

**Joly Township Hardwoods
(C76)**

**Bridge Lake Outwash Plain
Forest (C82)**

Chain Lakes (C100)

and

Upper Raft Lake (C103)

Conservation Reserves

**Statement of
Conservation Interest**

March, 2003

Statement of Conservation Interest

for

Joly Township Hardwoods Conservation Reserve (C76)

Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest Conservation Reserve (C82)

Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve (C100)

and

Upper Raft Lake Conservation Reserve (C103)

**Ministry of Natural Resources
Parry Sound District**

Prepared with the assistance of:

**Meteeck & Company
Huntsville, Ontario**

March, 2003

Approval Statement

We are pleased to approve the Statement of Conservation Interest for four conservation reserves: Joly Township Hardwoods Conservation Reserve (C76), Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest Conservation Reserve (C82), Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve (C100), and Upper Raft Lake Conservation Reserve (C103).

All four of these conservation reserves are located within Hill's ecological Site District 5E-8. Two of them (C76 & C82) lie within six kilometres of Algonquin Provincial Park, and are surrounded mostly by Crown lands within a larger area of Crown lands. The other two (C100 & C103) lie within 8 to 10 kilometres of the Highway 11 corridor, and are mostly surrounded by private lands. All four are used for a variety of traditional uses, including hunting.

Joly Township Hardwoods Conservation Reserve is a 496 hectare area of Crown land located approximately 12 kilometres east of the Village of South River. This conservation reserve lies in the northeastern part of the Township of Joly, in the Territorial District of Parry Sound, and extends a short distance into the western part of Paxton Township (which is unincorporated). The site is approximately 6 kilometres west of Algonquin Provincial Park, and is bounded in the north and east by a number of small lakes (Twin Lakes, Capsell Lake, Long Lake and Dead Horse Lake).

Joly Township Hardwoods Conservation Reserve contains a mixture of hardwood and conifer species on a glacial spillway. While diverse hardwoods with sugar maple as the dominant species grow on the tops and sides of rolling hills, there is a transition to mixed conifer species as one moves downwards towards the depressions between the hills. The proportion of conifers increases up to the leading edge of wetlands and continues throughout the lowlands in the depressions.

In this area, wetlands are diverse in form and structure. They are mainly open water marshes with white and yellow water-lilies, along with submerged aquatic vegetation surrounded with a mat of sphagnum and sweet gale. Beaver activity is prevalent throughout the area. The site drains into two main watershed systems: the South River Watershed and the Magnetawan River Watershed.

Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest Conservation Reserve is a 149 hectare area of Crown land located about 17 kilometres east of the hamlet of Kearney. It is located in eastern Bethune Ward of the Town of Kearney. The conservation reserve extends north from the municipal shore road allowance adjacent to the northern shoreline of Bridge Lake. The site lies about 6 kilometres west of the western boundary of Algonquin Provincial Park and about 3 kilometres south of the Rain Lake Access Road.

This area provides representation of various forest types in ecological Site District 5E-8, including spruce forests in a pocket of flat delta-like deposits left by glacial meltwater.

The Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve consists of approximately 919 hectares of Crown land. It is located principally in Proudfoot Ward of the Town of Kearney, extending into the eastern portion of the Township of Armour. The site is located about 10 kilometres due east of the Village of Burk's Falls and about 2.5 kilometres west of Sand Lake. The majority of lands adjacent to the northern part of this site are privately owned, as are some of the adjacent lands to the east and west; these lands are not part of the conservation reserve and will remain privately owned.

This conservation reserve has a mixture of forests and other habitats, including open muskeg overlying the sandy till soils representative of the area. The rolling hills and rugged terrain are mixed with flat sandy deposits from post-glacial waterbodies, which resulted in flat topography. Balsam fir, spruce and sugar maple forests are the most common vegetation communities, although there are many representative habitat types (combinations of vegetation and landforms) in this conservation reserve. The area is used for a variety of traditional recreational uses, including hunting.

The Upper Raft Lake Conservation Reserve is a 476 hectare area of Crown land, located about 20 kilometres north of the town centre of Huntsville. It is located in southern Bethune Ward of the Town of

Kearney. This site extends north from the northern end of Upper Raft Lake. Many of the adjacent lands are privately owned, and these are not part of the conservation reserve.

This conservation reserve includes approximately 11 representative vegetation and landform combinations, including balsam fir, hemlock, spruce and yellow birch forests on hilly terrain with sandy till deposits. The area is actively used for a variety of recreational activities.

These conservation reserves are four 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.

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*. During consultation related to the formal Public Lands Act (Ontario Regulation 805/94) regulation of the boundaries of these conservation reserves (in 2000 & 2001) a number of minor boundary changes were made to reduce resource management conflicts, and to ensure the boundaries reflected areas requiring protection. Comments received during public consultation were generally supportive of the protection of these areas. Stakeholders who provided comment during the earlier consultation for these sites were subsequently consulted regarding the draft Statement of Conservation Interest and their comments were considered in the finalization of this document.

This Statement of Conservation Interest provides guidance for the management of the conservation reserves 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 for any of these reserves, then a detailed Resource Management Plan will be prepared with full public consultation.

All four of these conservation reserves are managed under the direction of the District Manager and the Bracebridge 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
Southcentral Region

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Figure 1: Location of Joly Township Hardwoods, Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest, Chain Lakes, and Upper Raft Lake Conservation Reserves

Figure 2: Site Map – Joly Township Hardwoods Conservation Reserve

Figure 3: Site Map – Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest Conservation Reserve

Figure 4: Site Map – Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve

Figure 5: Site Map – Upper Raft Lake Conservation Reserve

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, 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 these four conservation reserves.

All four conservation reserves are within ecological Site District 5E-8, and have been selected through the *Ontario's Living Legacy* planning process to add to earth and life science representation within this Site District. They are all located east of Highway 11 in the Territorial District of Parry Sound.

The Joly Township Hardwoods Conservation Reserve (C76) is located approximately 12 kilometres east of the Village of South River, and 6 kilometres west of Algonquin Provincial Park. The majority of the site is in the Township of Joly, with the eastern tip in Paxton Township (which is unincorporated). It is bounded in the north and east by Twin Lakes, Capsell Lake, Long Lake and Dead Horse Lake. The site is dominated by several tolerant and mid-tolerant hardwoods and intolerant hardwoods and mixed wood stands. The canopies in the tolerant and mid-tolerant hardwoods stands consist mainly of middle and old age sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), middle aged yellow and white birch (*Betula alleghaniensis* & *B. papyrifera*). The forest floor is a thick organic mat consisting mainly of broadleaf litter. The intolerant hardwoods and mixed woods stands tend to be transition zones between the higher upland sites and lower terrestrial sites. Poplar (*Populus spp.*) and its associated species white birch are likely the result of harvesting and natural disturbance events such as blow down.

The Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest Conservation Reserve (C82) is located about 17 kilometres east of the hamlet of Kearney, in eastern Bethune Ward of the Town of Kearney. It lies about 6 kilometres west of Algonquin Provincial Park, and abuts the municipal shore road allowance on the northern shoreline of Bridge Lake. The site provides representation of four forest/landform units on two landform types, mainly spruce (*Picea spp.*) forest in a pocket of flat delta-like deposits forming outwash plains created by glacial meltwater. These relatively flat plains have high water tables and are pitted with kettle holes forming shallow lakes. Over time, organic materials have built up in many of the depression areas creating treed muskegs and graminoid marshes with a mat of *Sphagnum*. These wetland complexes are connected by meandering creeks and small streams cut into the outwash deposits. The surrounding uplands consist of a bedrock-controlled mantle covered by a thin bouldery sandy till drift material laid down as lodgement and/or ablation.

The Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve (C100) is located about 10 kilometres east of the Village of Burk's Falls and about 2½ kilometres west of Sand Lake. Most of the site is in Proudfoot Ward of the Town of Kearney; the western part of the site is in the Township of Armour. The site consists of a mixture of forests and open muskegs overlying sandy till soils which provides very diverse habitat. This area provides representation of mainly middle aged spruce, sugar maple and balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*) on moderately broken shallow sandy till uplands and weakly broken lacustrine sand plain. There are three connected open water basins known as the Chain Lakes in the conservation reserve. Streams running southwest connect the three basins and eventually drain into Tank Lake to the southeast of the conservation reserve. Drainage is towards the Magnetawan River. The area contains winter deer concentration habitat that was identified during a survey conducted in 1997. The boundaries of this site shown on Figure 4 (page 4) reflect the intended boundaries of this site. The formal regulation plan for this site excludes the lands in Lot 7, Concession 5 in error and this will be amended in the near future.

The Upper Raft Lake Conservation Reserve (C103) is located about 20 kilometres north of the town centre of Huntsville, in southern Bethune Ward of the Town of Kearney. It extends north from the municipal shore road allowance at the northern end of Upper Raft Lake. The site encompasses an area of forest and wetlands located on a deep deposit of glacial till. Approximately one half of the site is comprised of wetland features. The forests within the conservation reserve boundaries are typified by mature, large diameter stands of tolerant hardwoods. The terrain is gently rolling to hilly and, for the most part, the reserve is relatively undisturbed in terms of human activity. This site contains two provincially significant plant species: long sedge

(*Carex folliculata*) and New England sedge (*Carex novae angliae*). The conservation reserve also supports other uncommon plant assemblages in small rich site pockets.

These conservation reserves and their surroundings are used for a variety of traditional uses, including hunting, fishing and fur harvesting.

Conservation reserves are established under the authority of the Public Lands Act, Ontario Regulation 805/94. Three of these conservation reserves (Joly Township Hardwoods, Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest and Chain Lakes) were established by Ontario Regulation 86/01, an amendment of the Public Lands Act, on April 6, 2001. Upper Raft Lake Conservation Reserve was established by Ontario Regulation 148/02, an amendment of the Public Lands Act, on May 8, 2002.

A Statement of Conservation Interest (SCI) is prepared under the authority of Procedural Guideline A – Resource Management Planning (PL Procedure 3.03.05). The purpose of this SCI is to identify and describe the values of the four conservation reserves. The SCI also outlines the activities that currently occur within these conservation reserves 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	Joly Township Hardwoods Conservation Reserve (C76)
Site Region/District	Georgian Bay 5E-8
OMNR Administrative Region/District/Area	Southcentral Region/Parry Sound District/ Bracebridge Area
Total Area (ha.)	496 hectares
Regulation Date	April 6, 2001 (Ont. Reg. 86/01)
First Nations	Robinson-Huron Treaty
OBM map sheets	10 17 6350 50750, 20 17 6400 50750
Topographic Map	South River 31E/14
UTM co-ordinates	17T 64000 507900 (Centroid)

Name	Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest Conservation Reserve (C82)
Site Region/District	Georgian Bay 5E-8
OMNR Administrative Region/District/Area	Southcentral Region/Parry Sound District/ Bracebridge Area
Total Area (ha.)	149 hectares
Regulation Date	April 6, 2001 (Ont. Reg. 86/01)
First Nations	Robinson-Huron Treaty
OBM map sheet	10 17 6500 50450
Topographic Map	Burk's Falls 31E/11
UTM co-ordinates	17T 65200 504900 (Centroid)

Name	Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve (C100)
Site Region/District	Georgian Bay 5E-8
OMNR Administrative Region/District/Area	Southcentral Region/Parry Sound District/ Bracebridge Area
Total Area (ha.)	919 hectares
Regulation Date	April 6, 2001 (Ont. Reg. 86/01)
First Nations	Robinson-Huron Treaty
OBM map sheets	10 17 6300 50500, 10 17 6300 50550, 10 17 6350 50500, 10 17 6350 50550
Topographic Map	Burk's Falls 31E/11
UTM co-ordinates	17T 63700 505400 (Centroid)

Name	Upper Raft Lake Conservation Reserve (C103)
Site Region/District	Georgian Bay 5E-8
OMNR Administrative Region/District/Area	Southcentral Region/Parry Sound District/ Bracebridge Area
Total Area (ha.)	476 hectares
Regulation Date	May 8, 2002 (O. Reg. 148/02)
First Nations	Robinson-Huron Treaty
OBM map sheets	10 17 6400 50350, 10 17 6450 50350, 10 17 6450 50400
Topographic Map	Burk's Falls 31E/11 and Huntsville 31E/6
UTM co-ordinates	17T 64400 503960 (Centroid)

1.2 Representation:

Earth Science Representation:

a) Joly Township Hardwoods Conservation Reserve

Bedrock -- migmatitic felsic and mafic gneisses of mixed origin and indeterminate protolith of the Kiosk Domain, Algonquin Terrane in the central part of the Proterozoic Central Gneiss Belt of the Grenville Province.

Surficial -- The morphology of the region is divided into: 1) low relief terrain underlain by thick complexes of ice-contact and glaciolacustrine sediments; and 2) more rugged terrain of moderate to high relief, generally above 405 m elevation, consisting of extensive bedrock-drift complexes of greater than 1 m thickness and deeply incised narrow valleys. The till in the low relief areas effectively masks the character of the underlying bedrock topography, but does not mask it in the latter areas. The bedrock-drift complexes (till, ice-contact stratified drift, glaciofluvial outwash and glaciolacustrine sediments), ice-contact kame mounds of sand and gravel and glaciofluvial outwash deposits are typical components of the Wisconsinan Stage of the Quaternary Era in southeastern Ontario.

b) Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest Conservation Reserve

Bedrock -- garnetiferous quartzofeldspathic gneisses of probable metasedimentary origin of the McCraney Domain, Algonquin Terrane in the central part of the Proterozoic Central Gneiss Belt of the Grenville Province.

Surficial -- Same general morphology and Quaternary deposits as Joly Township Hardwoods Conservation Reserve. The bedrock-drift complex, till and ice-contact stratified drift are typical components of the Wisconsinan Stage of the Quaternary Era in southeastern Ontario.

c) Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve

Bedrock -- migmatitic felsic to intermediate gneiss (possibly of metasedimentary protolith) of the Kiosk Domain, Algonquin Terrane in the central part of the Proterozoic Central Gneiss Belt of the Grenville Province.

Surficial -- Same general morphology and Quaternary deposits as Joly Township Hardwoods Conservation Reserve. The bedrock-drift complexes, till, ice-contact subaquatic fan and glaciolacustrine deposits are typical components of the Wisconsinan Stage of the Quaternary Era in southeastern Ontario.

d) Upper Raft Lake Conservation Reserve

Bedrock -- metaplutonic gneiss of the Novar Domain, Algonquin Terrane in the central part of the Proterozoic Central Gneiss Belt of the Grenville Province.

Surficial -- deposits of glacial till, and wetland areas with organic muck soils.

Life Science Representation:

a) Joly Township Hardwoods Conservation Reserve

- Tolerant and mid-tolerant hardwoods and intolerant hardwoods and mixed woods on tops and sides of rolling hills.
- Mixed conifer species between hills.
- Diverse wetlands, mostly open marshes.

b) Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest Conservation Reserve

- The majority of this conservation reserve is dominated by a conifer forest consisting mainly of black spruce (*Picea mariana*) with white spruce (*Picea glauca*) and balsam fir on flat plains of outwash deposits from glaciation.
- Lowland wetland areas, including conifer swamps, graminoid marshes and open water marshes are prevalent.

c) Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve

- Middle aged spruce, sugar maple and balsam fir on three landform types.
- Marsh and poor fen type wetlands; open water marshes with floating and submerged aquatic vegetation; graminoid marshes.

d) Upper Raft Lake Conservation Reserve

- Older eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) forests on sandy soils
- Immature hardwood stands on silt/clay soils
- Small patches of bare bedrock
- A small representation of graminoid/sedge wetlands

Cultural Resources Representation:

Neither detailed cultural research nor inventory has been done for these four conservation reserves. All show some degree of past forest harvest activities, and there is some evidence of pioneer settlement activity in or near most of these sites.

Recent regional evaluation (OMNR 2003) shows that these conservation reserves contain some areas that have a high potential for cultural heritage sites.

Recreational Opportunities:

Recreational inventory reports were prepared for these four conservation reserves based on existing knowledge and data sources of MNR staff, as well as several visits to each site (Gavel, 2002).

a) Joly Township Hardwoods Conservation Reserve

The area is recognized as providing big and small game hunting in a relatively remote area. There are no Crown land recreational camps in the site. Border lakes are known to support angling. Snowmobiling and all-terrain vehicle use occurs on trails in the area

b) Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest Conservation Reserve

The area is generally recognized as providing wilderness-type recreation opportunities. It accommodates big game hunting, hiking, and fur harvesting. Snowmobiling and all-terrain vehicle use occurs on trails in the area and within the conservation reserve. There is one Crown land recreational camp in the site.

c) Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve

The area is generally recognized as providing recreation opportunities in a relatively remote setting. It accommodates big game hunting, hiking, fur harvesting, all-terrain vehicle use and snowmobiling. A registered snowmobile trail (OFSC AL303) meanders throughout the length of the conservation reserve. There is one Crown land recreational camp in the site.

d) Upper Raft Lake Conservation Reserve

The area is generally recognized as providing wilderness-type recreation opportunities. It accommodates big game hunting, hiking, all-terrain vehicle use and snowmobiling. There is potential for angling on coldwater streams in the conservation reserve. There are two Crown land recreational camps within the site.

1.3 Survey Work:

Joly Township Hardwoods Conservation Reserve, Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest Conservation Reserve, and Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve:

Survey Level	Earth Science	Life Science	Cultural	Recreational	Other
Reconnaissance	Duba & Frey 2001	Bissonnette, 2001	OMNR,2003	Gavel 2002; (Inventory Report)	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

Upper Raft Lake Conservation Reserve

Survey Level	Earth Science	Life Science	Cultural	Recreational	Other
Reconnaissance	Duba & Frey, 2000	Blythe & Assoc., 2002	OMNR, 2003	Gavel, 2002; (Inventory Report)	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

All four conservation reserves are located entirely within Hills' (1959) ecological Site District 5E-8. Values include earth science, life science and recreational/aesthetic values, with an emphasis on the life sciences.

2.1 Earth Science:

All four of these conservation reserves lie in the central part of the Proterozoic Central Gneiss Belt of the Grenville Province.

The Grenville Province is the product of thrusting and imbrication of the crust to the northwest as it collided with a continental landmass to the southeast. The Grenville Orogeny, circa 1140 to 1070 million years ago, culminated more than 500 million years of crustal evolution. The eroded roots of the products of these events are displayed in the complexly metamorphosed and deformed rocks of the region (Easton, 1992b).

The Algonquin Terrane is one of the four lithotectonic terranes of the Central Gneiss Belt.

a) Joly Township Hardwoods Conservation Reserve

(Earth science information, unless otherwise noted, is taken from Duba & Frey, 2001)

Bedrock:

The Joly Township Hardwoods Conservation Reserve is a small area of hilly terrain interspersed with small lakes and wetlands. The dominant rock types exposed are migmatitic felsic and mafic gneisses of mixed origin and indeterminate protolith of the Kiosk Domain, Algonquin Terrane in the central part of the Proterozoic Central Gneiss Belt of the Grenville Province.

Within the Algonquin Terrane, the Kiosk Domain is one of twelve structural domains. This geological environment is part of the modern organization of the complex products of the mid-Proterozoic Grenville orogenic events (Easton, 1992a & b). As such, its representation in the Joly Township Hardwoods Conservation Reserve contributes to the conservation of the Grenville continental accretion theme outlined by Davidson (1981).

Within the Ontario Provincial Park system, the bedrock geological features of the Joly Township Hardwoods Conservation Reserve have regional significance in the representation of compositional and structural complexities of the Kiosk Domain, Algonquin Terrane.

Surficial:

More than 50% of the Joly Township Hardwoods Conservation Reserve is underlain by bedrock-drift complex (Kor and Delorme, 1990), consisting of loose, stony till with a grey sand matrix, with some rare, small thin patches of ice-contact stratified drift, glaciofluvial outwash and glaciolacustrine sediments in the northern part of the conservation reserve. Several isolated small ice-contact deposits occur in the southern and west central part of the conservation reserve. These consist of small kame mounds of stratified sand and gravel.

A large area of glaciofluvial outwash deposits is in the southeastern extremity of the conservation reserve. The outwash sediments are generally fine grained, grey silt and red clay rhythmites that fill depressions in glaciolacustrine basins.

The surficial geological features are locally significant. The bedrock-drift complexes (till, ice-contact stratified drift, glaciofluvial outwash and glaciolacustrine sediments), ice-contact kame mounds of sand and gravel and glaciofluvial outwash deposits are typical components of the Wisconsinan Stage of the Quaternary Era in southeastern Ontario.

b) Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest Conservation Reserve

(Earth science information, unless otherwise noted, is taken from Duba & Frey, 2001)

Bedrock:

The Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest Conservation Reserve is a low relief area surrounded by more hilly landscape. Dominant rock type is garnetiferous quartzofeldspathic gneiss of probably metasedimentary origin of the McCraney Domain, Algonquin Terrane in the central part of the Proterozoic Central Gneiss Belt of the Grenville Province.

Within the Algonquin Terrane the McCraney Domain is one of twelve structural domains. This geological environment is part of the modern organization of the complex products of the mid-Proterozoic Grenville orogenic events (Easton, 1992a & b). As such, its representation in the Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest Conservation Reserve contributes to the conservation of the Grenville continental accretion theme outlined by Davidson (1981).

Within the Ontario Provincial Park system, the bedrock geology of the Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest Conservation Reserve has regional significance in its representation of metasedimentary supracrustal component of the McCraney Domain of the Algonquin Terrane.

Surficial:

Bedrock drift complexes of till and stratified sediment underlie the Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest Conservation Reserve. (Kor & Delorme, 1990) Depressions in the bedrock topography often contain thin deposits of ice contact stratified drift, glaciofluvial outwash and glaciolacustrine sediments, of gravel, sand, silt and clay. Recent organic deposits of bog and swamp occur in low relief areas and depressions covered by wetlands.

The surficial geology is locally significant. The bedrock-drift complex, till and ice-contact stratified drift are typical components of the Wisconsinan Stage of the Quaternary Era in southeastern Ontario.

c) Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve

(Earth science information, unless otherwise noted, is taken from Duba & Frey, 2001)

Bedrock:

Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve is an area of rugged, heavily forested terrain interspersed with small lakes and wetlands. The dominant rock type exposed is migmatitic felsic to intermediate gneiss (possibly of metasedimentary protolith) of the Kiosk Domain, Algonquin Terrane in the central part of the Proterozoic Central Gneiss Belt of the Grenville Province.

Within the Algonquin Terrane, the Kiosk Domain is one of twelve structural domains. This geological environment is part of the modern organization of the complex products of the mid-Proterozoic Grenville orogenic events (Easton, 1992a & b). As such, its representation in the Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve contributes to the conservation of the Grenville continental accretion theme outlined by Davidson (1981).

Within the Ontario Provincial Park system, the geological features of the Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve have regional significance in the representation of a possible metasedimentary supracrustal component of the Kiosk Domain, Algonquin Terrane.

Surficial:

Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve is underlain by a variety of Quaternary deposits (Kor and Delorme, 1990). The dominant, bedrock-drift complexes of till and stratified sediment cover more than two thirds of the area. Till forms a discontinuous, < 1 m thick veneer over bedrock. It is typically loose and stony with a grey sand matrix. Depressions in the bedrock topography often contain thin deposits of ice contact stratified drift, glaciofluvial outwash and glaciolacustrine sediments, composed of gravel, sand, silt and clay.

The southern part of the area contains patches of till generally >1 m thick. It occurs in bedrock saddles, leeward positions and under glaciolacustrine deposits.

Several small pockets of ice-contact sediments, overlain by >1 m glaciolacustrine sand and gravel, capped by silt, clay and sand occur in the northeastern part of the Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve. The ice-contact sediments are sub-aquatic fan deposits, identified where extraction operations have excavated through the upper glaciolacustrine cover.

Glaciolacustrine clay, silt and sand underlie part of the central Chain Lakes region area. Abundant recent deposits of bog and swamp occur throughout the area in depressions occupied by creeks, lakes and wetlands, including the long northeast and northwest trending Chain Lakes system.

The surficial geology is locally significant. The bedrock-drift complexes, till, ice-contact sub-aquatic fan and glaciolacustrine deposits are typical components of the Wisconsinan Stage of the Quaternary Era in southeastern Ontario.

d) Upper Raft Lake Conservation Reserve

(Earth science information, unless otherwise noted, is taken from Duba & Frey, 2000)

Bedrock:

The Upper Raft Lake Conservation Reserve is a small area of flat wetlands and relatively low relief (<30 metres) bedrock hills. The dominant rock type is metaplutonic gneiss of the Novar Domain, Algonquin Terrane in the Central Gneiss Belt of the Proterozoic Grenville Province.

Within the Algonquin Terrane, the Novar Domain is one of twelve structural domains. This geological environment is part of the modern organization of the complex products of the mid-Proterozoic Grenville orogenic events (Easton, 1992a & b). As such, its representation in the Upper Raft Lake Conservation

Reserve contributes to the conservation of the Grenville continental accretion theme outlined by Davidson (1981).

Within the Ontario Provincial Park system, the bedrock geology of the Upper Raft Lake Conservation Reserve has local to regional significance in its representation of metaplutonic gneiss of the Novar Domain.

Surficial:

The earth sciences inventory for this site did not report on its surficial geology. A thin glacial till covers most of the rolling bedrock hills. Low areas are generally covered with flat wetlands and organic soils. (Blythe & Associates, 2002) The Quaternary deposits of the conservation reserve are likely typical components of Late Wisconsinan Stage of the Quaternary Era in southwestern Ontario.

2.2 Life Science:

In late May 1997, the Ministry of Natural Resources (Natural Heritage Information Centre and Natural Heritage Section) carried out a natural heritage “gap analysis” project for Site Districts 5E-7 and 5E-8, in conjunction with Ontario Living Legacy’s land use planning process. The purpose of the gap analysis was to identify different vegetation and landform combinations that were not included in protected areas at that time. Geographic Information Systems technology was used and applied to the following criteria: 1) representation of landform-vegetation patterns; 2) diversity; 3) condition; 4) ecological considerations; and 5) special features (Crins and Kor 1998). These four conservation reserves were identified through this gap analysis.

a) Joly Township Hardwoods Conservation Reserve

(Life science information, unless otherwise noted, is taken from Bissonnette, 2001)

Representation:

This site is characterized by glaciofluvial outwash materials, which were deposited in the valleys as outwash plains. These deposited materials (sand and gravel) were in association with melt-waters flowing through spillways from an ice sheet that was retreating up the valley towards the Algonquin Highlands. Glacial and post-glacial events have greatly modified the surface of the landscape, further eroding the upland areas and adding additional sediment to the lowland sites. Much of the land is covered in a thin, sandy till, with rocky ridge outcrops throughout. The landform unit characterized by Noble (1983) that is represented in this site is weakly broken outwash plain.

The area contains a mixture of hardwood and conifer species. The upland forest canopy is composed of diverse hardwoods with middle and old aged sugar maple as the dominant species. A gradual change occurs as one moves downwards towards the valleys from the uplands; the composition of hardwoods decrease and the mixed conifer species increase up to the leading edges of wetlands.

Condition:

Forest stands of this site are a mix of even and uneven-aged forests. The forest reflects cutovers in the late 1940’s and more recent logging activity in 1979.

Secondary and tertiary roads currently exist in the surrounding area. A secondary road is located at the southern edge of the conservation reserve. A tertiary road forms a north/south trail system within the conservation reserve and another tertiary road east of the site is used for vehicular traffic including logging vehicles to access crown land to the north and east. Trails within the site are useable by ATVs, snowmobiles, mountain bikes and for hiking.

Diversity:

About 86% of the Joly Township Hardwoods Conservation Reserve is dominated by tolerant and mid-tolerant hardwoods and intolerant hardwoods and mixed woods. Middle and old aged sugar maple, middle aged yellow birch and white birch dominate.

Generally, in the tolerant and mid-tolerant hardwoods stands, sugar maple is dominant. Depending on the ecosite, other species such as yellow birch, white birch, poplar, white pine (*Pinus strobus*), beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) and red oak (*Quercus rubra*) may dominate. Density and species composition of the shrub and herb layer will vary depending on canopy closure and ecosite type. Commonly occurring species are mountain maple (*Acer spicatum*), fly honeysuckle (*Lonicera canadensis*), spinulose wood fern (*Dryopteris carthusiana*), wild sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*), blue bead lily (*Clintonia borealis*) and rose twisted-stalk (*Streptopus roseus*). The forest floor is a thick organic mat consisting mainly of broadleaf litter. The most common bryophytes found are *Dicranum* spp. and *Brachythecium* spp. *Cladonia* spp. lichens are also common within these ecosites.

These stands are a mix of even and uneven ages. This is a result of past logging activities and stand management techniques such as culling and girdling to recreate an uneven-aged stand. Presently, the main canopy is dense with a very dense sub-canopy of pole wood and sapling regeneration. The herbaceous growth on the forest floor is sparse. In some areas, moderately open stands with a dense regeneration of saplings occur. Overall, the abundance and diversity varies depending on site conditions.

The intolerant hardwoods and mixed woods tend to be transition zones between the higher upland sites and the lower aquatic sites. Poplar and its associate white birch are the dominant successional deciduous species. These species tend to become established on disturbed sites. Their presence in the conservation reserves is most likely due to past harvesting and natural disturbance events such as blow-down or fire. The main canopy consists of trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and largetoothed aspen (*Populus grandidentata*) and white birch. These sites have sandy to coarse loamy and occasionally silty soils with a dry to moderately fresh or very moist moisture regimes (Chambers et al 1997). The more open aspect of these communities results in abundant light in the understory and a warmer climate. This results in lush growth of young saplings, shrubs and a moderate number of herbs such as beaked hazel (*Corylus cornuta*), fly honeysuckle, blue bead lily, wild sarsaparilla and bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

The intolerant hardwoods and mixed woods ecosites are concentrated in the southeastern part of the protected area. This area is located in lowlands with slightly higher soil moisture content than the surrounding uplands. Disturbances created by past logging activities and natural events such as blow-down create favourable conditions for these species.

Poor or impeded drainage is prevalent throughout the site and caused the formation of wetlands and wetland complexes. Beaver activity is prevalent in most of these wetlands. These are mainly open water marshes with floating leaved plants such as fragrant white water lily (*Nymphaea odorata*), yellow pond lily (*Nuphar variegatum*) and submerged aquatic vegetation, surrounded by a mat of *Sphagnum* sp. and sweet gale (*Myrica gale*). The site drains into two main westerly flowing watersheds, the South River and the Magnetawan River.

The area offers suitable range for wildlife species typical of the region, such as white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), moose (*Alces alces*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), eastern grey wolf (*Canis lupus lycaon*), beaver (*Castor canadensis*) and raccoon (*Procyon lotor*).

Ecological considerations:

Although this conservation reserve is relatively small, it represents an island of refuge in an area which will continue to be actively managed. The vegetation community will persist and continue to provide wildlife habitats through natural processes as the forest within the conservation reserve continues to age without human intervention.

Access to the site is relatively easy since well-travelled secondary and tertiary roads touch upon several of the conservation reserve borders. In addition, a network of trails, which used to be old logging roads, crosses the site boundary in several locations.

Special Features:

Emigration from Algonquin Provincial Park where there is no hunting is expected to contribute to the population of wildlife, particularly moose, bear and wolves.

b) Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest Conservation Reserve

(Life science information, unless otherwise noted, is taken from Bissonnette, 2001)

Representation:

The physiography of this site is characterized by flat plains with higher water tables and kettle holes forming shallow lakes. Over time, organic materials have built up in the depressions creating treed muskegs and graminoid marshes with mats of *Sphagnum* moss which may be underlain by fluvial sands. These wetland complexes are connected by meandering creeks and small streams cutting into the outwash deposits. The surrounding uplands consist of a bedrock-controlled mantle covered by a thin bouldery sandy till drift material lain down during the period of glacial retreat. Upland ridges, sculpted by glacial and post-glacial activity, have a distinct north/south arrangement.

This area provides representation of mainly middle aged spruce forest in a pocket of flat delta-like deposits forming outwash plains created by glacial meltwater. Lesser amounts of middle aged hardwoods co-exist with the dominant spruce community on the outwash plains. Otherwise, mixed communities of balsam fir, spruce, sugar maple and yellow birch occur on this site. The landform units characterized by Noble (1983) which are represented in this site are weakly broken outwash plains and moderately broken shallow sandy till uplands with bare bedrock.

Condition:

The forest reflects cutovers in the late 1940's and more recent logging activity in 1996.

Primary, secondary and tertiary roads currently exist in the surrounding area. Some tertiary roads are present within the conservation reserve.

Diversity:

Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest Conservation Reserve is dominated by a conifer forest consisting mainly of black spruce with white spruce and balsam fir on flat plains of outwash deposits from glaciation. Lowland wetland areas, including conifer swamps, graminoid marshes and open water marshes are prevalent.

The majority (58%) of this conservation reserve is dominated by mid to lowland conifers. Black spruce dominates the canopy with lesser amounts of white spruce and white birch and a sub-canopy of black spruce and balsam fir. The understory vegetation is moderately lush with ericaceous and low hardwood shrubs such as low sweet blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*), creeping snowberry (*Gaultheria hispidula*), twinflower (*Linnaea borealis*), Labrador tea (*Ledum groenlandicum*) and bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*). However, the herb community is sparse with bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*), blue bead lily, starflower (*Trientalis borealis*), goldthread (*Coptis trifida*) and bracken fern. The forest floor's organic materials consist of deciduous leaf litter, conifer needle litter and bryophytes such as schreber's moss (*Pleurozium schreberi*) and *Dicranum* spp.

The surrounding uplands consist of tolerant and mid-tolerant hardwoods and include about 27% of the conservation reserve. Sugar maple – yellow birch stands show the effects of forest management in the 1960s and 1980s and exhibit open canopies and dense understory regeneration. Other sugar maple, beech, red oak sites have been managed for black cherry, and the main tree canopy consists of black cherry and a sub

canopy with a moderate number of white pine and a few balsam firs. Soft maple and some balsam fir dominate the regeneration layer as well. Wood ferns and ground cedar are prevalent in the ground cover. The black cherry trees are evenly spaced and create an open stand.

The wetland areas of the Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest Conservation Reserve cover approximately 15% of the site. The flat plains of the site are networked by small and mid size creeks, which weave their way through. Generally, wetlands represent the end of the transition between upland hills covered with tolerant hardwoods to the open water of lakes or ponds. As the elevation decreases, the tree cover changes from hardwoods to one dominated by conifer species, which are better adapted to cope with poorer soil drainage and temperature. At the bottom of the valley, there may be intolerant deciduous and mixed forest on thin ground moraine, or lowland intolerant coniferous forest dominated by black or white spruce and tamarack (*Larix laricina*). This in turn may grade into shrubby growths of leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*), sweet gale and Labrador tea, followed by a skirt of sedges and grasses. This grades into the open water wetlands or ponds, which may be dominated by floating and submerged aquatic vegetation.

Most wetland communities are variations of either marsh or poor fen types. Open water marshes with floating and submerged aquatic vegetation are common. The most common wetlands in the protected area are graminoid marshes. They are dominated by emergent sedges and grasses. Some low shrubs such as *Spirea* spp. and sweet gale may also be present. They occur primarily on mineral soil or muck substrates that are permanently saturated with water.

Poor fens appear to be transitional in terms of succession from fen to bog. Grasses, sedges, ericaceous shrubs and a sparse stunted black spruce and tamarack are dominant in these wetland communities. *Sphagnum* mosses predominate, particularly in the "hummock" phase. Ground water or precipitation is responsible for the transportation of minerals and nutrients into poor fens.

Ecological considerations:

Although this conservation reserve is relatively small, it represents an island of refuge in an area of Crown land which will continue to be actively managed. The vegetation community will persist and continue to provide wildlife habitats through natural processes as the forest within the reserve continues to age without human intervention.

Special Features:

A myriad of other wildlife species typical of central Ontario forests is expected to be found here, including small game, songbirds, reptiles, amphibians and insect species. Emigration from Algonquin Provincial Park, where there is no hunting, is expected to contribute to the population of wildlife, particularly moose, bear and wolves. (McDonnell, 2003)

c) Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve

(Life science information, unless otherwise noted, is taken from Bissonnette, 2001)

Representation:

The protected area consists of a mixture of forests and open muskegs overlying sandy till soils which provides very diverse habitat. The rolling hills and rugged terrain are interrupted with open lowland flats of sandy deposits from post-glacial waterbodies. There are three connected open water basins known as the Chain Lakes in the conservation reserve. Streams running southwest connect the three basins and eventually drain into Tank Lake to the southeast of the reserve. Drainage is towards the Magnetawan River.

This area provides representation of mainly middle aged spruce, sugar maple and balsam fir on three landform types. The landform types are moderately broken shallow sandy till uplands, moderately broken shallow sandy till uplands (lacustrine sand) and weakly broken lacustrine deltaic sand plain.

Condition:

The forest reflects a successional stage due to cutovers in the late 1940's and more recent logging activity in 1996.

Primary, secondary and tertiary roads currently exist in the surrounding area. Some tertiary roads are present within the conservation reserve. One is a registered Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) trail and others are utilized by ATV's and mountain bikes. Some trails can only be accessed on foot or by mountain bike.

Diversity:

Generally, sugar maple dominates the forest of this conservation reserve. Depending on the ecosite, other species may be abundant as well, such as yellow birch, white birch, poplar, white pine, beech and red oak. Density and species composition of the shrub and herb layer vary depending on canopy closure and site conditions. Commonly occurring species include mountain maple, fly honeysuckle, spinulose wood fern, wild sarsaparilla, blue bead lily and rose twisted-stalk. The forest floor is a thick organic mat consisting mainly of broadleaf litter. The most common bryophytes found are *Dicranum* spp. and *Brachythecium* spp. *Cladonia* spp. lichens are also common within these ecosites.

The majority of the Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve (70%) is composed of tolerant and mid-tolerant hardwoods. This includes 6 ecosites, dominated by the following:

- About 42% of the area is dominated by sugar maple and yellow birch stands on the uplands and slopes. Many of the stands have open canopies and dense understory regeneration, which is indicative of the forest management activities in the late 1960's and early 1980's.
- Sugar maple-white birch-poplar-white pine forests cover about 14% of the area. Generally, these sites are also found in the upper and mid-lower slope positions. Disturbances on many of these sites, where the canopy is opened, initiated the establishment of pioneer species such as *Populus* species, white birch, red maple, black cherry and various shrubs.
- The moderately dry uplands with hotter temperatures, about 10% of the area, support a mix of sugar maple with white pine and/or American beech.

The interface between lowland wetlands and upland forested communities, about 8% of the area, is dominated by black spruce.

The remaining terrestrial ecosites (7%) consist of intolerant hardwoods and mixed woods (5.5%), hardwood and conifer lowlands (2%) and white pine and red pine (<1%).

A variety of wetland types exist in this conservation reserve, covering about 14% of the site. Generally, wetlands represent the end of the transition between upland hills covered with tolerant hardwoods to the open water of lakes or ponds. As the elevation decreases, the tree cover changes from hardwoods on the tops of the hills to conifer species, which are better adapted to cope with poorer soil drainage and temperature at the bottom of slopes. At the bottom of the valley, there may be intolerant deciduous and mixed forest on thin ground moraine, or lowland intolerant coniferous forest dominated by black or white spruce and tamarack. This in turn may grade into shrubby growths of leatherleaf, sweet gale and Labrador tea, and then by a skirt of sedges and grasses. This grades into the open water wetlands or ponds, which may be dominated by floating and submerged aquatic vegetation.

The area offers suitable range for wildlife species typical of the region, such as white-tailed deer, moose, coyote, eastern grey wolf, beaver and raccoon.

Ecological considerations:

Although this conservation reserve is relatively small, it represents an island of refuge in an area of Crown land which will continue to be actively managed. The vegetation community will persist and continue to provide wildlife habitats through natural processes as the forest within the conservation reserve continues to age without human intervention.

Access to this conservation reserve is limited, although a network of trails and old logging roads cross the site, and logging and municipal roads approach the borders of the site in several locations.

Special Features:

The area contains winter deer concentration habitat that was identified during a survey conducted in 1997.

A heronry (Great Blue Heron – *Ardea herodias*) is known to exist in the Chain Lakes within the conservation reserve.

d) Upper Raft Lake Conservation Reserve

(Life science information, unless otherwise noted, is taken from Blythe & Associates, 2002)

Representation:

This site was identified during the selection process for the number and variety of wildlife habitats and landscape features contained in a single, contiguous Crown land parcel.

The conservation reserve encompasses an area of forest and wetlands located on a deep deposit of glacial till. Approximately one half of the site is comprised of wetland features. The forests within the conservation reserve boundaries are typified by mature, large diameter stands of tolerant hardwoods. The terrain is gently rolling to hilly and, for the most part, the reserve is relatively undisturbed in terms of human activity.

Condition:

With the exception of a handful of large white spruce trees that were cut without authorization in 2002, there have been no recent resource extraction activities in the conservation reserve. There is some evidence of square timber era logging activity throughout the site and some more recent hardwood cuts that probably took place in the early 1970s. Evidence of homesteading is present on private lands immediately adjacent to the conservation reserve.

Diversity:

The presence of a deep layer of glacial till soils in the conservation reserve is the primary factor responsible for the large mature hardwood forest that grows there. Similarly, soil fertility has contributed to an abundance of herbaceous species.

The forested portions of the conservation reserve are in a mid- to late successional stage and are evolving toward a climax forest of tolerant hardwoods. The predominant species within the forest were sugar maple and yellow birch. There is a significant component of black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) which appears to be dying out as the forest matures. The presence of black cherry indicates some sort of historical disturbance, either clearcut logging, a large scale wind event or fire; however, there is no evidence of fire anywhere in the portion of the forest containing the black cherry. There is a modest representation of coniferous species within the upland forest, but it is primarily hardwood in composition. Eastern hemlock and eastern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) occupy a small portion of the bottomlands. The associated forest understory species within the hardwood forest includes a relatively rich assemblage of herbaceous plants such as wild sarsaparilla, bladder sedge (*Carex intumescens*), long-awned wood grass (*Brachyelytrum erectum*), intermediate woodfern (*Dryopteris intermedia*), hairy Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum pubescens*), and rose twisted-stalk (*Streptopus roseus*).

In low lying areas, where the water table is close to the surface, the forests are primarily composed of eastern white cedar and eastern hemlock. These forest stands rapidly grade out into a variety of wetland types. Two of the most common wetland types are graminoid/sedge meadows, and fens/bogs. The former owe their existence to the past work of beaver, that have effectively blocked and modified local drainage patterns, specifically, along the Little Tonawanda Creek and the Upper Raft Creek. One of the two provincially significant plant species observed in the reserve, long sedge, was located on the margins of a drained beaver pond (Blythe and Associates, 2002). Long sedge is considered to be an Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora (ACPF) disjunct species (Keddy and Sharp, 1989). It carries a provincial significance rating of S3, or "rare".

Of particular note is a small groundwater-fed shallow, lake/wetland feature located in the southern portion of Lot 7 Con. 3. This lake has in its centre, a pool of clear water surrounded by a ring of ericaceous shrubs. Outside of the clear water centre and the shrub ring, the remainder of the lake's waters are turbid, shallow and heavily vegetated.

The largest contiguous wetland feature is located in the north central portion of the conservation reserve, where the majority of Lots 7, 8, 9 and 10, in Concession 4, are covered by a fen/bog complex. This wetland feature is sparsely forested with black spruce and tamarack. The predominant species are beakrush (*Rhynchospora* spp.) and an assortment of ericaceous shrubs such as, Labrador tea, and bog rosemary (*Andromeda polifolia* ssp. *glaucophylla*).

The area offers suitable range for wildlife species typical of the region, such as white-tailed deer, moose, coyote, eastern grey wolf, beaver and raccoon.

Ecological considerations:

The deep deposits of glacial till, covered by mature forest provide an essential groundwater recharge area for the surrounding watercourses. This area forms part of the headwaters for the Tonawanda Creek and Upper Raft Creek that flow into the Big East River to the south. OMNR records indicate that there are numerous small coldwater lakes south of the conservation reserve that contain populations of brook trout.

Special Features:

Although the vast majority of species recorded were relatively common, two were found to be provincially significant — long sedge and New England sedge. The latter species was found throughout the mature tolerant hardwood forest and carries a provincial significance ranking of S3. The long sedge is an Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora affiliate. This sedge is usually found in areas closer to Georgian Bay. This conservation reserve also supports other uncommon plant assemblages in small rich site pockets.

2.3 Cultural Values:

None of these four conservation reserves have been the subject of specific studies or inventories, and no major cultural resource values have been evaluated or identified to date. However, all four show some history of logging activity in the past, most typically, the logging for white pine in the early 20th century. Recent regional evaluation (OMNR 2003) shows that these conservation reserves contain some areas that have a high potential for cultural heritage sites.

a) Joly Township Hardwoods Conservation Reserve

No specific cultural studies or inventories have been undertaken within this conservation reserve, and no major cultural resource values have been evaluated or identified to date. MNR records indicate that there were settlement attempts in the late 19th century, but no patents were issued for the land.

b) Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest Conservation Reserve

No specific cultural studies or inventories have been undertaken within this conservation reserve, and no major cultural resource values have been evaluated or identified to date.

c) Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve

While no specific cultural studies or inventories have been undertaken within this conservation reserve, and no major cultural resource values have been evaluated or identified to date, there is speculation that the Chain Lakes area was an historic First Nation travel corridor (Allen 2000). Furthermore, the Savage Settlement Road, which probably has been in existence for well over 100 years, touches the north boundary of this conservation reserve. There is evidence of pioneer settlement activity nearby.

d) Upper Raft Lake Conservation Reserve

No specific cultural studies or inventories have been undertaken for this conservation reserve, and no major cultural resource values have been evaluated or identified to date.

2.4 Recreational/Aesthetic Values:

(Gavel, 2002)

a) Joly Township Hardwoods Conservation Reserve

The Joly Township Hardwoods Conservation Reserve is a long-standing traditional hunting area. There are several Crown land recreational camps abutting the conservation reserve but none are within the site. Some of the camps traditionally hunt this area. Most hunting activity within the site reserve focuses on the white-tailed deer, moose and black bear. To a much lesser extent other wildlife sought includes game birds, waterfowl, small mammals.

Deadhorse, Capsell and Long lakes, which form part of the boundary of the conservation reserve, are fished year round for brook trout. Anglers access these lakes by trails within the site.

It appears that the north/south trail system within the conservation reserve is used by snowmobiles for recreation and ice fishing. These trails are easily accessible off a groomed snowmobile club trail on the west side, outside the protected area. All-terrain vehicles can access the north/south trail system along the east and west boundary. Very few trails penetrate far into the interior of this site.

b) Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest Conservation Reserve

The Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest Conservation Reserve is a long-standing traditional hunting area for moose, but also for white-tailed deer, moose and black bear. To a much lesser extent other wildlife sought includes game birds, waterfowl, and small mammals. There is a Crown land recreational camp situated in the reserve, just north of Bridge Lake. There are well-manicured ATV trails leading to and around the camp.

All-terrain vehicle use within the conservation reserve has increased in recent years. All-terrain vehicles can access the site via the trail that runs from the Rain Lake Road to Bridge Lake.

c) Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve

The Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve is a long-standing traditional hunting area. There is a Crown land recreational camp situated on the west side of Chain Lakes. Most hunting activity within the site focuses on the white-tailed deer, moose and black bear. To a much lesser extent other wildlife sought includes game birds, waterfowl, and small mammals.

An authorized snowmobile trail (OFSC AL303) meanders throughout the length of the conservation reserve. There are many non-OFSC trails that abut this trail and it is likely that snowmobilers use some of these trails in the winter time. All-terrain vehicles access the site via the OFSC trail and then travel along the network of smaller trails that connect with the OFSC trail.

There are many trails criss-crossing the conservation reserve. As the site is easily accessible off a maintained highway and diverse in landscape, there is potential for use by hikers and mountain bikers.

d) Upper Raft Lake Conservation Reserve

The Upper Raft Lake Conservation Reserve is a long-standing traditional hunting area for moose, deer and bear. There are two Crown land recreational camps situated in the middle portion of the conservation reserve, one on the east side and one on the west side. Most hunting activity within the site focuses on the white-tailed deer, moose and black bear. To a much lesser extent other wildlife sought includes game birds, waterfowl, and small mammals.

There are no authorized snowmobile trails in the vicinity of this conservation reserve, but snowmobilers can gain access to the area. All-terrain vehicles can access the site from both the north and west sides.

There are coldwater streams that empty into Upper Raft Lake, which contain a known self-sustaining brook trout fishery, and have potential for angling.

3.0 Management Guidelines

3.1 Land Tenure:

Background:

a) Joly Township Hardwoods Conservation Reserve

Joly Township Hardwoods Conservation Reserve is completely surrounded by Crown lands, with no adjacent or nearby parcels of private lands.

Since it lies within an organized municipality, the road allowances throughout and adjacent to the conservation reserve remain under the authority of the Municipality of the Township of Joly wherein they lie, and are not included as part of the conservation reserve.

Joly Township Hardwoods Conservation Reserve lies within the assigned OMNR Bear Management Area (BR-50-002) and within registered trapline area (BR-32). Two commercial Bait Fish Blocks (Joly2 and Paxton 1), which are currently assigned, encompass the whole conservation reserve.

There are no authorized recreation camps within the conservation reserve, but several are located in the vicinity on Crown land.

b) Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest Conservation Reserve

Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest Conservation Reserve is completely surrounded by Crown lands, with no adjacent or nearby parcels of private lands.

Since it lies within an organized municipality, the road allowances throughout and adjacent to the conservation reserve remain under the authority of the Municipality of the Town of Kearney wherein they lie, and are not included as part of the conservation reserve.

Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest Conservation Reserve lies within two OMNR Bear Management Areas (BR-50-09 & BR-50-11), both assigned, and is divided between two registered trapline areas (BR-19 & BR-

23). The majority of this conservation reserve lies within two commercial Bait Fish Blocks (McCraney 2 & 3), which are currently assigned.

There is one authorized recreation camp within the conservation reserve and others are located in the vicinity on Crown land.

c) Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve

The northern third of the Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve lies adjacent to private lands, and other private lands adjoin its boundaries on parts of the west and southeast sides. These lands are not part of the conservation reserve and will remain privately owned.

Road allowances throughout and adjacent to the conservation reserve remain under the authority of the Municipality of the Town of Kearney wherein they lie, and are not included as part of the conservation reserve.

Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve lies within the assigned OMNR Bear Management Area (PS-49-009) and is divided between two registered trapline areas (BR-28 & BR29). The conservation reserve lies within two commercial Bait Fish Blocks (Armour 3 and Proudfoot 4), which are currently assigned.

There is one authorized recreation camp within the conservation reserve.

An authorized snowmobile trail (OFSC AL303) meanders throughout the length of the conservation reserve.

d) Upper Raft Lake Conservation Reserve

Upper Raft Lake Conservation Reserve is surrounded by private lands on most of its north and east sides, and about half of its west side. These private lands are not part of the conservation reserve and will remain privately owned.

Road allowances throughout and adjacent to the conservation reserve remain under the authority of the Municipality of the Town of Kearney wherein they lie, and are not included as part of the conservation reserve.

Upper Raft Lake Conservation Reserve lies within the assigned OMNR Bear Management Area (BR-50-10). It does not lie within a registered trapline area. It lies within one commercial Bait Fish Block (Bethune 4), which is currently assigned.

There are two authorized recreation camps within the conservation reserve.

Guideline:

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

The commercial bear hunting service associated with the current Bear Management Areas is allowed to continue. Fur harvest is permitted to continue in the registered trapline areas. The Bait Fish Blocks, which are currently assigned, are permitted to continue.

Existing recreation camps within the conservation reserves are permitted to continue. They may be eligible for "enhanced" tenure, but are not eligible for purchase of land. (See Appendix 4)

New recreation camps are not permitted in conservation reserves.

The authorized snowmobile trail which runs alongside through Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve continues to be authorized. (See Section 3.2)

3.2 Development:

Background:

There are no Crown owned buildings or other facilities within any of these conservation reserves.

All four conservation reserves are accessed by a variety of roads and trails that originated with logging activity. In addition, Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve adjoins the Savage Settlement Road. There are many trails currently used within the conservation reserves, including the authorized OFSC snowmobile trail AL303 in Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve.

Guideline:

New roads for resource extraction and/or private use will not be permitted within these conservation reserves, nor will additions to existing roads or up-grading of existing roads be permitted. There is no intention to develop roads outside of the conservation reserves to improve access to the sites.

No mineral exploration is permitted within these conservation reserves. 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.

Generally, existing authorized recreational trails may be permitted to continue in conservation reserves as long as they do not impair the natural features and values for which the area is identified and as long as there are no significant environmental impacts. Accordingly, the authorized snowmobile trail which runs through Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve continues to be authorized.

Additional recreational trails are not encouraged, but may be considered on a case by case basis. Public consultation will be an important part of the consideration of any new trails, and they must comply with Procedural Guideline B – Land Uses – Test of Compatibility (Appendix 1) and the MNR's Environmental Assessment Act requirements.

While there is no intent at present to provide or permit any new development in these conservation reserves 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 values provided by a pristine night sky.

3.3 Recreational Activities:

Background:

Hunting appears to be the primary recreational activity traditionally occurring in all of these conservation reserves. These sites and the surrounding area support the usual populations of large and small game. Most hunting activity within the conservation reserves is focused on white-tailed deer, moose and black bear.

Sport fishing also occurs adjacent to and within the Joly Township Hardwoods and Upper Raft Lake conservation reserves.

As previously noted, there is one authorized snowmobile trail that crosses Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve, but no authorized snowmobile trails enter or cross the other three conservation reserves. There is other snowmobile activity in most of these sites.

All-terrain vehicle trails, mostly associated with the hunting activity, are present in all the conservation reserves. Although their use appears primarily seasonal, associated with the fall hunting season, there is potential for creation of unauthorized trails by all-terrain vehicles.

There is little evidence of the use of the conservation reserve by hikers, birdwatchers, canoeists, mountain bikers, skiers, or snowshoers.

Guideline:

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

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

The existing authorized snowmobile trail in Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve will continue to be authorized. Trail and off-trail use will be monitored to ensure that the conservation reserve values are not being adversely impacted. Off-trail use of snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles is only permitted for the direct retrieval of game.

New recreational trails or changes to existing routes are not permitted without prior MNR authorization. New trails are not encouraged, but may be considered on a case by case basis provided they meet the Procedural Guideline B - Land Uses - Test of Compatibility (Appendix 1) and the MNR's Environmental Assessment Act requirements.

The use of pre-existing unauthorized recreational trails, and any increase in use of all-terrain vehicles, will be monitored to ensure that conservation reserve values are not being adversely impacted. Depending on the results of monitoring, some trails may need to be redirected from sensitive areas or eliminated completely. Otherwise, there is no intent to mark or upgrade these trails.

New recreational activities will be considered on a case by case basis provided they are consistent with maintaining the values of the conservation reserve and comply with Procedural Guideline B - Land Uses - Test of Compatibility (Appendix 1). Emphasis will be placed on activities that have a low impact on the environment of these conservation reserves.

3.4 Commercial Activities:

Background:

While there is a history of commercial forest harvesting in or near these conservation reserves, this activity is no longer allowed, by policy, since the sites have been regulated. There has been no recent mining activity within these conservation reserves.

Commercial fur harvesting is authorized through registered traplines. The guiding of non-resident bear hunters is authorized through Bear Management Areas, and bait fish harvesting is authorized through Bait Fish Block licences within these conservation reserves, as described in Section 3.1.

Guideline:

Fur harvesting, bear hunting services and bait fish harvesting operations are allowed to continue within the conservation reserves.

Mineral exploration is not allowed in these conservation reserves, as discussed in Section 3.2.

Conservation reserve regulations do not permit 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 (see Appendix 1).

3.5 Aboriginal Interests:

Background:

These sites are located within the area of the Robinson – Huron Treaty of 1850, and as such the general area of these conservation reserves is known to be of interest to various First Nations.

Guideline:

The regulation and management of these conservation reserves 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.

While there are no existing First Nation land claims that extend to this site, it is recognized that at some point in the future there is a possibility of a land claim in this area. If such a land claim is determined to be valid, the conservation reserve designation is not irreversible and does not preclude consideration of these lands in the settlement of a claim.

3.6 Natural Resource Stewardship:

Except for historic logging, and some more recent forest management in adjacent areas, vegetation management for specific purposes has not been practised in these conservation reserves. Wildlife and fisheries management, particularly sport fishing, hunting and fur harvesting, have been occurring according to the prevailing policies and legislation.

The emphasis will be on ensuring that the natural values of the conservation reserves 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 these sties 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 these conservation reserves. In accordance with existing conservation reserve policy and the Forest Management Strategy for Ontario, forest fire protection will endeavour to use “light on the land” techniques, which do not unduly disturb the landscape, in these conservation reserves. 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 any of these areas. 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 these conservation reserves where these threaten significant values in or adjacent to the site. Where insects or disease threaten significant values, in or adjacent to the sites, control will be directed 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 (see Appendix 1).

The unauthorized cutting of a handful of large white spruce trees in 2002 is under investigation.

Guideline – Wildlife and Fisheries:

The relevant Ontario hunting and fishing policy and legislation of the time will guide hunting and fishing within these conservation reserves. Fur harvesting and bait fishing will be managed through the maintenance of the current licensing system.

3.7 Cultural Resource Stewardship:

Background:

There is evidence of logging throughout these conservation reserves beginning in the late 19th century and recurring occasionally up to the late 20th century. There is some evidence of settlement activities associated with the Joly Township Hardwoods and Chain Lakes sites.

Recent regional evaluation (OMNR 2003) shows that all four conservation reserve contain some areas that have a high potential for cultural heritage sites. There is also anecdotal information (Allen 2000) about historic First Nations use of the Chain Lakes area as a travel corridor. However, no specific studies or inventories have been undertaken within these conservation reserves, and no specific significant cultural resource values have been evaluated or identified to date.

Guideline:

Should the MNR consider either carrying out or permitting new structural development, significant clearing of vegetation or altering of land within these conservation reserves, the MNR will adhere to the cultural heritage resource screening process as is identified in its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation (MTCR). 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, Ontario Regulation 805/94, 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 MTCR 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 First Nations, resource harvest/management and recreation history in the area. The MNR will discuss the appropriateness of archaeological assessment with local First Nations and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation.

3.8 Client Services:

Background:

Access to these 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 these conservation reserves is available to the public through the Parry Sound District Office, Bracebridge Area Office or via the Internet at www.ontarioslivinglegacy.com.

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 information brochures (with map) to highlight the features for which the areas were identified and appropriate uses to ensure the protection of those features. Consideration will be given to the strategic location of identity signs where roads, the authorized snowmobile trail, and other trails meet or form part of conservation boundaries. There are no other plans for structural development within these conservation reserves.

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:

Research focussing on the prehistoric and historic use of these conservation reserves and their vicinity will be encouraged.

Research focussing on the assessment of use/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 these conservation reserves to date. Promotion and information about these sites has been primarily through the *Ontario's Living Legacy* planning process and recent MNR Parry Sound District public consultation regarding the boundaries of the sites.

Guideline:

Marketing activities of these conservation reserves will be kept to a minimum.

4.0 Implementation

Administrative responsibility for all four conservation reserves belongs to the Bracebridge Area Office of the Parry Sound District of the Ministry of Natural Resources. The Area Office will continue to have the custodial care of these reserves. Emphasis will be placed on awareness information highlighting conservation reserve values, and monitoring and managing the current approved uses.

Priorities will include:

- Amend the regulation plan for the Chain Lake Conservation Reserve to include the lands in Lot 7, Concession 5, Proudfoot Township.
- Ensure compliance to prescribed management policies of the approved SCI.
- GPS location of existing trails and classify their status and condition.
- Monitor and evaluate recreational and commercial use levels and impacts;
- Encourage further inventory and research of the significant life science resources of the conservation reserves;
- Encourage research about significant flora and fauna species and communities, and potential impacts on these by various recreation activities;
- Support cooperative ongoing education of resource users with respect to resource and land stewardship values, in order to maintain the ecological integrity of these sites 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 amendments will deal with uses and activities that do not affect any of the policies in this SCI (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 SCI and which may have an impact on the values of any of the reserves will require a major amendment. This will include an opportunity for public comment and input, 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:** SCI describe values for which an area has been set aside and the range of appropriate uses that will be permitted in the area. SCI 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 Joly Twp Hardwoods, Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest, Chain Lakes and Upper Raft Lake CRs
	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
Non-trail snowmobiling	N ¹	N ¹	N ¹
Non-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	M ²	M ²
Commercial Activities			
Food harvesting	M	M	N
Fishing	M	M	N
Baitfish harvesting	Y	M	Y ³
Fur harvesting	Y	M	Y ³
Trap cabins	Y	N	M ^C
Resort – outpost camp	Y	N	N ^C
Outfitting – bear management	Y	N	Y ³
Wild rice harvesting	Y	M	N/A
Resource Management			
Inventory monitoring	Y	Y	Y
Featured species management	M	M	M ^E
Natural systems management	M	M	M
Industrial Activities			
Timber harvesting	N	N	N
Mineral exploration	N	N	N
Mining	N	N	N
Hydro generation	N	N	N
Energy transmission corridors	Y	N ⁴	N ⁴

Communications corridors	Y	N ⁴	N ⁴
Public transportation corridors	Y	N ⁴	M ⁴
Resource access roads	M	N	N
Private access roads	M	N ⁵	N ⁵
Other Activities			
Land Disposition	M ⁶	N ⁶	N ⁶
Recreation Camps	Y ^C	N	Y ^{C,D}

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 Joly Township Hardwoods, Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest, Chain Lakes and Upper Raft Lake Conservation Reserves:

- 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 area is identified. Additional high impact recreational trails are discouraged, but new trails may be considered on a case by case basis, provided they comply with Procedural Guideline B – Land Uses – Test of Compatibility (Appendix 1).
- C. Existing authorized uses can continue. New cabins, outpost camps and private recreation camps are not permitted.
- D. Existing authorized recreation camps are eligible for enhanced tenure, but not for the purchase of lands. A decision to grant enhanced tenure or to transfer recreation camps will be addressed through a screening process.
- E. While not under consideration for the foreseeable future, vegetation management for white-tailed deer habitat is a possibility in the Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve, which is known to contain winter deer concentration habitat. Such land use and resource management policy direction for vegetation management and featured species management (deer in this case) is consistent with Conservation Reserve Policy PL 3.03.05.

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 SCI 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 periods 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, artifact, 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.

Appendix 4 Recreation Camp Tenure

Existing recreation camps within conservation reserves are generally permitted to continue. They may be eligible for “enhanced” tenure, but are not eligible for purchase of land. There are 2 forms of enhanced tenure that may be considered (as per September 22, 2000 direction from MNR’s Assistant Deputy Ministers of Natural Resource Management and of Field Services):

- upgrade in the nature or type of tenure (e.g. from a Land Use Permit to a lease); and/ or
- an extension in the term of the tenure (e.g. from 1 year to 10 years).

Applications for enhanced tenure will be approved if determined acceptable using these screening criteria:

- i) Must follow the review process identified in MNR’s land disposition policies:
 - a) MNR District Manager must ensure that there will be no serious, foreseeable resource management or user conflicts as a result of the enhanced tenure;
 - b) The intended use/activity will not likely impact on Goal 1, 2 or 3 of the Provincial Policy Statement, issued under Section 3 of the Planning Act;
 - c) The site conforms with the MNR’s land use planning direction;
 - d) The disposition is reviewed under the Environmental Assessment Act’s Exemption Order MNR 26/7;
 - e) The site is not within a Provincial Significant Wetland (PSW). If the site is adjacent to a PSW it must be determined that the proposed enhancement of tenure will not have a negative impact on the function or natural features of the wetland;
 - f) If the site is on lake trout lake, a lease will only be considered after such time as the policy on development on such lakes has been approved;
- ii) Would not result in increased negative impact on natural heritage, cultural heritage or recreational values of the conservation reserve, or on existing authorized land uses;
- iii) Must be subject to consultation with affected First Nations, and be consistent with any aboriginal land claim negotiations or protocol agreements;
- iv) All rents, taxes, fees, rates or charges must be paid up.

A change in tenure does not convey a commitment to provide for, or agree to, a change in the type or the standard of existing access to the recreation camp.

FIGURE 3
Site Map

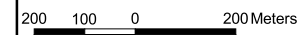
Bridge Lake Outwash
Plain Forest
Conservation Reserve
C82

Legend

- Building
- Recreation Camp
- ⌂ Outpost, Remote
- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
- - - Tertiary Road / Trail
- Stream
- - - Intermittent Stream
- Deer Wintering Area
- Water Area, Permanent
- Wetland Area, Permanent
- Crown Land
- Private Land
- ⋯ Unsurveyed Lot Line
- Road Allowance
- Township Boundary/Road Allowance
- OLL Sites

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.

Projection: UTM, NAD 83, Meters, Zone 17



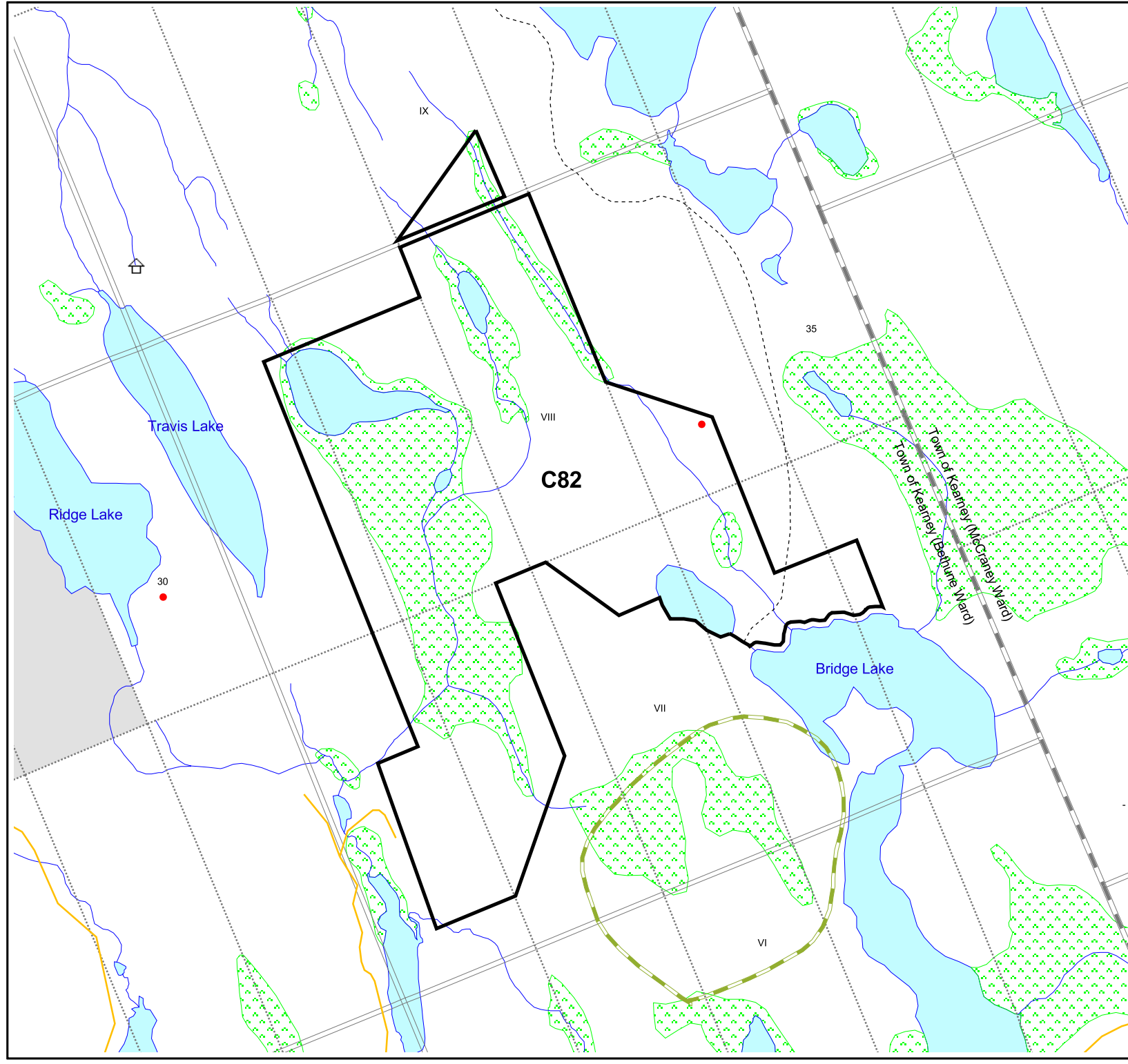
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Parry Sound District Office

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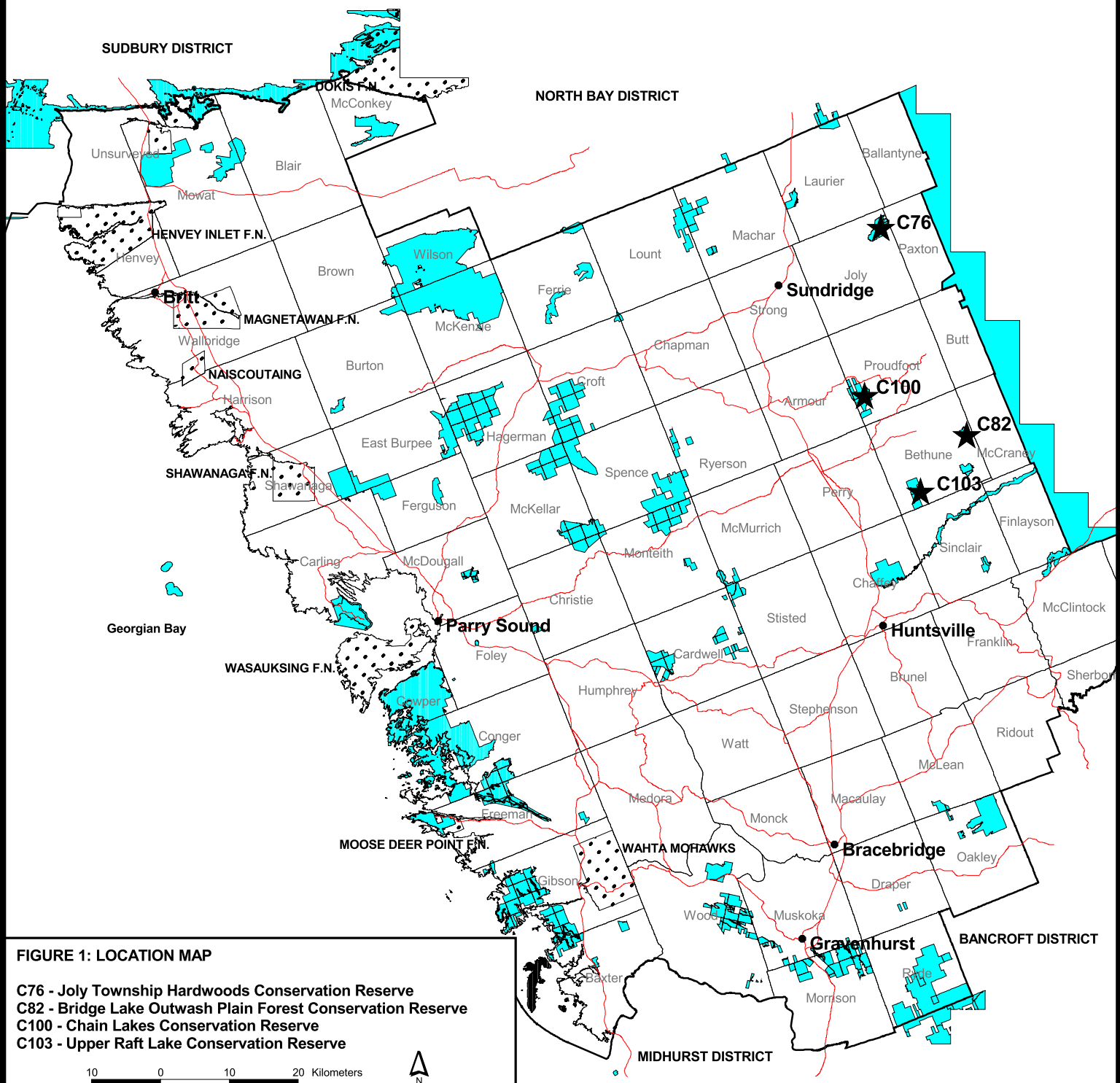
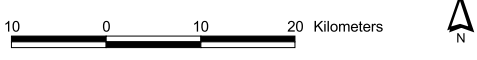


FIGURE 1: LOCATION MAP

- C76 - Joly Township Hardwoods Conservation Reserve**
- C82 - Bridge Lake Outwash Plain Forest Conservation Reserve**
- C100 - Chain Lakes Conservation Reserve**
- C103 - Upper Raft Lake Conservation Reserve**



Key to Features Scale 1:800,000

	First Nation Territory
	Existing Protected Areas
	Provincial Park/Conservation Reserve
	National Park

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