



Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother M'Nidoo M'Nissing Protected Area

Terms of Reference

APPROVAL STATEMENT

We approve these terms of reference for management planning for Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother M’Nidoo M’Nissing Protected Area on Manitoulin Island.

This protected area is known for extensive alvar and other plant communities that are representative of Manitoulin Island and provincially and internationally significant within the Great Lakes region of North America.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada, a non-profit, conservation organization, owns the protected area. Ontario Parks will manage these lands under agreement with the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Parks and Sudbury District, will work together using these terms of reference to prepare a management plan. There will be full public consultation in the preparation of the plan. Once approved the plan will provide direction for the management and operation of the protected area for the next 20 years.

Adair Ireland-Smith
Managing Director
Ontario Parks

Date

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1. Introduction

These terms of reference describe a process and products which will result in a management plan for Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother M’Nidoo M’Nissing Protected Area, on Manitoulin Island.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) purchased the property in 1999 with funds from private donors and Ontario’s Legacy 2000 initiative, a program to secure more park land in Ontario. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Ontario Parks has entered into an agreement with the NCC to manage the protected area. The agreement states that

... a management plan will be drafted in accordance with management plan standards for Provincial Parks as established by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

Ontario Parks shall prepare a management plan within five (5) years for the review and agreement of the Nature Conservancy of Canada...(signed October 28, 1999)

2. Background

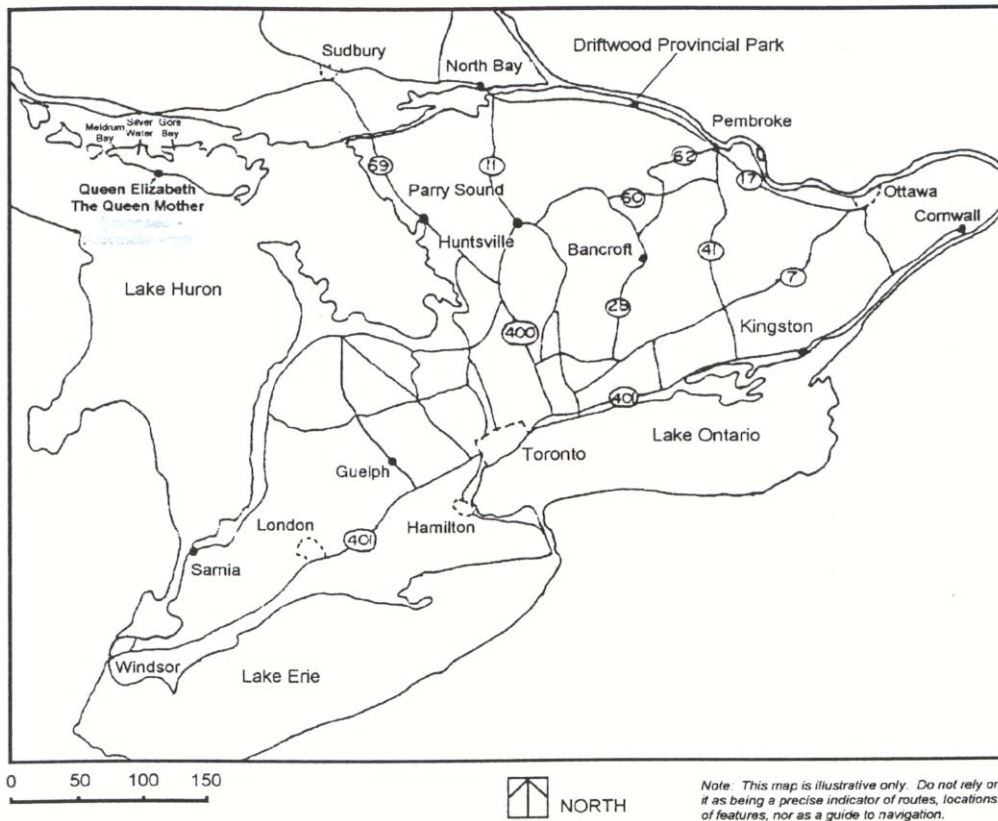
The protected area is on the western end, on the south shore of Manitoulin Island (Figure 1) and within the Espanola Area of MNR’s Sudbury Administrative District and within the Ontario Parks Northeast Zone. Manitoulin Island is the largest island within the Great Lakes. Many significant natural and recreation features occur on the island.

Vegetation communities within the protected area include plants that are common on Manitoulin Island but some are not common elsewhere in the Great Lakes region and North America. The variety of plant communities include upland maple forests on deeper soils, pine on rock and shallower soils and there are wetland pockets as well as riparian communities associated with small shallow lakes. Of particular note are extensive alvar vegetation and small Lake Huron shoreline dune communities. Literature on the Great Lakes region describes a variety of alvar from very open rocky sites to treed communities. Alvar plants occur on bare, weathered calcareous rock or on thin soil that is chemically the same as the underlying limestone and dolostone rock. The NCC lands include populations of several rare plant species and the largest contiguous area of alvar in a protected area in North America.

The diversity and richness of the site are significant on provincial and international levels. The provincial significance and the potential for landuse changes that could have affected the area influenced the NCC and partners to purchase these lands in 1999. Approximately 6,600 hectares of land were purchased with the objective to establish a protected area to sustain significant alvar and related communities.

Manitoulin attracts visitors from regional, provincial, national and international markets. Travelers come from Sudbury and southern Ontario’s golden horseshoe and a variety of locations in the United States and Europe.

Figure 1: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother M’Nidoo M’Nissing Protected area in Ontario.



3. Management Topics

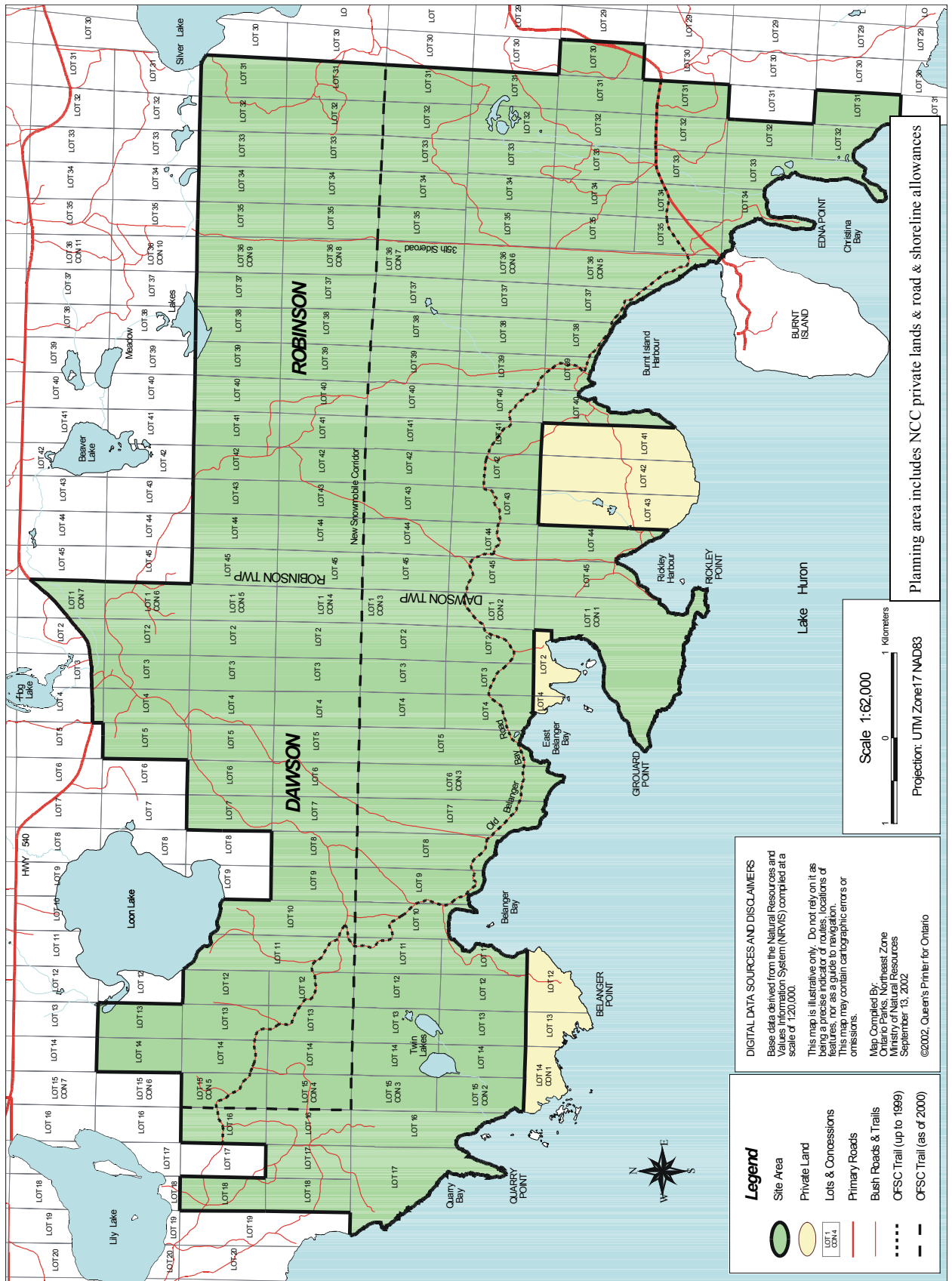
Several management topics will be addressed during planning:

- protected area classification;
- protected area regulation;
- access management;
- resource stewardship;
- recreation / tourism management;
- management implementation; and,
- planning integration.

4. Planning Area

In order to be effective, planning will consider the above described topics within the planning area as shown in Figure 2. This planning area covers the protected area and will include the lands owned by the NCC in Dawson and Robinson townships south of Highway 540 and the road and shoreline road allowances that MNR administers adjacent to the NCC lands in these unorganized townships.

Figure 2: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother M'Nidoo M'Nissing Protected area on Manitoulin Island.



5. Planning Team

The planning team includes staff from NCC, The Nature Conservancy of the United States, and MNR, Ontario Parks and the Sudbury administrative district Espanola area. The team will have ongoing contact with all interests throughout the process.

Members (alternates may be identified to ensure continuity)

Nature Conservancy of Canada, Senior Lands Securement Officer - Alan Stacey;

The Nature Conservancy of the United States - Sandy Bonanno;

MNR, Ontario Parks, Park Management Planner, Northeast Zone - Will Kershaw;

MNR, Area Resource Management Technician, Espanola Area/Sudbury District - Brian Riche;

MNR, District Planner, Sudbury District. - Paula Allen.

Roles and Responsibilities

Team members will work through the planning process to prepare documents and consult with the public to complete a management plan for the protected area. The collective responsibilities of team members will include the following:

- attend planning team meetings;
- ensure that appropriate planning policies, guidelines and requirements are followed;
- assemble, review and update background information;
- prepare documents and make these available for public and internal / external input;
- encourage integration of planning ideas between NCC and adjacent private lands;
- organize and implement effective public consultation.

Project Co-Managers—Alan Stacey and Will Kershaw

- chair planning team meetings;
- act as the main contacts for the planning team to respond to specific requests and maintain communications with the media;
- coordinate and implement an integrated planning schedule with meetings as required;
- maintain contact with local communities including residents of Dawson and Robinson Townships, the United Chiefs and Councils of Manitoulin and First Nation communities.

Park Management Planner—Will Kershaw

- ensures that all planning components are integrated within the overall planning process;
- prepares, submits and manages the planning budget;
- prepares planning documents and supplementary documentation;
- arranges for technical or professional guidance as required;
- determines priorities in consultation with the planning team;
- coordinates preparation of media ads, reports and displays (e.g. information centres, workshops);
- ensures adherence to the *Environmental Bill of Rights* and the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy acts* for all stages of the planning process;
- ensures adherence to requisite policies for the planning process;
- maintains a record of all comments received; and,
- compiles planning mailing list as per park policy (PM 11.02.02) - First Nations, all interested groups, organizations and individuals.

MNR, Espanola Area Resource Management Technician – Brian Riche

- provides expertise on area management matters;
- provides liaison with area / district staff as needed; e.g. district manager, area biologist, First Nations liaison person;
- provides resource management information to all area / district staff on an ongoing basis; and,
- provides implementation advice to the planning team.

6. Planning Advisors

MNR: In addition to the planning team, the following MNR staff will be consulted:

- Eric Cobb, Lands Technician, Espanola Area, Sudbury District;
- Carole Trepanier, District Information Specialist, Sudbury District;
- Barbara Mabee, Public Affairs Coordinator, Ontario Parks, Peterborough;
- Phil Kor, Conservation Geologist, Ontario Parks, Peterborough;
- Bill Crins, Senior Conservation Ecologist, Ontario Parks, Peterborough;
- Steve Pianosi, GIS Technician, Northeast Zone, Ontario Parks;
- John Thompson, Natural Heritage Specialist, Northeast Region, Planning Unit.

Local Advisory Group: The Nature Conservancy of Canada and MNR will work with a local network to review and comment on planning and management. This local advisory group will be made up of persons representing a variety of perspectives: First Nations, local roads boards; recreational and nature clubs, adjacent private landowners, tourism, agriculture, commercial fishing and cottaging interests and hunters.

7. Consultation

Meaningful First Nation¹ and public input and involvement is key to planning the future of this protected area to manage NCC acquired lands and Crown road and shoreline allowances together within the protected area. The management planning process will be used as the framework for this integrated process. Planning will incorporate public input, review and comment at each stage of the process.

Consultation will include:

- meetings, informal presentations and discussions as appropriate with First Nations, community representatives, interested groups and individuals;
- documents available in “reading rooms” at the Ontario Parks office in Sudbury and MNR office in Espanola. These materials will also be available in a reading room at the NCC office in Guelph; and,
- information, and involvement and comment from the First Nations and the wider public through notices, *Environmental Bill of Rights* electronic registry postings and mailings.

¹ *Any communications and cooperation between First Nations and MNR for planning and operations purposes will be done without prejudice to any future discussions or negotiations between the government of Ontario and the First Nation communities.*

Consultation will build upon previously established mailing lists and consultations associated with the protected area acquisition and communications to date. Additional contacts and other information will be added as it becomes available. There will be a total of four broad opportunities for consultation during the planning process (see Table 1: Planning Schedule).

Beyond the formal opportunities built into the planning process, planning team members will be available for informal discussions, meetings and presentations on planning related matters. Comments may be sent to:

Mr. Will Kershaw
Ministry of Natural Resources - Ontario Parks
4th fl. Government Building
199 Larch Street
Sudbury, Ontario P3E 5P9
Phone: (705) 564-3168
Fax: (705) 564-3171

Email: will.kershaw@mnr.gov.on.ca

8. Planning Schedule

The following schedule estimates the timing to complete an approved management plan, subject to funding and unforeseen delays:

Table 1: Planning Schedule²

Item	Requirements/Notes	Dates	Public Consultation
Terms of Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> approval by NCC & Ontario Parks core team orientation 	Spring 2003	
Invitation to Participate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> public notice inviting participation in planning process review period (45 days) 	Summer 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> public notice / EBR Notice of Proposal indicates commencement / outlines planning process newspaper ads mailing list EBR registry notice MNR OLL website
Public Review of Background Information & Management Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> public notice review period (45 days) 	Fall 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EBR Notice of Proposal newspaper ads, other media mailings meetings/workshops
Public Review of Preliminary Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> public notice review period (45 days) 	Winter 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EBR Notice of Proposal newspaper ads, other media, parks website mailings meetings/workshops
Approved Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> internal reviews and approvals production, printing of plans public inspection (45 days) 	Spring 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EBR Notice of Decision newspaper ads distribution & mailings of final document upon request

EBR = *Environmental Bill of Rights*

² This process will follow the planning stages outlined in *Ontario Provincial Park Management Planning Manual* (OMNR, 1994).

9. Budget Estimates

Costs are estimated to complete a management plan as per timing and products listed in Table 1: Planning Schedule. Funding is subject to Ontario Parks and NCC work planning processes.

Table 2: Project Budget

Planning Stage	Requirements	Cost (\$000)	Details
Terms of Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> core planning team orientation 	5.0	first meeting, includes ground & aircraft time
Invitation to Participate with the release of Terms of Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> public notice / newspaper ads mailing list EBR notice of proposal 	4.0 3.0 1.5	newspaper ads & mailing costs travel/meeting expenses
Draft of Background Information & Planning Alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> planning team meetings, presentations (face to face/conference calls) GIS analysis/development 	1.0	travel/meeting expenses
Public Review of Background Information & Planning Alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> public & EBR notice / newspaper ads, other media production of documents / displays one-on-one advisory meetings/workshops mailings 	5.5 1.5 1.5 2.0	newspaper ads' costs publication costs with printers travel/meeting expenses mailing costs
	<i>End of Year One</i>	25.0	
<u>Draft</u> of Preliminary Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> planning team meetings (face to face/call) GIS/graphics development 	1.0	travel/meeting expenses
Preliminary Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> public notice / newspaper ads, etc production of documents / displays one-on-one advisory workshop / meetings, presentations mailings 	7.0 3.5 2.0 3.0	newspaper ads' costs publication costs with printers travel/meeting expenses mailing costs
Review Public Comment on Preliminary Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> summarize comments / response possible advisory workshop to present & analyze findings 	2.0	travel/meeting expenses
Recommended Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> finalize policies as reviewed from Preliminary Management Plan GIS/graphic products 	1.0	travel/meeting expenses
Approved Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> media ads printing/production distribution of final document EBR notice of decision 	7.0 14.0 2.5 1.0	newspaper ads' costs publication costs with printers partial cost recovery through sale of final document travel/meeting expenses
	<i>End of Year Two</i>	44.0	
	Total Estimated Cost	69.0	

Select References

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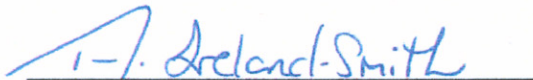
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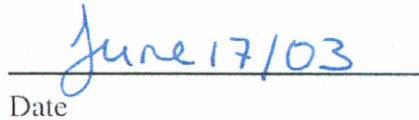
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