



Aaron

Terms of Reference

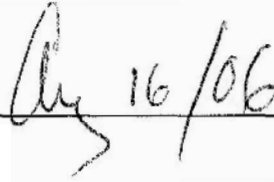
APPROVAL STATEMENT

These terms of reference provide an outline of Ontario Parks' approach to the development of a Management Plan for Aaron Provincial Park. The terms of reference identify the tasks to be accomplished, the roles and responsibilities of the project planner and the planning team, budget, as well as the schedule for the completion of the plan review process.

I am pleased to present the terms of reference for the management planning exercise for Aaron Provincial Park. I encourage you to become involved in the planning process.



Adair Ireland-Smith
Managing Director
Ontario Parks



Date

Aaron Provincial Park Management Plan

Terms of Reference

1.0 Introduction

Aaron Provincial Park established in 1958 under Ontario regulation 382/01, is a recreation class park of 117 hectares. The park is located in Zealand Township, on the TransCanada highway (17) east of Dryden, on the south shore of Thunder Lake (Figure 1). The park is located within ecodistrict 4S-4 and the Dryden Administrative District of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR). Area First Nation communities include Wabigoon Lake, Wabauskang, Grassy Narrows (English River), Eagle Lake, Saugeen, and Lac Seul. These First Nations are all within the boundary described by the Treaty #3.

Aaron Provincial Park is comprised of three parcels of land (Figure 2). Highway 17 bisects the park into two main parcels. Canadian Pacific Railway has a patent right of way that divides the southwest corner of the park into the third smallest parcel. TransCanada Pipeline has an easement through the park on the south side of the highway. There is a Hydro One / OPG transmission line that runs through the park to supply power to the residents of East Thunder Lake Road.

The park abuts Thunder Lake, a remnant of the ancient glaciers that covered Ontario tens of thousands of years ago. As these massive moving fields of ice shifted and melted, they left behind a huge lake called glacial Lake Agassiz. Over the years, Lake Agassiz receded creating hundreds of smaller lakes, like puddles after a rainstorm. The park's mixed forests of aspen, jack pine, white cedar and balsam, are typical of the boreal region. The forest is home to moose, white-tailed deer and black bear.

Aaron Provincial Park is an operating park with 98 campsites, twenty-four of which are electrical. The campground and day-use areas are operated by the City of Dryden in partnership with the MNR-Ontario Parks. Aaron is a destination for local residents from Dryden, and a stopover for travellers on the TransCanada Highway. Two sandy beaches, playgrounds and the clear, shallow waters of Thunder Lake make Aaron ideal for swimming, boating and fishing. Hiking trails wind through white cedar and aspen forests, and double as ski trails in winter. Spring is popular for trout fishing.

2.0 Rationale

An interim management statement (IMS) was completed for Aaron Provincial Park in 1994. A management plan is required to address the management of an operating park. The fundamental purpose of this management plan is to assess all aspects of the park management and to address new park management topics. This will include but not necessarily be limited to:

- Classification;
- Zoning;
- Environmental management, recreation management, and natural heritage education policies;

- Vegetation and wildlife management;
- Research potential;
- Visitor origins, user patterns, and shoulder season use;
- Non-conforming activities such as local snowmobile travel through the park to bypass the Thunder Creek / Highway 17 bridge.
- Consideration of new approaches to operating the park including the partnership with the City of Dryden and the influence of the Ontario Parks' business operating model;
- Cooperating associations (i.e., Friends);
- Any other topics that arise from public consultation.

The outcome will be to adjust and confirm the long-term direction of the park's resource stewardship, development and operations policies.

Provincial policy direction and requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act* and the *Environmental Bill of Rights* will be followed in the planning process. Public and Aboriginal consultation opportunities for the reviews will be in accordance with existing park policies and procedures.

3.0 Plan Area

The plan area for Aaron will include all the lands and waters regulated under the Provincial Parks Act as Aaron Provincial Park (Figure 2).

4.0 Planning Team

The planning team will be comprised of:

- Scott Ellery, Park Superintendent, Aaron Provincial Park
- Anne Estabrooks, Assistant Park Superintendent, Aaron Provincial Park
- Martin Pell, Dryden District Planner (tbc)
- Michèle Proulx, Northwest Zone Park Management Planner

Technical/professional advice will be sought from advisors on an as required basis from the following areas: Ontario Parks northwest zone and main office, MNR Dryden District, City of Dryden (Marj Larson), Ministry of Northern Development & Mines, Ministry of Transportation, MNR Regional Engineering and others as required.

The park superintendent will be responsible for leading the planning process and will work with the project planner to ensure that all planning requirements are met including responding to public enquiries, providing logistical support and assisting in the collection of information. The park superintendent will be responsible for implementing decisions made through the park management planning process. The northwest zone park management planner, as the project planner, will be responsible for the preparation, production and distribution of all planning documents, as well as for supervising the planning process. The team will undertake the compilation, evaluation and development of background information, and park management plan and will ensure that public consultation occurs as scheduled. The planning team will review all draft documents, assist in issue resolution, and make recommendations to the Zone Manager as required.

Figure 1 - Regional Setting



Aaron

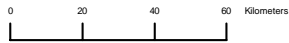
- Legend**
- Provincial Park
 - Major Lake
 - Ontario Boundary
 - Railway
 - Highway
 - Major Municipality
 - First Nation Community



Base data derived from the Natural Resources and Values Information System (NRVIS) compiled at a scale of 1:20000.
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This map is illustrative only. Do not rely on it as being a precise indicator of routes, locations or features, nor as a guide to navigation.

Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
Name: Ontario Parks (NWZone)
Date: September 16, 2005



Scale: 1:1,700,000

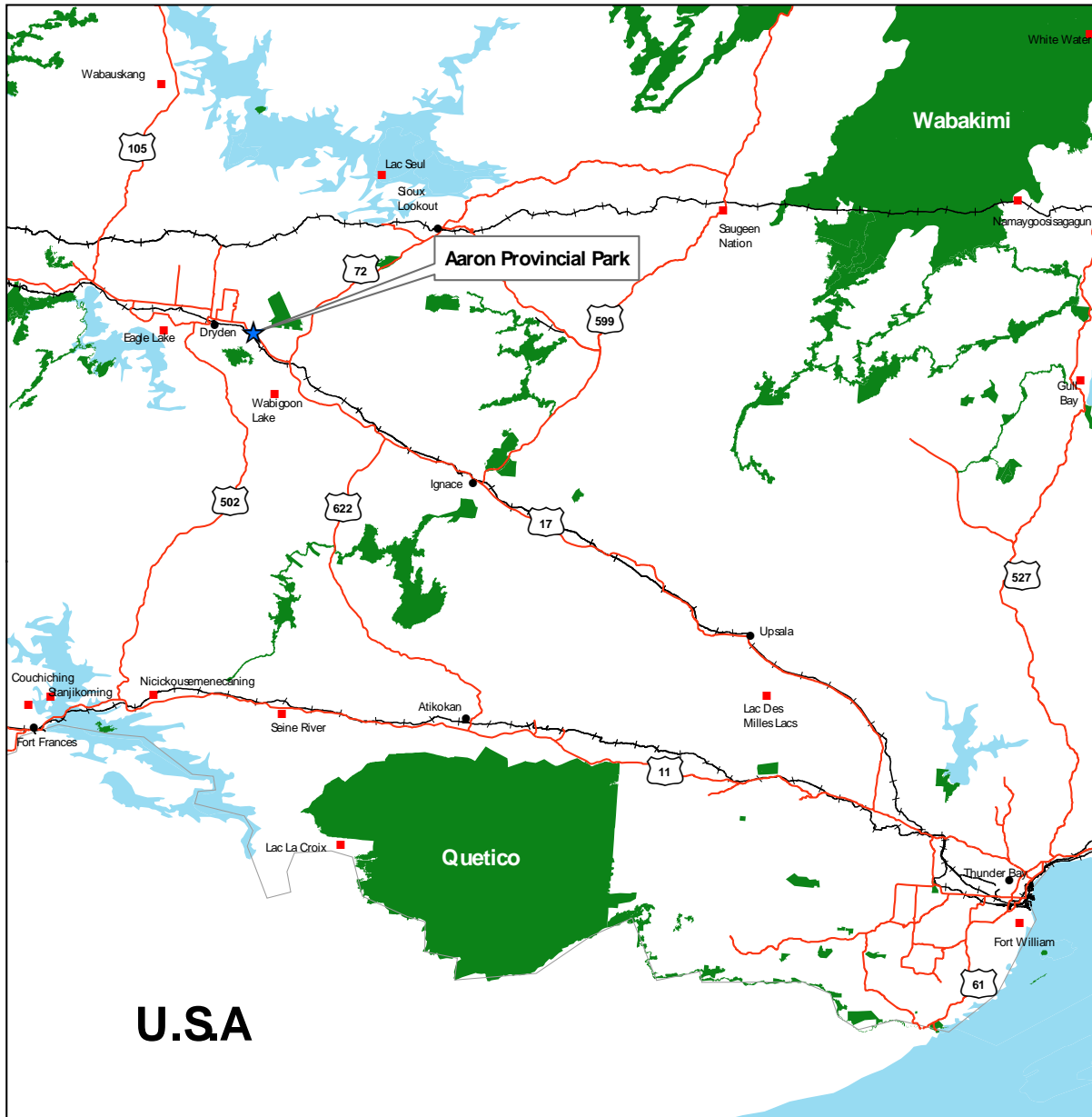
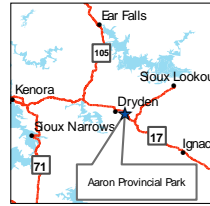


Figure 2 - Plan Area (Aaron Provincial Park)



Aaron

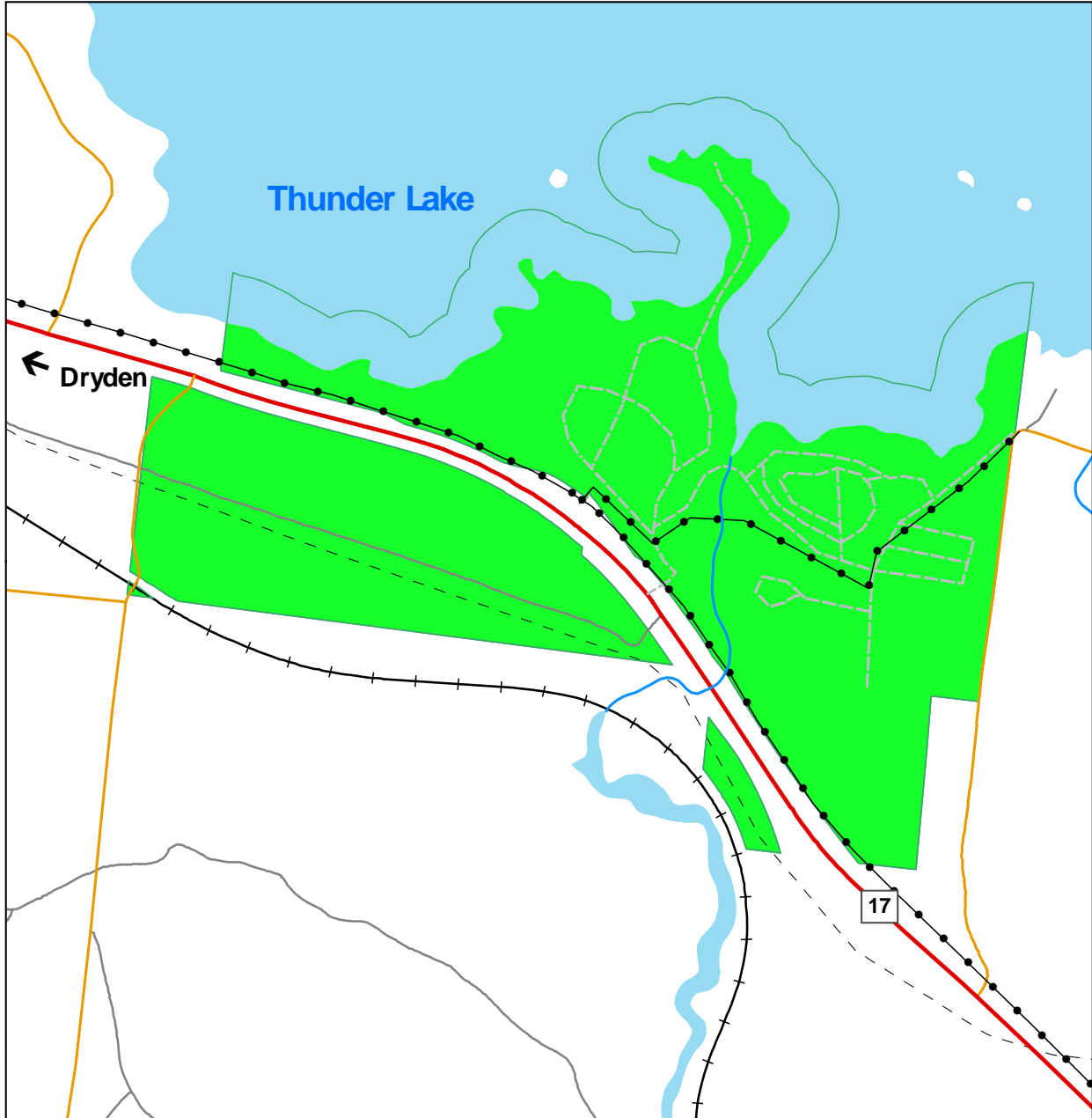
- Legend**
- Aaron Provincial Park
 - Water Area (Permanent)
 - Wetland Area (Permanent)
 - Major Highway
 - Secondary Road
 - Tertiary Road
 - Park Roads
 - + Canadian Pacific Railway
 - Trans Canada Pipeline
 - Local Hydro Lines



Base data derived from the Natural Resources and Values Information System (NRVIS) compiled at a scale of 1:20,000.

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Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
 Name: N. Parish
 Date: September (2005)



5.0 Integration

To ensure that the plan review is inclusive, and that all resource management interests are addressed, the planning team will consult with First Nations, park users, Local Citizens' Committee (LCC), adjacent landowners such as the residents of East Thunder Lake Road, the CPR, TransCanada Pipelines and Hydro One / OPG, as well as residents of the nearby communities, local boaters, local outfitters, and other interested parties and stakeholders. The following documents will be referenced for the process:

- *Crown Land Use Policy Atlas 2003.*
- *Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies.* MNR 1992.
- *Ontario Provincial Parks Park Management Planning Manual.* MNR 1994.
- *Aaron Interim Management Statement.* MNR 1994.
- *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* MNR July 1999.

6.0 Planning Process

Stage in Planning Process	Description & Products	Consultation / Communications	Timetable
Terms of Reference	Document summarizing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rationale, planning area, planning team, advisory team, communications requirements, project schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation to Participate • Public Notice: Opportunity to Inspect Approved Terms of Reference • EBR Notice of Proposal 	Autumn 2006
Background Information file And Preliminary Park Management Plan	File summarizing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • natural, cultural, recreational values • social /economic impact and market analysis Draft document summarizing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • classification, goal, objectives, zoning • draft resource stewardship, operations and development policies • identification of immediate priorities • summary of consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Notice: Opportunity to Review Background Information File and Preliminary Management Plan • EBR Notice Update 	Spring 2007
Approved Park Management Plan	Final document summarizing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as above, incorporating additional public consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Notice: Opportunity to Inspect Approved Management Plan • EBR Decision Notice • Distribution of Approved Park Management Plan 	Autumn 2007

7.0 Consultation

To ensure that First Nation and public consultation requirements are met, First Nation and public involvement shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, two formal opportunities to provide input during the plan review process. These opportunities include invitation to participate, and the opportunity to review background information and the preliminary management plan.

Each of these stages has specific consultation and communication requirements identified in the *Ontario Provincial Park Management Planning Manual* (1994). Communications will be accomplished through target group mail-outs, general media postings of the invitation to participate, as well as invitations to review, and by other means if the need arises. These measures will be described in a communications plan for the plan reviews.

Plan Review Contact List

Park Policy PM 11.02.02 prescribes mandatory contacts to receive notices and any planning documents associated with the planning process. These mandatory contacts include First Nations, stakeholder, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government agencies with provincial interests. This list is supplemented by recommendations from park and district office staff, and augmented by a contact list of local individuals, groups, and park users that will evolve in the course of consultation. In the case of this management plan, examples of mandatory contacts include area First Nations (Wabigoon Lake, Wabauskang, Grassy Narrows (English River), Eagle Lake, Saugeen, and Lac Seul), adjacent landowners, boaters, outfitters, the communities of Dryden, Vermillion Bay, Ignace and Upsala, the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Culture, and the Sunset Country Travel Association.

Use of Media

All formal public notices will be included in the Dryden, Ignace, and Thunder Bay newspapers.

EBR Registry

The *Environmental Bill of Rights* electronic registry will be used to post the registry proposal file and updates associated with the Invitation to participate, the background information and the issues and options, as well as the preliminary park management plan. As well, the registry decision file will be posted when the approved park management plan is released. These postings provide opportunities for input into the planning process.

Internal Distribution

Standard briefing notes will be used to inform / advise area, district, zone and main office staff of significant developments (e.g. release of public documents) in the review process.

8.0 Budget

Funds have been allocated for printing, map making, and public consultation.