significant life science resources of the conservation reserves; this may include evaluation of the wetlands on Lookout Island using the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System Northern Manual (1993), to confirm their potential as provincially significant wetlands;
- Encourage research about use/ activity impacts on sensitive species and habitats;
- Support cooperative ongoing education of resource users with respect to resource and land stewardship values, in order to maintain the ecological integrity of this site and to provide long term recreational opportunities; and
- Provide client services (e.g. brochure or fact sheet) at nearby MNR offices.

5.0 Review and Revision of the Statement of Conservation Interest

This Statement of Conservation Interest will be amended through a standard process of minor and major amendments. Minor amendments will be processed in a relatively informal manner and will require the approval of the Area Supervisor; these minor amendments will deal with uses and activities that do not affect any of the policies in this Statement of Conservation Interest (e.g. new uses and/or activities that are consistent with existing permitted uses).

Uses and/or activities that were not anticipated in the approved Statement of Conservation Interest and which may have an impact on the values of the conservation reserves will require a major amendment. This will include an opportunity for public comment and input, and will require the approval of the District Manager and Regional Director.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Procedural Guideline B – Land Uses – Test of Compatibility (PL Procedure 3.03.05)

The conservation reserve policy provides broad direction with regard to the permitted uses. The policy provides **only an indication** of the variety of uses that will be considered acceptable in conservation reserves. The only caution is that **“any new uses, and commercial activities associated with them, will be considered on a case by case basis, and, they must pass a test of compatibility to be acceptable.”** What does a ‘test of compatibility’ mean?

An examination of this must start from the premise of why an area is set aside – specifically, its representative natural heritage values. Criteria are then identified to guide compatibility considerations. These criteria apply to the long-term acceptability of both existing uses and new uses.

1. **Conformity to SCI/RMP:** Statements of Conservation Interest describe values for which an area has been set aside and the range of appropriate uses that will be permitted in the area. Statements of Conservation Interest may also speak to the acceptability of other ‘new’ uses currently not occurring in the area.

The first ‘test’ is: “do proposed new land uses and/or commercial activities conform to the direction of the SCI/RMP for the conservation reserve? Would the new use(s) depart from the spirit of appropriate indicator land uses in the SCI/RMP?”

2. **Impact Assessment:** If the proposed use(s) pass test 1 it is important to determine their impact on the area before they are approved. This should include the following:
 - Impact on **natural heritage values:** “will the new use(s) impact any natural values in the area? If so how and to what degree? Is it tolerable?”
 - Impact on **cultural values:** “will the new use(s) impact an historical or archaeological values in the area?”
 - Impact on **research activities:** “will the new use(s) affect research activities in the area?”
 - Impact on **current uses:** “will the new use(s) have any negative impact on the array of current uses?”
 - Impact on **area administration:** “will the new use(s) increase administrative costs and/or complexity?” (For example, the cost of area monitoring, security and enforcement).
 - Impact on **accommodating the use outside** the conservation reserve: “Could the use(s) be accommodated as well or better outside the conservation reserve?”
 - Impact on **socio-economics of the area:** “will the new use(s) affect the community(ies) surrounding the area in a positive or negative way?” (For example, will the new use make an area less remote thereby affecting a local tourism industry that is dependent on the area’s remoteness for its appeal?”
 - Impact on **area accessibility:** “does the new use(s) give someone exclusive rights to the area or a portion of the area to the exclusion of other existing uses?”

The following table (Appendix 2) provides a **guide of indicator uses** for the consideration of uses that may be permitted within conservation reserves. For any specific conservation reserve that test of compatibility should be applied to determine which specific uses are acceptable.

Appendix 2 Indicator Uses for Conservation Reserves: Generic and Specific

Activities	Generic Policy		Specific Application in Cognashene Lake C302 and Cognashene Point Conservation Reserves
	Permitted? Y = yes, N = no, M = maybe		
	Existing	New	
Recreation			
Sport fishing	Y	Y	Y
Sport hunting	Y	Y	Y
Food gathering	Y	Y	Y ^A
Facility infrastructure	M	M	M
Off-trail snowmobiling	N ¹	N ¹	N ¹
Off-trail all-terrain vehicle use	N ¹	N ¹	N ¹
Rock climbing/caving	M	M	N/A
Canoeing/kayaking	Y	Y	Y
Motorized boating	Y	Y	Y
Picnicking	Y	Y	Y
Camping	M	M	Y
Trails: Hiking	Y	M	M ^B
X country skiing	Y	M	M ^B
Cycling	Y	M	M ^B
Horse riding	Y	M	M ^B
Snowmobiling	Y	M	M ^B
All-Terrain Vehicles	Y	M	M ^B
Science, Education & Heritage Appreciation			
Research	Y	Y	Y
General walking	Y	Y	Y
Photography & Painting	Y	Y	Y
Wildlife viewing	Y	Y	Y
Outdoor Education/Interpretation	Y	Y	Y
Collecting	N	N ²	N ²
Commercial Activities			
Food harvesting	M	M	N
Fishing	M	M	N
Bait Fish harvesting	Y	M	Y ³
Fur harvesting	Y	M	Y ³
Trap cabins	Y	N	N ^C
Resort – outpost camp	Y	N	N ^C
Outfitting – bear management	Y	N	N
Wild rice harvesting	Y	M	M
Resource Management			
Inventory monitoring	Y	Y	Y
Featured species management	M	M	M
Natural systems management	M	M	M
Insect and disease control	M	M	M
Industrial Activities			
Timber harvesting	N	N	N
Mineral exploration	N	N	N
Mining	N	N	N
Hydro generation	N	N	N

Activities	Generic Policy		Specific Application in Cognashene Lake C302 and Cognashene Point Conservation Reserves
	Permitted? Y = yes, N = no, M = maybe		
	Existing	New	
Energy transmission corridors	Y	N ⁴	N ⁴
Communications corridors	Y	N ⁴	N ⁴
Public transportation corridors	Y	N ⁴	N ⁴
Resource access roads	M	N	N
Private access roads	M	N ⁵	N ⁵
Other Activities			
Land Disposition	M ⁶	M ⁶	M ⁶
Recreation Camps	Y ^C	N	N

Notes:

On generic policy application in conservation reserves:

1. For direct retrieval of game only.
2. Only as a part of an approved research project.
3. Transfer requests will be considered in the context of the Statement of Conservation Interest or Resource Management Plan for each conservation reserve.
4. Existing use is permitted to continue. New transportation corridors, communications lines, and transmission lines are discouraged in conservation reserves except under unusual circumstances where there are no other viable alternatives.
5. New private roads, including additions to existing roads, will not be permitted except where there are existing commitments.
6. Sale of Crown lands in conservation reserves is not permitted, except for certain minor dispositions (e.g. sale of small parcel of land where adjacent private lot is too small to enable installation of a septic system, or to facilitate legal title to lands where there has been a long-standing encroachment of a dwelling on Crown land) where they do not detrimentally affect the values an area is intended to protect.

On specific policy application in Pointe au Baril Forests and Wetlands Conservation Reserve and:

- A. Food gathering is permitted for personal consumption only and must be conducted in a sustainable manner, and such that it does not harm the values of the conservation reserve.
- B. Existing authorized recreational trails are permitted to continue in conservation reserves as long as there are no significant environmental impacts and they do not impair the natural features and values for which the site is identified. New recreational trails may be considered on a case by case basis, provided that they meet the requirements identified in Section 3.3 of this document. New recreational trails for motorized uses are discouraged and will only be considered under exceptional circumstances if the criteria identified in Section 3.3 have been demonstrated.
- C. Existing authorized uses can continue. New cabins, outpost camps and private recreation camps are not permitted.

Appendix 3 Procedural Guideline C

Research Activities in Conservation Reserves (PL Procedure 3.03.05)

Purpose

To encourage contributions to the goal of conservation reserves by:

- Providing direction for research activities associated with conservation reserves; and
- Establishing a process for the review and approval of proposals by researchers which could have an impact on the values protected by the conservation reserve.

Definition

Research means any investigation or study of the natural, cultural, economic, management or other features or characteristics of conservation reserves.

Guidelines

Research will be encouraged to provide a better understanding of the natural values protected by a conservation reserve and to advance their protection, planning and management. The Statement of Conservation Interest will define, for each conservation reserve, the key research issues, set out the parameters within which research may occur and identify research needs.

Applications and Approvals

Researchers must apply in writing to the Area Supervisor for permission to conduct research. The request letter must contain a statement explaining why the proposed research should be undertaken in the particular conservation reserve in preference to another location.

Proposals will be reviewed and approved by the Area Supervisor, guided by the Statement of Conservation Interest prepared for each reserve (see Guideline A – Resource Management Planning) and using Guideline B – Land Uses – Test of Compatibility. Permission must be granted in writing, including any conditions to be met in conducting the research, prior to the undertaking of any research project.

Term and Conditions

Permission to conduct research under this policy will be valid for a period of 12 consecutive months from the date of issue. Permission to continue a research project for an additional period of 12 months or less may be granted upon submission of a written request and a progress report. The Ministry may require the posting of collateral to assure that the terms and conditions of granting permission are met.

The Area Supervisor may suspend or revoke permission at any time for failure on the part of the researcher to meet:

1. The intent of this policy.
2. The requirements under the Public Lands Act, Ontario Regulation 805/94 including all amendments, where applicable.
3. The requirements under any other Act or regulations of Ontario or Canada, including those governing the taking, handling, storing, confining, fur harvesting, excavating and marketing any specimen, artefact, information or action (for example, scientific collector's permit).
4. The conditions and agreements specified in granting permission.

Final Report

The researcher will submit copies of reports, publications and theses following the results of the project to the Area Supervisor.