



Kawartha Highlands

Signature Site

Preliminary Park Management Plan



© 2007, Queen's Printer for Ontario

Printed in Ontario, Canada

Cover photo: Crab Lake
Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park

Photo taken by: MNR Staff

Copies of this publication may be obtained at no
charge on-line at:
<http://OntarioParks.com/planning>

52096

ISBN 978-1-4249-4828-4 (Print)

ISBN 978-1-4249-4829-1 (PDF)

August 10, 2007

Dear Sir/Madam:

Ontario Parks is currently developing a management plan for Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park. As part of the planning process I am pleased to present the Kawartha Highlands Preliminary Park Management Plan.

The preliminary plan contains proposed policies relating to resource management, operations and development that will guide the management of Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park over the next 20 years. After careful consideration of the background information collected and review of comments received, this document represents Ontario Parks' preferred policy for the park.

You are invited to review and comment on the Preliminary Park Management Plan. Open houses will be held following the release of this plan, as part of the public consultation process. Open houses will be held on the following dates and locations to allow interested individuals and parties the opportunity to inspect the plan, view maps and discuss issues with members of the planning team.

Wilson Park Community Centre
Northey's Bay Road
Saturday, September 15, 2007
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Cavendish Community Centre
County Road 507, 20 km north of Buckhorn
Sunday, September 16, 2007
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

All comments regarding the Preliminary Park Management Plan should be submitted by October 22, 2007 to the attention of:

David Coulas, Park Superintendent,
Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park,
P.O. Box 500,
106 Monck Street,
Bancroft, ON K0L 1C0

Yours truly,



Adair Ireland-Smith
Managing Director
Ontario Parks

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
1.0	CONTEXT 1
1.1	Statement of Environmental Values and the Environmental Bill of Rights 1
1.2	Aboriginal Peoples 1
1.3	Planning Context 1
1.4	Summary and Results of Aboriginal and Public Consultation 2
2.0	INTRODUCTION 3
3.0	PARK VALUES 5
3.1	Life Sciences 5
3.2	Earth Sciences 6
3.3	Cultural Resources 7
3.4	Recreation 8
4.0	PARK CLASSIFICATION 8
5.0	BOUNDARY 8
6.0	VISION 10
7.0	OVERVIEW OF GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND DESIRED OUTCOMES 10
8.0	PARK POLICIES 16
8.1	Industrial and Commercial Uses 16
8.2	Adaptive Management 18
8.3	Resource Management Policies 18
8.3.1	<i>Land Management</i> 18
8.3.2	<i>Water Management</i> 20
8.3.3	<i>Non-Native and Invasive Species</i> 21
8.3.4	<i>Extirpated Native Species</i> 21
8.3.5	<i>Insects and Diseases</i> 21
8.3.6	<i>Forest Fire Management</i> 21
8.3.7	<i>Species at Risk</i> 23
8.3.8	<i>Vegetation Management</i> 24
8.3.9	<i>Wildlife Management</i> 24
8.3.10	<i>Fisheries Management</i> 25
8.3.11	<i>Cultural Resources Management</i> 25
8.3.12	<i>Scientific Collecting and Bio-prospecting</i> 26
8.3.13	<i>Research</i> 26
8.3.14	<i>Inventory and Monitoring</i> 27
8.4	Recreation Management Policies 27
8.4.1	<i>Services for Visitors</i> 28
8.4.2	<i>Fees</i> 28
8.4.3	<i>Hunting</i> 28
8.4.4	<i>Recreational Fishing</i> 29
8.4.5	<i>Backcountry Travel</i> 29
8.4.6	<i>Mechanized Travel</i> 29
8.4.7	<i>Shore Lunch Sites</i> 31
8.4.8	<i>Other Recreational Uses</i> 31
8.5	Operations Policies 32
8.5.1	<i>Natural Heritage Education</i> 32
8.5.2	<i>Partnerships</i> 34
8.6	Marketing and Communications Policies 34
8.6.1	<i>Marketing</i> 34
8.6.2	<i>Communications</i> 34
8.7	Development Policies 34
8.7.1	<i>Access Roads</i> 34

8.7.2	Internal Roads and Trails.....	35
8.7.3	Parking Areas	36
8.7.4	Day Use Areas.....	36
8.7.5	Campgrounds	36
8.7.6	Backcountry Campsites	36
8.7.7	Roofed Accommodation.....	37
8.7.8	Trails (& Portages).....	37
8.7.9	Maintenance and Administrative Areas	37
9.0	ZONING AND ZONE MANAGEMENT POLICIES.....	37
9.1	Natural Environment Zones	37
	NE-1.....	37
9.2	Access Zones.....	38
10.0	IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES.....	38
11.0	PLAN AMENDMENT and REVIEW.....	39
12.0	GLOSSARY	40
13.0	REFERENCES.....	50
14.0	APPENDIX 1 – SUMMARY OF COMMENTS ON MANAGEMENT OPTIONS..	51

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Figure 1: REGIONAL SETTING	57
Figure 2: PARK VALUES	58
Figure 3: PARK BOUNDARY, ZONING and DEVELOPMENT	59

LIST OF TABLES

	Page
Table 1: PARK GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND DESIRED OUTCOMES.....	11

1.0 CONTEXT

1.1 Statement of Environmental Values and the Environmental Bill of Rights

In 1994, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) finalized its *Statement of Environmental Values* (SEV) under the *Environmental Bill of Rights* (EBR). The SEV is a document that describes how the purposes of the EBR are to be considered whenever decisions are made in the Ministry that might significantly affect the environment. This includes decisions made as a result of the park management planning process.

The primary purpose of the EBR is “to protect, conserve and, where reasonable, restore the integrity of the environment.” From the Ministry’s perspective, that broad statement of purpose translates into four objectives in its SEV:

- to ensure the long-term health of ecosystems by protecting and conserving our valuable soil, aquatic resources, forest and wildlife resources as well as their biological foundations;
- to ensure the continuing availability of natural resources for the long-term benefit of the people of Ontario;
- to protect natural heritage and biological features of provincial significance; and
- to protect human life, the resource base and physical property from the threats of forest fires, floods and erosion.

The Ministry’s SEV has been considered throughout the planning process. The management plan for *Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park* (*herein referred to as “Kawartha Highlands”*) will further the objectives of managing Ontario’s resources on an environmentally sustainable basis.

1.2 Aboriginal Peoples

The Kawartha Highlands is within the area covered by the Rice Lake Treaty (Treaty No.20) signed in 1818, and the Williams Treaty signed in 1923. The Mississauga Tribe traditionally used the Kawartha Highlands area to some degree for hunting, fishing, spiritual and/or ceremonial purposes. No long-term Aboriginal occupation of the site is known to have occurred, although the area was used seasonally. The Curve Lake First Nation Reserve is located just south of Buckhorn and the Kawartha Nishnawbe First Nation is generally concentrated in the Burleigh Falls area.

1.3 Planning Context

This Preliminary Park Management Plan has been prepared consistent with direction contained in *Our Sustainable Future, Ministry of Natural Resources Strategic Directions* (2005). This document has also been prepared consistent with direction contained in *Protecting What Sustains Us: Ontario’s Biodiversity Strategy* (2005). The Ministry’s vision is “sustainable development”; and the Ministry’s mission is “ecological sustainability”. The Ontario Parks program contributes mainly to the goal of: “Healthy Natural Environment for Ontarians”, but contributes to other strategic elements as well. The mandate of the Ministry for Ontario Parks is to deliver Ontario’s parks and protected

areas program, which includes: the protection and management of provincially significant natural, cultural, and recreational environments; provincial parks operations; provision of tourism opportunities, natural heritage education; planning and management of parks and protected areas; policy leadership on conservation reserves; monitoring, auditing, and public reporting on Ontario's parks and protected areas.

1.4 Summary and Results of Aboriginal and Public Consultation

Aboriginal and public consultation has been and will continue to be a very important part of the Kawartha Highlands park management planning process.

- Stage 1(Part 1) - **Invitation to Participate; Terms of Reference** – Released June 17, 2005 for **45** day review.

Open houses held:

May 28 – Apsley Community Centre – 114 persons attended
June 4 – Buckhorn Community Centre – 174 persons attended

Meetings with Aboriginal Communities:

March 9, 2004 – Kawartha Nishnawbe
April 19, 2004 – Curve Lake First Nation
May 10, 2005 – Curve Lake First Nation

Comments received: 4 (2 mail, 2 e-mail)

Overview of comments:

- Concern about the dramatic increase in use of ATVs throughout the area, and motorboats on Copper and Serpentine lakes.
 - Any new access roads would have a detrimental impact on the area which is not consistent with the agreed-upon vision. Money spent on new access roads would be better spent on staffing to support the area.
 - Support for the vision statement and the realistic planning schedule in Terms of Reference.
 - Most important consideration should be protecting the environment for future generations.
- Stage 1(Part 2) - **Background Information** – Released November 25, 2005 for **45** day review.

Open houses held:

November 19 - Apsley Community Centre – 49 persons attended
November 20 – Cavendish Community Centre – 60 persons attended

Comments received: 0

- Stage 2 – **Management Options** – Released July 10, 2006 for **60** day review.

Open houses held:

July 29 – Cavendish Community Centre – 132 persons attended
July 30 – Wilson Park Community Centre – 103 persons attended

Meetings with Aboriginal Communities:

October 15, 2006 – Kawartha Nishnawbe

November 1, 2006 – Curve Lake First Nation

Comments received: 367 [296 by end of review period + 71 late submissions]
(316 written [274 + 42], 8 e-mail [7 + 1], 43 fax [15 + 28])

Overview of comments:

The focus of this review period was to seek Aboriginal and public comment on seven management topics: aircraft landing, motorboat restrictions, ATV use, backcountry camping, recreational activities, fuelwood permits and commercial tourism. Appendix 1 provides an outline of the range of comments relating to these seven management topics presented and how these comments were considered in the development of this Preliminary Park Management Plan.

- **Stage 3 - Preliminary Park Management Plan** – Current stage, being released for **60** day review.

Wilson Park Community Centre
Northey's Bay Road
Saturday, September 15, 2007

Cavendish Community Centre
County Road 507, 20 km north of Buckhorn
Sunday, September 16, 2007

- The public will have an opportunity to inspect the Preliminary Park Management Plan for a period of sixty (60) days after its formal release. This will allow interested participants to comment on proposals in the plan.
- Ontario Parks will retain on file reference copies of background information, the Terms of Reference, the Preliminary Park Management Plan and the approved Park Management Plan.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park is the most southern of the nine Signature Sites identified in the July 1999 Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy. Located 50 km north of Peterborough, the site contains a range of natural and recreational values, and related uses. Situated along the southern edge of the Canadian Shield, this relatively undeveloped area encompasses 37,587 ha and features a rugged rolling landscape of small lakes, wetlands, forests and rocky barrens.

The Kawartha Highlands straddles the four geographic townships of Cavendish, Harvey, Burleigh and Anstruther, in the north half of Peterborough County (Figure 1). Northern Peterborough County has a mixed landscape of forested areas, bedrock hills and lakes largely unsuited for agriculture. The typical landscape of this area is one of rugged wooded hills and valleys, and many lakes and wetlands. Regional topography varies from slightly broken rolling land to steep cliffs and deep valleys. Soils are generally shallow, with areas where bare bedrock shows through.

The City of Peterborough is the nearest major regional centre to the Kawartha Highlands (50 km) with the Town of Lindsay being the next largest community (53 km). Minden to the northwest, Haliburton to the north, Bancroft to the northeast, Lakefield and Bridgenorth to the south and Bobcaygeon to the southwest are located between 30 and 60 km from the boundary of the Kawartha Highlands. Immediately adjacent to the Kawartha Highlands are the communities and hamlets of Buckhorn, Burleigh Falls, Big

Cedar, Woodview, Haultain, Apsley, Gooderham and Catchacoma. The close proximity of this site to the Greater Toronto Area (just over 200 km from downtown Toronto to the centre of the Kawartha Highlands on Anstruther Lake Road) makes the area readily accessible to the largest population centre in Canada.

Unique to the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park are two documents which provide specific direction for this park: the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Charter (the Charter) and the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park Act, 2003 (KHSSP Act). Both of these documents are a result of a previous planning process for the Kawartha Highlands.

After the release of Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy, a Local Stakeholder Committee (LSC) was established to make recommendations to the Minister of Natural Resources on guidelines for land use in the KHSS, the appropriate protection designation and possible boundary refinements. Prior to making their recommendations, the LSC offered substantial opportunities for Aboriginal and public involvement and consultation. Further focussed discussions between a range of stakeholder groups (Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Stakeholder Groups of the Kawartha Highlands, Partnership for Public Lands and others) and the government resulted in a signed Charter agreement for the protection of the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site. Contained within the Charter was the legislative wording for the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park Act, which was based largely on the recommendations of the government appointed LSC.

The Charter established the intent of the Ministry of Natural Resources to manage this area as an operating natural environment class provincial park and provides interim direction for the management of the park until such time as a park management plan is approved. The KHSSP Act outlines site-specific policy and operational direction for the KHSSP and incorporates the provisions of the *Ontario Provincial Parks Act* and its regulations.

The purposes of the KHSSP Act are presented in Section 2 of the Act. The exact wording should be referred to; however, in short, these purposes include:

- Protection of the ecological integrity of the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park is the overriding priority;
- Policies that govern the park will protect the park's natural and cultural values, maintain its traditional uses and provide the opportunity for recreational activities that are compatible with the natural heritage values and semi-wilderness character of the park;
- Permit continued access to private property and tenured land;
- Decisions with respect to the development of the park management plan and any major revisions are made with prior public consultation.

On April 21, 2005 the Ontario Government formally placed into regulation, the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park. This provincial park is located within the Ministry of Natural Resources' (MNR) Bancroft District.

Further details on the past process, background information on the park, as well as electronic versions of the Charter and legislation, can be viewed on-line at the Kawartha Highlands website (<http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/kawa.html>).

The approved park management plan will guide the management, operation and development of Kawartha Highlands over the next 20 years. The plan may be reviewed or amended as the need arises; Section 11.0 describes the process for review and amendment of the plan.

Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park Preliminary Park Management Plan has been developed in accordance with the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Charter (2003), Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park Act (2003), Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies (1992), Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (1999) and District Land Use Guidelines for the Ministry of Natural Resources Bancroft and Minden District (1983). In accordance with this plan, MNR will amend affected area-specific land use policies and mapping found in the Crown Land Use Policy Atlas.

3.0 PARK VALUES

3.1 Life Sciences

Kawartha Highlands protects a highly diverse natural area straddling the boundary of two major terrestrial ecoregions (Figure 2). The site lies within ecodistrict 5E-11 and its southern boundary is at the northern limit of ecodistrict 6E-9. This area is contained within the area known within the broader conservation community as 'The Land Between' and represents the transition zone between the Canadian Shield to the north and the St. Lawrence Lowlands to the south. It is one of the most important zones of biological diversity in Ontario. Kawartha Highlands is the central core protected area within this zone.

With over 35,000 ha, Kawartha Highlands is a large, relatively intact natural area and is part of a forest landscape that joins it to major protected areas to the north (Algonquin Provincial Park), the east (Petroglyphs Provincial Park and the Peterborough Crown Game Preserve) and the west (Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands). Its extensive forests, rock barrens, lakes, rivers and wetlands provide diverse habitat for at least 37 mammal species (or 53% of the provincial total); 176 bird species, of which 146 have shown evidence of breeding within the park area (representing 51% of bird species that breed in Ontario); 13 species of reptiles; 16 species of amphibians; 74 species of dragonflies and damselflies; 65 species of butterflies; and 688 taxa of vascular plants of which 628 are native to the region.

Kawartha Highlands exhibits several significant major ecological themes. These include:

- Large tracts of relatively undisturbed natural landscape having wilderness qualities and supporting large mammals with extensive home ranges;
- Vast areas of rock barrens;
- Older forest stands, some with old-growth qualities;
- Representation of the northern limit of Palaeozoic bedrock vegetation in this part of Ontario;
- High-quality bog and fen communities;
- Cold water lakes with naturally reproducing native lake trout populations;
- Sandy and peaty shoreline communities dominated by Atlantic Coastal Plain and disjunct flora;
- Concentrations of species at risk.

Special features of Kawartha Highlands include a globally rare and provincially significant alvar, and provincially significant species such as bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), cerulean warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*), Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*), five-lined skink (*Eumeces fasciatus*), eastern hog-nosed snake (*Heterodon platirhinos*) and fifteen provincially rare vascular plant species, including several Atlantic Coastal Plain disjunct taxa. Thirteen of the site's Odonata (dragon flies and damselflies) are considered to be provincially rare and another eleven are considered to be provincially rare to uncommon. Forty-two of the site's plant species and 13 bird species are rare in Peterborough County.

Kawartha Highlands contains two life science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI), identified for their representation of land-form-vegetation patterns within ecodistrict 5E-11. The Bottle Creek ANSI was selected for its provincially significant "aquatic and shoreline features" and the Long Lake Barrens ANSI was selected for its "extensive, undisturbed bedrock barrens".

3.2 Earth Sciences

The rocks underlying Kawartha Highlands lie within the Grenville Province, one of the major subdivisions of the Canadian Precambrian Shield. The rocks of this province are highly folded and contorted and are believed to represent the deep-seated roots of mountains built during a collision between two continental masses that happened over 1100 million years ago.

The Grenville Province is subdivided into several units based on structural style, age and composition. Kawartha Highlands lies within the Central Metasedimentary Belt, an area in which there has been an accumulation of volcanic rocks, metasedimentary rocks and marbles. The belt is subdivided into a number of terranes. Kawartha Highlands lies within the Harvey-Cardiff Arch of the Elzevir Terrane, a unit consisting of deformed metavolcanic rocks, carbonate metasedimentary rocks and a distinctive suite of intermediate intrusive rocks.

The northern portion of Kawartha Highlands is underlain by a dome of gneissic and migmatitic intrusive rocks known as the Anstruther Mantled Basement Gneissic Complex. The southern portion is underlain by another dome of banded migmatite and is known as the Burleigh Gneiss Complex. These domes represent the oldest rocks in the region and form the basement on which subsequent sedimentary and volcanic rocks were placed. These rocks are very strongly folded and form distinctive curving landform patterns on the landscape. These patterns have been enhanced through glacial and melt water erosion, and are highly visible because of their excellent exposure.

The significance of the younger cover rocks in the area is that they host post-tectonic pegmatite and pegmatitic granite dikes and sills, which in turn are host to uranium and other radioactive minerals.

Kawartha Highlands provides an excellent representation of the wide range of rock types and units present in the Harvey-Cardiff Arch Domain, one of the three subdivisions of the Elzevir Terrane. Due to their superb exposure and pristine condition, this representation is considered to be provincially significant.

Middle Ordovician limestone and minor shale of the Gull River Formation occur near the extreme south-western portion of Kawartha Highlands, although bedrock exposure is poor. The limestone is part of a Paleozoic outlier, an erosional remnant of the southern Ontario Paleozoic plain to the south. The north facing edges of the outlier exhibit very strong and distinctive sculpting, the result of erosion by powerful, sediment-laden sheet floods beneath glacial ice that happened near the close of glaciation in the region. Fluting and streamlining of landforms also occurs on the upper surfaces of the outliers, and are the result of the same erosional processes.

Kawartha Highlands is overlain by a mantle of stony sandy till, the composition of which reflects the local Precambrian bedrock. This type of bedrock-drift is common throughout the Shield. In the southern portion of Kawartha Highlands, there is virtually no sediment cover, whereas in the northern portion, sediment cover is more continuous. Besides the stony till on bedrock surfaces, this sediment consists largely of kettled sand and gravel deposits in river valleys and other bedrock lineaments. These valley-fill sediments represent minor deposition of ice-contact outwash at a time when the ice front was in the immediate vicinity of Kawartha Highlands.

Representation of elements of the surficial geology in Kawartha Highlands is locally significant. Bedrock-drift complexes are common to the region and are well represented in other protected areas.

3.3 Cultural Resources

Kawartha Highlands protects a landscape that has a rich and varied history that is important within a local and regional context.

Very little archaeological survey work has been done in and around Kawartha Highlands. Only two registered archaeological sites and one unregistered site have been recorded for the park. However, an understanding of pre- and post-contact Aboriginal activities in Southern Ontario and archaeological evidence in the region clearly suggest that this area would have been used by Aboriginal people for hunting, fishing and gathering, perhaps not continuously but repeatedly over a long period of time. Kawartha Highlands has high archaeological potential; there may be several sites that have not yet been found, because no systematic study has been done.

During the post-contact period, lumbering was the most significant activity within the Kawartha Highlands. The area was in the core area of Trent Valley square timber and lumber activities. As logs were transported by water as much as possible, many lakes, rivers and creeks had “improvements” made to them to improve water levels and flows. Remnants of old logging dams can still be found within Kawartha Highlands on Rathbun Lake, and between Cherry and Stoplog lakes, and most rapids on Mississagua River indicate some evidence of damming, chutes or channelization. A preliminary inventory of built heritage features that exist within the Kawartha Highlands area includes the sites and remnants of former logging camps, depots, rock dams and mills, log flumes and a quarantine camp for loggers afflicted with tuberculosis.

Settlement never occurred within Kawartha Highlands, but settlers used the area. Old beaver meadows were harvested for hay, and trails (with names like Ox Paws pass) lead from some of the settled areas to fishing lakes, and were used to take fishing parties into the interior.

During the last couple of decades of the 1800s and into the 1900s tourism became important on the Kawartha Lakes. Resort hotels, private cottages and farm holidays provided accommodation for mostly American tourists. These were primarily fishing vacations, and much of the orientation was towards the larger Kawartha Lakes. However, the interior lakes were also destinations for guided fishing trips, and some of the trails that can still be found in the Kawartha Highlands were cart trails for fishing expeditions to such areas as Turtle (Bellamy, 1984), Elm, and McGee lakes in Burleigh Township.

After the Second World War, with the opening up of the “back-country” lakes for cottage lots, cottaging became important to the area. Large cottage communities developed on lakes accessible from County Road 507 and from Highway 28 near Apsley and are visible reminders of the historic development of the area.

In 1819, a military canal system was proposed, that would link the Ottawa River and Rideau Canal through Lake Ontario to Georgian Bay. The canal system never had a navigable water link for recreational boating to the Kawartha Highlands. However, the canal system along the Trent-Severn did have an impact. As a means of providing an adequate water supply, about 70 lakes in the northern part of Peterborough and Haliburton Counties were acquired as reservoirs by the federal Government in 1906 and a system of dams was installed to regulate water flow. Dams at Bottle Lake, Mississagua Lake, and Anstruther Lake continue to be operated by the Trent-Severn Waterway to this day.

3.4 Recreation

The rugged beauty of Kawartha Highlands, its scenic lakes, mature forests, and rich array of wildlife have contributed to the park becoming a popular destination for backcountry travel and semi-wilderness recreation. Adjacent landowners, cottagers, recreation camp members and visitors to the area pursue numerous activities in the park including, but not limited to, backpacking, nature appreciation, canoeing, fishing, boating, hunting, snowshoeing and skiing.

4.0 PARK CLASSIFICATION

Through park classification, Ontario’s provincial parks are organized into broad categories, each of which has particular purposes and characteristics. The Kawartha Highlands is classified as a natural environment park.

Natural environment parks incorporate outstanding recreational landscapes with representative natural features and historical resources. These parks provide high quality recreational and educational experiences.

5.0 BOUNDARY

KHSSP was regulated under the *Ontario Provincial Parks Act* in 2005 under Ontario Regulation 180/05 and classified as a natural environment park. The park is 37,587 ha in size. The park boundary is illustrated in Figure 3.

A portion of the Kawartha Highlands already existed as a provincial park prior to the regulation of the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park. This pre-existing park has been incorporated into the new park boundary. The pre-existing Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park was a natural environment class park and was considered “non-operating” as funding was not allocated for active management. This area of 1861 ha surrounding Bottle and Sucker lakes was put into regulation under the *Ontario Provincial Parks Act* in 1989, having been a Park Reserve since 1979.

There are over 500 cottage properties and three separate landholdings north of Anstruther Lake which are surrounded by park land in the Kawartha Highlands. The most significant cottage development occurs on Anstruther, Wolf, Loon Call, Long, Loucks and Rathbun lakes, and along the Mississagua River. None of these properties are located within the regulated park boundary, and all are governed by municipal by-laws.

There is one area, approximately 150 ha. in size, near the southwest corner of the Kawartha Highlands which has a land use designation of “Forest Reserve”. The Forest Reserve designation indicates the intention of incorporating these areas into the larger protected area if the claims or leases are retired through normal processes. Until that time, areas with mining tenure do not form part of the Kawartha Highlands.

The area adjacent to the Kawartha Highlands consists of a mix of private as well as Crown land. Immediately adjacent to the west boundary of the park are approximately 1500 lakefront properties (on Pencil, Catchacoma, Mississagua, Beaver and Gold lakes) and in the southeast of the park approximately 160 lake front properties (Big Cedar and Coon lakes). Adjacent to the park, along the Mississagua River, are a number of aggregate permit and license areas.

Ontario Parks is committed to an ecosystem approach to park planning and management. The *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act (effective September 4, 2007)*, which governs activities within provincial parks, pertains only to lands and waters within park boundaries. An ecosystem approach allows park management to consider the relationship between the park and the surrounding environment.

Park managers may consider potential impacts on park values and features from activities occurring on adjacent lands, and potential impacts from park activities on land uses in adjacent areas. Ontario Parks will encourage efforts of adjacent landowners to protect significant natural and cultural features outside park boundaries.

Park management plan policies apply only to the area within the regulated boundary of the park. Within the park boundary, the protection of park values and features will be achieved through appropriate zoning, control of land use and activities, education, and monitoring of ecological impacts.

Ontario Parks will support, in principle, the acquisition of property for the purposes of addition to the park. Land acquisition priorities will be identified by Ontario Parks based on an evaluation of the extent that lands will add value to the park; including enhancement of ecological integrity, biodiversity, protection of natural or cultural values, resource management and/or park operations. Lands may be obtained through purchase, donation or conservation easement. When lands are considered for purchase

they will be subject to funding, fair market value and willingness of owners to sell their property.

6.0 VISION

During the development of the Charter, a Vision for this park was agreed upon by the signatories (Kawartha Highlands Local Stakeholder Committee, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Partnership for Public Lands, Stakeholder Groups of the Kawartha Highlands). Management policies presented in this document have been designed to realize the Kawartha Highlands Vision, as stated in the Charter and reprinted here:

Our vision for the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site would be that of a legacy of protection and stewardship, ensuring that the semi-wilderness characteristics are preserved.

The protection of the ecological integrity of the area is of paramount importance. Long-term protection of both natural and cultural heritage values is required for the preservation of this unique area. Careful management is required to protect the environmentally sensitive aspects of the area, and to maintain it for the benefit of future generations.

Traditional activities including cottaging will continue to be an integral component of the area, and diverse low-density recreational opportunities will continue to be available.

Continued public involvement in the planning and management of this area is essential. Management of the area will respect the existing private lands and tenure within the park.

7.0 OVERVIEW OF GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND DESIRED OUTCOMES

Results-based management is the process of managing for specific and pre-defined outcomes and measuring progress made towards the desired results. This process involves setting goals, objectives and desired outcomes based on a collective vision, and developing strategies with the intent of achieving the desired outcomes. By using a results-based management approach, a clearer understanding of the purpose of proposed management actions is promoted and the effectiveness of these actions in achieving the outcomes desired for the Kawartha Highlands are measurable. Results-based management leads to improvement in management success, strengthens accountability and increases the defensibility of future management actions.

Goals for the Kawartha Highlands have been developed based on direction established within the Vision Statement. Goals and associated objectives have been grouped within four general headings: Protection, Recreation, Public and Stakeholder Interests, and Aboriginal Engagement.

The following table (Table 1) is provided to assist in understanding how policies in the remaining sections of this document relate back to the Vision for the area. Objectives and desired outcomes have been provided for each goal statement.

Table 1. Park Goals, Objectives and Desired Outcomes

<p>1. Protection: Ontario's protected areas play an important role in representing and conserving the diversity of Ontario's natural features and ecosystems across the broader landscape. Protected areas include representative examples of life and earth science features, and cultural heritage features within ecologically or geologically defined regions. Ontario's ecological classification system provides the basis for the life science feature assessment and the geological themes provide the basis for earth science assessment. <i>Protection, study and management of the natural resources and processes of Kawartha Highlands are essential for achieving the park's purposes and Vision.</i></p>		
GOALS	OBJECTIVES	DESIRED OUTCOMES
<p>1.1 To protect the ecological integrity of the park as the first priority.</p> <p>Explanation of protection of ecological integrity: Protection and enhancement of the natural composition and abundance of native species, biological communities and ecological processes for the benefit of future generations.</p>	<p>1.1.1 <i>To use a science based ecosystem management approach to maintain biodiversity, rates of change and supporting processes.</i></p> <p>1.1.2 <i>To monitor populations of species at risk and manage for their protection and recovery.</i></p> <p>1.1.3 <i>To protect and enhance the ecologically sensitive values of the park (e.g. ecosystems such as wetlands and alvars).</i></p> <p>1.1.4 <i>To reduce primary stressors on park ecosystem composition, function and structure.</i></p> <p>1.1.5 <i>To contribute to the maintenance of water quality in lakes, streams and wetlands.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ecological integrity of the Kawartha Highlands is maintained and enhanced where possible, including its natural heritage values and processes.</i> • <i>Park users and staff recognize and understand the value of the park's natural resources.</i> • <i>The ecological processes of the park remain unimpaired, and ecosystems are capable of recovering from disturbance.</i> • <i>Park biodiversity is maintained.</i> • <i>Species at risk and their associated habitats are identified and protected.</i> • <i>Park staff uses the best available scientific information and technology to manage the park's natural resources.</i> • <i>Protection of ecological integrity has been achieved, while providing for uses and activities where these do not compromise ecological integrity.</i> • <i>Water quality is within acceptable limits and indicates that ecological functions are being protected.</i>

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	DESIRED OUTCOMES
<p>1.2 To preserve semi-wilderness characteristics.</p>	<p>1.2.1 <i>To provide areas within the park that have semi-wilderness character.</i></p> <p>1.2.2 <i>To reduce noise pollution in semi-wilderness areas.</i></p> <p>1.2.3 <i>To reduce light pollution impacts to dark night skies.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Park users have the opportunity to experience solitude, silence and dark night skies.</i>
<p>1.3 To protect the cultural resources of the park.</p>	<p>1.3.1 <i>To protect cultural heritage artifacts and remnants.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The cultural resources of the park are assessed for significance and their condition monitored over time and they are protected by taking appropriate management actions.</i> • <i>Park users and staff recognize and understand the value of the park's cultural resources.</i>

2. Recreation:

Ontario's goal is to provide

- provincial park outdoor recreation opportunities ranging from high-intensity day-use to low-intensity wilderness experiences,
- opportunities for exploration and appreciation of the outdoor natural and cultural heritage, and
- residents and out-of-province visitors with opportunities to discover and experience the distinctive regions of the Province.

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	DESIRED OUTCOMES
<p>2.1 To provide opportunities for diverse, low-intensity recreation which are compatible with the natural heritage values and semi-wilderness experience, while allowing traditional recreational activities to continue in a controlled manner which has the least impact to ecological integrity.</p>	<p>2.1.1 <i>To allow authorized traditional recreational activities to continue within the park.</i></p> <p>2.1.2 <i>To provide opportunities for semi-wilderness backcountry camping (canoeing and hiking) in a controlled manner to the extent that they are compatible with protection goals.</i></p> <p>2.1.3 <i>To provide local municipalities with social and economic benefits.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>All recreational activities are conducted in a manner that has the least impact to ecological integrity.</i> • <i>A variety of recreational opportunities are available to residents and out-of-province visitors that permit them to experience the distinctive landscape and ecosystem of the area.</i> • <i>Regulated, controlled use of park resources without compromising ecological integrity.</i> • <i>Establishment of an interior travel network, including campsites (both hike in and canoe access), portages and hiking trails.</i> • <i>Expansion of visitor's knowledge and understanding of the parks natural and cultural resources.</i> • <i>Park users are exposed to park management principles and techniques.</i> • <i>Predominantly respectful recreational use that does not impair park values.</i> • <i>Partnerships with local municipalities to promote tourism opportunities in keeping with the park's vision.</i> • <i>The park's current contribution to the local and regional economy continues.</i> • <i>The park's semi-wilderness camping experiences draw a unique clientele to the area, which further benefits the local economy.</i>

3. Public and Stakeholder Interests:

The Kawartha Highlands is part of a greater area: socially, politically, ecologically and historically. Ontario Parks must consider how management actions in Kawartha Highlands affect the surrounding environment and society. For example, management of the park influences local economies through tourism expenditures, as well as the goods and services purchased by the park to support park operations.

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	DESIRED OUTCOMES
3.1 To provide appropriate opportunities for public involvement, including stewardship, planning and management of the park.	3.1.1 <i>Provide public involvement in planning, management and stewardship activities through meaningful opportunities.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ontario Parks manages Kawartha Highlands as part of a greater ecological, social, economic and cultural system. • Good relations are maintained with adjacent landowners, surrounding communities and private and public groups that affect, or are affected by, the park. • Kawartha Highlands is managed proactively to resolve external issues and concerns and to ensure that park values are not compromised. • Kawartha Highlands is recognized and valued as an outstanding example of resource stewardship, conservation, education and public use.
3.2 To allow continued access to and enjoyment of private and tenured land.	3.2.1 <i>Both private and tenured landholders surrounded by the park continue to access and enjoy their lands as they have in the past.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private and tenured landholders are able to access their properties and enjoy activities on these lands as they had prior to the establishment of the park.
3.3 To allow existing commercial activities to continue.	3.3.1 <i>Commercial trapping, bait-fish harvesting, bear hunting and tourist operations continue.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing commercial activities continue under the authority of licenses and permits.
3.4 To provide for a continued advisory role for the Management Advisory Board.	3.4.1 <i>Management Advisory Board provides advice on items related to the long-term sustainability of the park.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Management Advisory Board continues to function consistent with the provisions of the KHSSP Act. • The Management Advisory Board works with the public and stakeholder groups to assist with the development of partnerships intended to achieve the vision for the park.

4. Aboriginal Engagement:

Although not specifically identified in the Vision Statement, it has been the clear intent during the planning of the Kawartha Highlands as a park, to engage the Aboriginal communities in the planning and management of the park.

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	DESIRED OUTCOMES
<p>4.1 To engage Aboriginal communities adjacent to the park in appropriate, and mutually beneficial, planning and management activities.</p>	<p>4.1.1 <i>Aboriginal communities are engaged in park management activities that are consistent with the park vision and mutually beneficial activities relating to cultural heritage research and protection.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ontario Parks maintains open, positive and productive relations with Aboriginal communities that have traditionally used the park area.</i> • <i>Park managers and staff respect the view points and needs of the Aboriginal communities and consider Aboriginal values in park management and operations.</i> • <i>Aboriginal communities are encouraged to share their traditional knowledge for use in park management and operations.</i> • <i>Aboriginal communities are encouraged to participate directly in protection and management of cultural resources</i> • <i>Economic development opportunities for Aboriginal communities are explored.</i>

8.0 PARK POLICIES

The following policies are intended to achieve the goals and objectives for KHSSP as set out in Section 7.0.

8.1 Industrial and Commercial Uses

Forestry Operations

- Commercial forestry is not permitted.

Mining

- Prospecting, staking of mining claims, developing mineral interests, working mines is not permitted.

Aggregate and Peat

- Extraction of sand, gravel, topsoil or peat is not permitted.

Power Generation

- Commercial electric power development is not permitted.

Commercial Wild Rice Harvesting

- There is no existing commercial wild rice harvesting operation within the park.
- New operations will not be permitted.

Commercial Trapping

- There are portions of 24 registered trapline areas within the park and all are considered “existing”.
- Existing commercial fur harvesting may continue under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*. Under this Act, MNR has the authority to establish license types and to impose written conditions upon the license, which may include mandatory reporting. Decisions will take into account conservation principles and public safety.
- Trapping is not affected by any zone proposed by this plan.
- Transfer of existing traplines is permitted, subject to established allocation procedures (e.g. MNR approval is required). Transfer may occur when either a trapper surrenders a registered trapline, or trapper privileges are revoked. In addition, trap cabins are considered to be part of the trapline and will also be considered for transfer with the trapline.
- New commercial fur harvesting operations, including cabins and trails, are not permitted in the park. New operations include applications for any area in the park which does not currently have a trapline.
- Under the authority of the superintendent, abandoned trap cabins may be removed or considered for alternative uses.
- Under the authority of an authorized boat cache permit, trappers may cache a boat within the park at a location specified by the park superintendent, to gain access to licensed trapping areas.
- A person who holds a license to trap under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* in a registered trapline area that is situated in the park, or a person

authorized by the license holder, may operate an ATV or motorized snow vehicle anywhere within the park, but only to the extent that is necessary to access the registered trapline area for the purpose of trapping. A permit is required but no fee shall be associated with such a permit.

Commercial Fishing

- There are no existing commercial fishing licenses in the park.
- New operations will not be permitted.

Commercial Bait-fishing

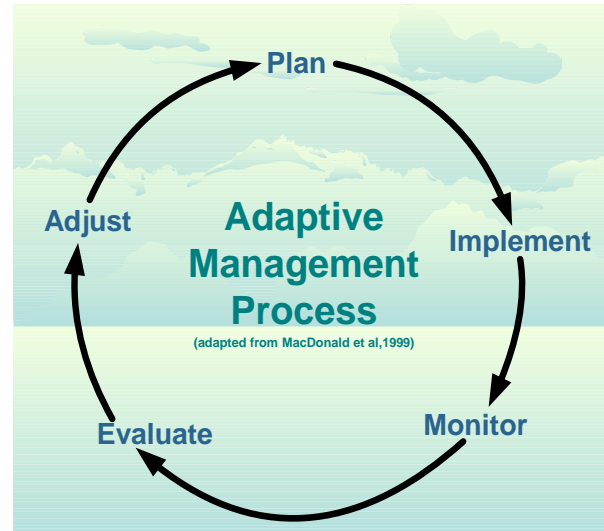
- There are portions of 14 bait harvesting areas (BHAs) in the park.
- Existing commercial bait-fishing may continue subject to conditions attached to the license. Conditions will take into account conservation principles and public safety.
- Bait harvesting is not affected by any zones proposed by this plan.
- No new bait harvesting licenses will be permitted. However, active licenses may be transferred, subject to review and approval by MNR and following established allocation procedures.
- As areas become available, every effort will be made to realign the boundaries of these BHAs prior to transfer so that reporting and monitoring will be specific to the park area.
- Under the authority of an authorized boat cache permit, persons holding a bait harvesting license may cache a boat within the park at a location specified by the park superintendent to gain access to the BHA.
- A person who holds a license to harvest bait under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*, in a registered BHA that is situated in the park, or a person authorized by the license holder may operate an ATV or motorized snow vehicle anywhere within the park, but only to the extent that is necessary in order to access the licensed BHA for the purpose of harvesting bait. A permit is required but no fee shall be associated with such a permit.

Commercial Bear Management Area(s) (BMA)

- There are portions of 5 Bear Management Areas in the park and all are considered existing.
- Bear hunting on existing BMAs is permitted to continue, subject to license conditions, except in portions designated as access zones.
- New BMA licenses will not be issued. New operations include applications for any area in the park which is not currently a designated BMA.
- An existing authorized BMA license may be renewed or transferred where the current operator sells a bear hunting business to another operator, and if the BMA transfer is approved by MNR. If an operator surrenders a BMA, or if the BMA is revoked, reallocation of the BMA may occur, following applicable screening processes. Applications for the renewal or transfer of a BMA will be assessed by MNR staff, with due consideration to management objectives, conservation principles and public safety.
- As BMAs become available, every effort will be made to realign the boundaries of these areas to consolidate the areas in the park prior to transfer so that reporting and monitoring will be specific to the park area.

8.2 Adaptive Management

- An adaptive management approach will be applied to resource management activities within *Kawartha Highlands*.
- Adaptive management allows for frequent modification of management strategies in response to monitoring and analysis of the results of past actions and experiences.
- The adjacent illustration shows adaptive management as a systematic, practical approach to improving resource management.



8.3 Resource Management Policies

- Kawartha Highlands will be managed in accordance with the policies set out in Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies for natural environment class parks, and the Ontario Living Legacy Land Use Strategy. The following policies will guide the management of park resources consistent with the *KHSSP Act*, *Endangered Species Act*, *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act (Effective September 4, 2007)* and with the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. All resource management projects will be undertaken consistent with the Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves.

8.3.1 Land Management

- The management of Kawartha Highlands will be directed toward maintaining the natural landscape and protecting the ecological diversity and integrity of the site.
- Terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity of the site will continue to be documented through inventories, assessments and research.
- Commercial timber harvesting, mining or mineral exploration and commercial electrical power generation development (e.g. hydroelectric and wind power) are not permitted within Kawartha Highlands. In addition, new energy transmission and communications corridors will be discouraged within the park boundary.
- Applications for the installation of power or communication lines across park lands to provide service to patented properties can be authorized by the park superintendent, subject to ensuring that the lines are constructed with minimal possible impact and in accordance with all required legislation, standards and procedures. Where possible marine cables should be used to minimize impacts. Applications will be screened and evaluated through *A Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves*.
- Sewage from in-building park washroom facilities that may be constructed at Kawartha Highlands will be disposed of in MOE-approved septic systems. Sewage from vault privies will be removed from the park by licensed sewage haulers and disposed of at MOE-approved sites.

- Waste consisting of natural materials, such as leaves and grass clippings, will be reused or composted inside the park where feasible and appropriate. Otherwise all solid waste will be removed from the park for recycling or disposal.
- A conservation philosophy of recycling and 'pack-in/pack-out' will be promoted to all park visitors, to address the issue of garbage accumulation within the interior of Kawartha Highlands.
- Ontario Parks proposes to ban interior travellers from possessing non-burnable food or beverage containers other than containers specifically designed and intended for repeated use and for which no deposit is charged. This would address the concern of large amounts of such waste being left in interior or backcountry areas of the park. For clarification purposes, nothing in this policy will prohibit property owners and land tenure holders from transporting cans and glass bottles directly to their property, but they are prohibited from transporting cans and glass bottles into the interior of the park, away from their property or tenured holdings.
- Commercial aggregate extraction from sources within the park is not permitted. Aggregate for park purposes will be acquired from commercial sources outside the park.

8.3.1.1 Private Recreation Camps

There are 59 recreation camps (hunt camps) within the park boundaries and all of these are under the authority of a Land Use Permit (LUP) currently issued on a yearly basis, with conditions applied.

- Existing recreation camp LUPs will be allowed to continue subject to conditions.
- Enhanced tenure may be granted by increasing the term of the LUP from one to five years. The decision to grant enhanced tenure will be the result of a screening process which may include:
 - an assessment of the effect of the camp on the natural heritage values and/or conflict with other users, and
 - history of compliance with LUP conditions or payment
- Recreation camp LUPs may be transferred within the existing camp membership with appropriate supporting documentation.
- Recreation camp LUPs that are not renewed will be reviewed by the park superintendent, to determine the appropriate future for the camp.
- No new private recreation camps will be considered.
- Any addition or improvement to an existing recreation camp will require a work permit and the approval of the park superintendent. A process for considering additions or improvements to recreation camps will be established in the park operating plan.

8.3.1.2 Commercial Tourist Operations

- There are four commercial outpost camps within Kawartha Highlands located on Fair Lake, Elm Lake, Pilot Lake and Bear Lake. These existing commercial tourism facilities may continue within the park.
- No new commercial outpost camps will be considered.
- Existing LUPs may continue to be renewed for commercial tourism purposes, given that the terms, conditions and intent of the permit are being met.
- Commercial tourism establishments that have tenure by LUP may be eligible for enhanced tenure, but not for sale of the land on which they are situated.
- Transfer of commercial tourism facilities is permitted.

- Commercial outpost camp LUPs that are not renewed will be reviewed by Ontario Parks to determine the appropriate future for the camps.
- Where commercial marinas on the lakes in or adjacent to Kawartha Highlands have a LUP or a License of Occupation for facilities in the park such as docks, parking lots and storage buildings, Ontario Parks will cancel these LUPs or Licenses of Occupation if these facilities cease to be operated as commercial ventures. If facilities such as docks and parking lots located on these LUPs or Licenses of Occupation are required for public access, and if no other alternatives for public access exist, the park superintendent will explore options that permit these facilities to continue to be provided.
- As future demand may warrant, proposals for additional or new tourism opportunities may be considered. Any decision should ensure that any new initiatives do not impact the features, values and ecological integrity associated with the park and is in keeping with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act.

8.3.1.3 Boat Caches

- Boat caches are permitted within Kawartha Highlands for the following users only:
 - Owners of private property within the park, for access to their private property.
 - Tenured landowners, for access to their recreation camps.
 - Trappers, to gain access to licensed trapping areas within the park.
 - Persons holding bait-fish harvest licenses within the park, to gain access to bait-fish harvest areas.
 - Operators of commercial outpost camps.
- Boats will be cached in a specific location on each lake as authorized by the park superintendent and will be regulated by permit, which may include time-of-year restrictions.
- Owners will be required to display a boat cache decal, as issued by the park superintendent, on cached boats. Any boats found within Kawartha Highlands without an affixed authorized boat cache decal will be removed.
- A boat cache strategy will be prepared for the park to identify locations that are suitable for boat caches. This strategy will consider environmental impacts.
- The park superintendent may limit the number of boats cached in any authorized location.
- The park superintendent will maintain records of boat caches within the park. Records will include the number and location of boat caches permitted on each lake, and the names of the persons authorized.

8.3.2 Water Management

- Ontario Parks will continue to work in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and other partners to establish baseline information for water quality and quantity within Kawartha Highlands.
- In high-use areas (e.g. access and backcountry camping locations), water quality may be monitored, where feasible, in accordance with provincial standards.
- In 1915, a series of stone dams was installed along Stoney Creek to aid in regulating water levels in the Otonabee and Trent Rivers. These dams no longer play a role in regulating water levels and remain under federal ownership. MNR

will continue to work with federal authorities to regulate these sites as part of Kawartha Highlands.

- A dam at the outlet of Bottle Creek is maintained by the Ministry of Natural Resources, but managed by agreement for the Trent-Severn Waterway. The Mississauga Lake Dam is owned and operated by the Trent-Severn Waterway. Anstruther Lake dam is also used to control water levels in the Trent-Severn and is operated by the Trent-Severn Waterway. Ontario Parks will work cooperatively with the Trent-Severn Waterway to address any concerns arising from water control management and its impact on the park values and resources.
- No new commercial hydro-electric development will be permitted.

8.3.3 Non-Native and Invasive Species

- Non-native species means species not native to Ontario.
- Non-native species will not be deliberately introduced.
- Invasive species means species that are likely to spread and negatively affect native ecosystems.
- Where possible, actions will be taken to eliminate or reduce the threat of invasive non-native species which may be affecting the diversity of naturally occurring populations.
- Long-term monitoring programs will place special emphasis on identifying the occurrence of invasive or non-native species.
- Where non-native species are already established and threaten natural or cultural values, a program of control may be undertaken if feasible and practical.

8.3.4 Extirpated Native Species

- Extirpated native species may be reintroduced, and existing populations replenished as long as these actions are consistent with a recovery strategy for a species at risk, or if biologically feasible, acceptable, and desirable for perpetuating park values.

8.3.5 Insects and Diseases

- Native insects and diseases affecting vegetation will be allowed to progress naturally, except where they threaten significant natural heritage values or significant aesthetic values in the park, in which case they can be controlled.
- The control of non-native insect and disease species may occur where there is a threat to the park's features or adjoining Crown or private lands.
- Where control is undertaken, it will be directed as narrowly as possible to the specific insect or disease so as to have minimal effects on the rest of the park's environment. Non-chemical and species-specific controls will be used whenever possible.

8.3.6 Forest Fire Management

- MNR recognizes fire as an essential ecosystem process, fundamental to restoring and maintaining the ecological integrity of protected areas in the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Forest Region.

Fire plays an important but complex role in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest region (Uhlir et al. 2001). The Kawartha Highlands lies within the broad transition between the Boreal Forest to the north, and the Deciduous Forest to the south. It includes many fire-

adapted and fire-tolerant species from each of the adjacent forest regions (Carleton 2003).

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest region hosts low intensity surface fires occurring at relatively short intervals, as well as higher intensity, stand-replacing fires occurring at long intervals. This is thought to have played an important role in the establishment and maintenance of pine- and oak-dominated forests (van Sleenwen 2006). Surface fires do not generate enough heat to consume most large trees and rarely flare up into the canopy. As a result, these fires create small openings in the forest and kill young, shade-tolerant trees and shrubs, and occasionally individual mature trees, thereby altering succession. High-intensity, stand-replacing fires are less common than in the Boreal region, but have been known to affect large areas and appear to be associated with high levels of ground fuels following prolonged drought, wind, ice storm, or repeated insect damage (Kershaw 1993).

Fire management involves the protection of values and the attainment of resource management objectives through two main areas:

- Fire response: The protection of people, property and natural areas from wildfire; and
- Fire use: The strategy of maintaining fire as an ecological process or meeting resource management objectives through the application or management of prescribed fire.

The Forest Fire Management Strategy for Ontario (OMNR, 2004) provides strategic direction for the management of wildfire across Ontario. *Kawartha Highlands Signature Site* Park is in the *Great Lakes-St. Lawrence* Fire Management Zone according to this provincial strategy.

Fire management within *Kawartha Highlands Signature Site* Park will help to restore and maintain ecological integrity while preventing personal injury, value loss, and social disruption.

Fire management will be conducted in accordance with the following management direction.

- Fires that pose a threat to public health and safety, property and infrastructure, or other values will receive a full response and sustained action. Sustained action, if required, will be directed through an approved Fire Assessment Report that has been developed in consultation between the Park Superintendent or Zone Manager and authorized fire management personnel.
- Opportunities for modified response and monitoring to achieve ecological or hazard reduction objectives may be considered in consultation between the Park Superintendent or Zone Manager and authorized fire management personnel. Consideration and documentation will be in accordance with the Guidelines for Modified Response and Monitoring during Managed Fire Operations.
- During periods of escalated fire activity, availability of suppression resources may be limited. If necessary, fires will be prioritized for initial

attack and/or sustained action. Prioritization will involve consultation between senior park and fire managers at the district and regional levels. Approved Fire Assessment Reports will be used to prioritize fires and identify the appropriate response options.

- “Light on the land” fire suppression techniques will be used whenever feasible. These minimal impact suppression techniques do not unduly disturb natural or cultural values. Examples may include limiting the use of heavy equipment or the felling of trees during fire response.
- Prescribed fire is any forest fire deliberately utilized in a predetermined area in accordance with a pre-specified and approved burning prescription to achieve preset objectives. Prescribed fire does not include prescribed burning. Because of the limited size of the park and extensive visitor use during the fire season, the use of randomly ignited prescribed fire is not feasible and will not be used.
- Prescribed burning is the deliberate, planned and knowledgeable application of fire by authorized personnel to a specific land area to accomplish pre-determined objectives. Prescribed burning to achieve ecological or hazard reduction objectives may be considered. Plans for any prescribed burning will be developed in accordance with the MNR Prescribed Burn Policy, its associated planning manual, and the Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves, in cooperation with Haliburton Fire Management Headquarters.
- Response for structural fires and forest fires is guided by a municipal forest fire management agreement between the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Municipality of the Township of North Kawartha and the Municipality of Galway-Cavendish and Harvey. Fire evacuation procedures will be as outlined in the Fire Emergency and Evacuation Plan for Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park.

8.3.7 Species at Risk

- The Ministry of Natural Resources provides enhanced protection to species that are deemed endangered, threatened, or of special concern. This is carried out through legislation, policies and the development of recovery strategies.
- In Kawartha Highlands, species at risk and their habitats will be protected consistent with the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* and regulations.
- Consistent with Ontario Parks policy, species found within Kawartha Highlands that have been identified on the Species at Risk in Ontario (SARO) list by MNR as “endangered (not regulated)”, ‘threatened’ or ‘special concern’ will be afforded the same level of protection as an endangered species regulated under the *Endangered Species Act*.
- Populations of species at risk, and rare plants and animals will be monitored.
- Management actions for species at risk may be undertaken as supported by research, and directed through approved recovery strategies or other species specific management plans.

8.3.8 Vegetation Management

- Kawartha Highlands will be maintained in as natural a state as possible.
- Management of vegetation within Kawartha Highlands will be directed toward supporting the natural succession of vegetation communities.
- Commercial timber harvesting is prohibited in the park. The harvesting of non-timber forest products is also not permitted.
- The cutting of live vegetation by park users is prohibited.
- The removal of hazard trees is permitted in all zones where safety is a concern (e.g., roads, access points, interior campsites, trails). Standing dead trees will be removed if they pose a safety hazard, but otherwise will be left in place as wildlife habitat. In appropriate cases, broken or rotted limbs or crowns may be removed, leaving the lower trunk for wildlife habitat.
- Ontario Parks proposes to prohibit chainsaws in the park except as authorized by the park superintendent.
- Areas that require rehabilitation (e.g. roads and trails, interior campsites) may be restored.
- Where planting or seeding is necessary, use will be made of species native to the park, and sources of these species that originate in or near the park.
- Herbicide applications for vegetation management are discouraged, other than for the control of poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans* ssp. *negundo*) on designated trails/portages to ensure visitor health and safety.
- Brushing along existing approved roads and trails may be permitted, depending on park values.
- Existing fuelwood permits may be renewed. Water access properties are eligible to apply for new fuelwood permits. In both cases only dead wood may be harvested and harvesting must occur within 100 m of the harvester's own property. This will be subject to a review that will determine the impact of fuelwood harvesting on natural heritage values. Recreation camp permit holders may harvest dead wood only, and harvesting is restricted to the LUP area (.5 ha) or within 5 m on either side of the approved motorized vehicle access road and trail system. The park superintendent may identify other areas for fuelwood harvesting (e.g. blowdown areas) as available.

8.3.9 Wildlife Management

- Wildlife within Kawartha Highlands will be managed on a sustainable basis, in accordance with current policies and legislation (e.g. *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*, *Migratory Birds Convention Act*).
- Wildlife management will be directed towards the maintenance and/or enhancement of diverse and healthy populations.
- Animal populations or individual nuisance animals may be controlled or removed from the park when essential to human health and safety, the health of the species outside the park, or the values for which the park has been established.
- Where control is necessary, techniques will be used having minimal effects on other components of the park's environment.
- Appropriate methods of population control may be undertaken directly by Ontario Parks, or through partnerships under the strict supervision of Ontario Parks.
- A wildlife management plan may be prepared for the park.

8.3.10 Fisheries Management

- Fisheries management at Kawartha Highlands will focus on managing the park's fisheries to maintain native species diversity, protecting self-sustaining native species fisheries (e.g., lake trout), maintaining and or enhancing high quality fishing opportunities and keeping the harvest of fish within sustainable levels.
- The Bancroft District Fisheries Management Plan will provide direction for the management of fisheries that are now contained in the park.
- Fish stocking may occur subject to MNR fish stocking guidelines and principles. The purpose of fish stocking within Kawartha Highlands will be to draw fishing pressure away from naturally reproducing lake trout lakes. Stocking of lakes with such species as splake and rainbow trout may only continue, where their stocking supports the protection of existing naturally reproducing lake trout populations. New stocking programs will require screening and evaluation under *A Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves*.
- Naturally-reproducing lake trout populations will be managed to control the harvest at sustainable levels through the implementation of seasons and/or slot limits.
- To assist the recovery of lake trout stocks in lakes in which native lake trout populations are found to be approaching critically low population levels, the Ministry of Natural Resources may enhance stocks by rearing and stocking lake trout of the same genetic strain.
- Fish sanctuaries may be established for fisheries management purposes. At Kawartha Highlands, fish sanctuaries will be established primarily to aid in the recovery of lake trout populations.
- Spawn collection by the Ministry of Natural Resources is permitted to help support the ongoing efforts of MNR to perpetuate the gene pool of fisheries stocks in other water bodies (e.g., lake trout).
- Where practical, regulatory tools will be used to prevent the introduction of undesirable fish species to protect the biological diversity of native fish populations.
- Monitoring of fish populations by conducting assessment surveys of fish populations within the park is permitted.
- Fisheries habitat rehabilitation is permitted.
- The park superintendent will work cooperatively with the district manager, Bancroft District MNR to address fisheries management concerns within Kawartha Highlands as required.
- To protect existing naturally-reproducing lake trout populations within Kawartha Highlands, the park superintendent will work cooperatively with the District Manager, Bancroft District MNR and officials of the Trent-Severn Waterway to address the timing of water draw-down during the lake trout spawning season.
- To protect the Kawartha Highlands fishery from introductions of diseases and undesirable competing species, Ontario Parks proposes a ban on the use and possession of live bait-fish in park waters.

8.3.11 Cultural Resources Management

- The management of cultural heritage resources within Kawartha Highlands will be directed towards protection, as well as provision of heritage appreciation and research opportunities.

- Within Ontario Parks, protecting cultural heritage resources is a high priority and can be addressed through zoning, legislation and public education.
- Ontario Parks will continue to work with the Ministry of Culture and with Aboriginal communities to inventory, protect and maintain archaeological and historic sites within Kawartha Highlands.
- Periodic inspection of all identified significant sites will be carried out by Ontario Parks staff.
- Controls to protect sites will be established where required.
- The removal of artifacts, or the disturbance or destruction of historical features, is illegal and prohibited.
- Protection and management of cultural heritage resources will be undertaken consistent with A Technical Guideline for Cultural Heritage Resources for Projects Planned Under the Class Environmental Assessment for MNR Resource Stewardship and Facility Development Projects and Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves (MNR 2006).
- If significant cultural heritage resources are identified, the management plan may be amended through zoning changes and other means, if necessary, in order to ensure their protection.

8.3.12 Scientific Collecting and Bio-prospecting

- The collection of fossils, rocks, minerals, archaeological/cultural artifacts, plants, seeds and bio-prospecting is permitted by research permit and/or scientific collector permit.

8.3.13 Research

- Scientific research by qualified individuals contributing to the knowledge of natural and cultural history and to environmental management will be encouraged. All research will be conducted by, or authorized by, Ontario Parks.
- Research projects will be administered through park policy directive PM 2.45 (Research Activities in Provincial Parks) and requires a research permit. Research must also meet all requirements under applicable provincial and federal legislation. Approved research and monitoring activities must be consistent with Ontario Parks' Research and Information Strategy (1997).
- Temporary facilities in support of approved research and monitoring activities may be considered.
- Direction for research activities in the park will be consistent with the Southeast Zone Research and Information Strategy (2001).
- The focus on ecological integrity will remain a priority for research within the park.
- Priority research projects include:
 - Identification of park-specific indicators of ecological integrity
 - Quantification of the impact of recreational activities on indicators of park ecological integrity
 - Framework and analysis of the "State of Ecological Integrity within Kawartha Highlands"
- Approved research activities and facilities will be compatible with protection values and/or recreational uses in the park, and will be subject to development and management policies associated with the park's classification, unless special permission is given.
- Sites altered by research activities will be rehabilitated as closely to their previous condition as possible.

- Removal of natural materials or artifacts is strictly prohibited, unless authorized by the Park Superintendent, and any materials removed remain the property of Ontario Parks.
- Partnerships may be established with universities, colleges, industry, government and non-government organizations, First Nations, and other associations to advance applicable research.
- Technical support and assistance may be provided, where possible, by Ontario Parks staff.
- Any First Nation cultural heritage research will include the involvement of local Aboriginal communities and will require approval and monitoring by the Ministry of Culture.

8.3.14 Inventory and Monitoring

- Planning and management decisions are intended to protect the ecological integrity of Kawartha Highlands.
- Ontario Parks will ensure that these decisions are made with the best available information. Where this information is lacking, Ontario Parks may conduct inventories and monitoring, as necessary, to provide this information. Such efforts will be undertaken based on established methodologies and best practices.
- This will foster an adaptive management approach to protected areas management. The following are broad approaches to identifying inventory and monitoring needs: management actions identified in this management plan; public input; routine park maintenance activities; staff knowledge and experiences and environmental scans.
- Inventories and long-term monitoring programs will be developed to address the status of the park's environmental health. As part of this initiative, key indicators of resource and ecosystem conditions will be developed and monitored over the long term. Special emphasis will be placed on monitoring species at risk, other provincially rare species, the occurrence of invasive or non-native species, and the impacts of recreation on park resources.
- A monitoring plan will be prepared.
- Priority inventory projects include:
 - 'Ecological Land Classification' inventories to prepare an ecosite vegetation map
 - Key habitat areas for Species at Risk
 - Aquatic species/ecosystem inventory
 - Cultural resources inventories with priority emphasis on pre-contact archaeological inventories
- Priority monitoring projects include:
 - Ecological impacts of stressors on indicators of park ecological integrity
 - Effectiveness of management actions for protecting ecological integrity
 - Monitoring indicators of ecological integrity to determine trends
 - Natural and human impacts on cultural sites
 - Lake trout population assessments

8.4 Recreation Management Policies

- Kawartha Highlands will be managed to provide for diverse low-density semi-wilderness recreational opportunities that do not significantly compromise the

- ecological integrity of the park. Traditional activities, including canoeing, hiking, backcountry hiking and hunting will continue to be integral components of the park's recreation program as provided for in the KHSSP Act.
- Consistent with this direction, the initial task of the recreation management program will be to evaluate and quantify the carrying capacity of Kawartha Highlands for recreation.
 - As part of this evaluation the park's existing backcountry campsites and their resource impacts will be assessed. Based on existing and future data, carrying capacity and space standards for backcountry camping will be evaluated to determine the park's carrying capacity for this specific activity. The process will be carried out in the context of implementing the Kawartha Highlands Management Plan.

8.4.1 Services for Visitors

- The park may provide the following products and services: firewood, camping and grocery supplies, camping equipment rentals, canoe rentals, fishing equipment rentals and souvenirs. Staff from Kawartha Highlands will work cooperatively with local tourism information centres, including local provincial and municipal travel centres to provide information about the park.
- New facilities and/or services may be considered only if they are consistent with the goals and objectives and the overall vision established for the park.

8.4.2 Fees

- With the sole exception of the fees exempted by the KHSSP Act, 2003, all other day use, backcountry camping and vehicle permit fees as required by the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act (Effective September 4, 2007)* will apply to users of Kawartha Highlands. Despite whether charges apply or not, all persons using Kawartha Highlands will require valid permits as required by the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act (Effective September 4, 2007)*. Ontario Parks may also charge other fees from time to time, as required by the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act (Effective September 4, 2007)* or as recommended by the Kawartha Highlands Management Advisory Board. Fees waived for owners of adjacent private property, leaseholders etc. and conditions are found in the KHSSP Act.

8.4.3 Hunting

- Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park lies within Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 60. Hunting is permitted within KHSSP and is subject to the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*. Hunting is not permitted in access zones. Kawartha Highlands is currently listed under O.Reg. 665/98, Section 110(b) under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*. MNR is considering a change to the regulation to broaden the scope of hunting in Kawartha Highlands to increase the number of species that can be hunted throughout the entire year. Consultation on this proposal is not part of the management planning process and will occur later as MNR considers changing the present regulation.
- Hunting within KHSSP is subject to sustainable wildlife management prescriptions, and the applicable Ontario and Federal hunting regulations.
- Hunters may use an ATV on the approved road and trail system to access areas for the purpose of hunting, subject to permit requirements as more fully described in Section 8.4.6 of this plan.

- The use of ATVs for the purpose of retrieving game is only permitted on the approved road and trail system.

8.4.4 Recreational Fishing

- Recreational fishing is permitted, subject to provincial and federal fisheries regulations (e.g. the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* and the *Fisheries Act (Canada)* as set out in the Ontario Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary).
- No person is permitted to use an ATV to access lakes in the park for fishing purposes.
- A person may enter the park and operate a motorized snow vehicle on a body of water in the park that is covered with ice, in order to engage in fishing.
- Ontario Parks proposes a ban on the use and possession of live bait-fish within Kawartha Highlands. A public education and awareness component will support this policy, during its implementation at Kawartha Highlands.

8.4.5 Backcountry Travel

- ATVs and motorized snow vehicles are permitted on authorized trails only, and are subject to the policies governing mechanized use as stated in section 8.4.6.
- Backcountry camping will be permitted on designated campsites only, and will be made available through site-specific reservation arrangements. Ontario Parks may institute a maximum length of stay. Campsites will be limited to a maximum of 9 persons per campsite.
- Ontario Parks proposes a ban on non-burnable food and beverage containers for backcountry users as more fully described in Section 8.3.1.
- Interior users will be required to carry out and take home all garbage.
- Park Users will be encouraged to use portable refillable camp stoves in the interior as a means of reducing the incidence of recreational fires. The use of portable stoves will also reduce site degradation caused by the removal of vegetation for campfires, and lessen the demands on the natural dead wood supply adjacent to heavily-used campsites.
- Fires are permitted in designated fire pits only.
- Electronically amplified music will be permitted only with the use of headsets, in keeping with the semi-wilderness experience promoted at Kawartha Highlands.
- Ontario Parks proposes to prohibit the possession of a gasoline generator at backcountry campsites.

8.4.6 Mechanized Travel

Aircraft

- Aircraft may land on lakes (open or frozen) by permit, for access to private properties and tenured land only. No fee shall be charged for the permit.
- Aircraft may land in the park to carry out park management activities or to provide emergency services.

Motorboats

- Ontario Parks proposes to amend existing regulations to restrict motorboats to any lake which has private property (Anstruther, Wolf, Loon Call, Long, Loucks, Rathbun, Crab, Bottle, Buzzard, Cox and Cold Lakes). Motorboats will not be permitted on any other lake, other than for park management or emergency response purposes.

- In addition, Ontario Parks proposes that only owners of private property on Crab, Bottle, Buzzard, Cox and Cold Lakes will be permitted to operate motorboats on these lakes.
- Boat caches are only permitted for access purposes to private property or tenured land, and in a location determined by the park superintendent. Permits will be required. Boat cache policies are more fully described in Section 8.3.1.3.
- Overnight mooring of motorboats will not be permitted.

Snowmobiles

- Motorized snow vehicles may only be operated on an authorized, pre-existing road or trail or potential new access road(s), for the sole purpose of gaining access to private or tenured property or for recreational purposes on a trail maintained for such a purpose by the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs.
- For purposes of gaining access to winter fisheries, motorized snow vehicles are restricted to travelling over frozen lakes.
- No person shall operate a motorized snow vehicle in the park for the purpose of gaining access to private or tenured property, bait-fish harvesting areas or traplines, unless the person has obtained a vehicle permit issued under the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act (Effective September 4, 2007)*, and no fee shall be charged in respect to the issuance of such a permit.
- No person shall operate a motorized snow vehicle on a trail maintained by or on behalf of the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs, unless he/she has a valid permit for such a trail under the *Motorized Snow Vehicles Act* or is otherwise entitled to use such a trail under the Act.
- A person who holds a valid trail permit issued under the *Motorized Snow Vehicles Act* or who is otherwise entitled under the Act to operate a motorized snow vehicle on a trail operated or maintained by the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs may, without charge for the use of the trail or for entrance to the park, operate a motorized snow vehicle on any such trail that is located in the park.
- A person who holds a license to trap under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* in a registered trapline area that is situated in the park, or a person authorized by the license holder, may, without charge, enter the Park and operate a motorized snow vehicle anywhere in the park, but only to the extent that is necessary in order to access the registered trapline area for the purpose of trapping.
- A person who holds a bait-fish license under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* with respect to a BHA situated in the Park, or a person authorized by the license holder; may, without charge, operate a motorized snow vehicle anywhere in the Park but only to the extent that is necessary in order to access the BHA for the purpose of harvesting bait-fish.
- A person may operate a motorized snow vehicle anywhere in the park if the vehicle is operated for one of the following purposes:
 - In order to carry out park management activities.
 - In order to provide emergency services.
- No new snowmobile trails shall be constructed in the park.

All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

- A person may operate an ATV in the park on authorized roads and trails for the following purposes:
 - Access to private property or tenured land (e.g. recreation camps, BMA holders),
 - Access to areas for hunting purposes along the approved roads and trails system.
 - Access to a park facility (on the most direct route from park entrance)
 - Trapping (for holders of a license to trap on their registered trapline)
 - Bait-fish harvesting (for holders of a bait-fish license on their assigned harvest area)
- No person shall operate an ATV in the park for the purpose of gaining access to private or tenured property, BHAs, traplines or hunting areas unless the person has obtained a vehicle permit issued under the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act (Effective September 4, 2007)*, and no fee shall be charged in respect of the issuance of such a permit.
- A person who holds a license to trap under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* in a registered trapline area that is situated in the park, or a person authorized by the license holder, may, without charge, enter the park and operate an ATV anywhere in the park, but only to the extent that is necessary in order to access the registered trapline area for the purpose of trapping.
- A person who holds a bait-fish license under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* with respect to a BHA situated in the park, or a person authorized by the license holder; may, without charge, operate an ATV anywhere in the Park but only to the extent that is necessary in order to access the BHA for the purpose of harvesting bait-fish.
- An ATV may be operated anywhere in the park if the vehicle is operated for one of the following purposes:
 - In order to carry out park management activities.
 - In order to provide emergency services.
- No new ATV trails shall be constructed in the park.
- A motor vehicle that is not an ATV, shall not be operated on trails in the park but shall only be operated on an approved road designated for such a purpose.

Motorcycles, Motorized Bikes and Scooters

- No person shall operate a motorcycle, motorized bike or scooter within Kawartha Highlands except in a designated access zone or on an authorized pre-existing road or trail as prescribed by the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park Act s.13 (2).

8.4.7 Shore Lunch Sites

- Designated shore lunch sites may be established at the discretion of the park superintendent where necessary.

8.4.8 Other Recreational Uses

- Geocaching may be permitted at the discretion of the park superintendent. Access to geocache sites will be restricted to park hiking trails only.
- Cross-country skiing will be permitted.
- Snowshoeing will be permitted.

- Bird watching will be permitted. A contingency plan will be developed to help minimize the impact associated with a rare bird report.
- Dog sledding will be permitted on designated trails only.
- Scuba diving is permitted.
- Skin diving is permitted.
- Sailing and sailboarding are permitted.
- The following activities will be prohibited within Kawartha Highlands:
 - Adventure racing
 - Horseback riding
 - Llama trekking
 - Mountain biking
 - Rock climbing
 - Ice climbing
 - War games

8.5 Operations Policies

- A park operations plan will be prepared to provide park staff with the necessary direction required to operate the park on a day to day basis.
- In addition to addressing the operations policies that follow, the plan will include such topics as budget, staffing, maintenance schedules, enforcement and emergency services.
- Operational strategies will ensure that the objective of ecological integrity and protection of Kawartha Highlands is not compromised.
- The provisions of the plan will be consistent with the approved *Ontario Provincial Parks Minimum Operating Standards*, and will be reviewed annually and updated as required.

8.5.1 Natural Heritage Education

- The goal of the Natural Heritage Education program is to develop visitor awareness and appreciation of Ontario Parks' natural and cultural heritage, fostering a commitment to its protection for future generations. Programming at Kawartha Highlands will include the three components of Natural Heritage Education: *information*, *interpretation* and *outdoor recreation*. At Kawartha Highlands, Natural Heritage education is at the self-use level.
- A Natural Heritage Education Operating Plan will be developed for the park.
- Natural Heritage Education at Kawartha Highlands will place an emphasis on achieving the following two purposes: a) to develop a spirit of cooperation among all users of Kawartha Highlands to ensure that the semi-wilderness characteristics of the park are preserved, and that the environmentally sensitive aspects of the area are maintained for the benefit of future generations, and b) to simultaneously instil in all park users the skills, knowledge, and behaviour necessary to both personal satisfaction and environmental preservation while enjoying the park. Key aspects of the program are described as follows:

8.5.1.1 Information

- Emphasis will be on providing the following information:
 - Park Concept and Development – An informative description of Kawartha Highlands, its values and features and how all users can work cooperatively to ensure their protection.

- Interior Travel Routes – Specific and detailed information, suitable for field use, which describes trails, canoe routes and designated campsites.
- User regulations – An environmental code of behaviour governing park users, emphasizing the need to protect park resources and the rights of other users.
- Minimal-impact camping including litter control; use of stoves and portable shelter; protection of water supply; and other considerations.
- General Information – Distributed through such means as letters, newsletters, kiosks, internet site(s) as well as personal contact with park staff, to keep users and stakeholders current with respect to the management of Kawartha Highlands and aware of opportunities to work cooperatively to deliver the park vision.

8.5.1.2 Park Interpretation

- The protection of the ecological integrity of Kawartha Highlands is of paramount importance to ensure the long-term protection of both natural and cultural heritage values of this unique area. The interpretive program will be a key element that will create an understanding among all users about the important environmentally sensitive aspects of Kawartha Highlands, the key stressors affecting the Kawartha Highlands environment and how park users can lessen their impact on the land.
- The overriding theme for Kawartha Highlands is the “Land in Between”. The overriding theme recognizes that Kawartha Highlands’ rich mosaic of diverse habitats and species is the direct result of its unique location between two major ecological regions: the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Lowlands and the Canadian Shield. Themes that support this include:
 - The Kawartha Highlands Landscape. This theme will emphasize the overall representative quality of the park and the variety of resource values inherent in Kawartha Highlands.
 - Forest Landscape Connections. This theme will emphasize Kawartha Highlands’ connectivity with surrounding protected areas and how this is important in ensuring the ecological integrity of the park.
 - An Important Headwaters Area. This theme will describe the importance of the park’s lakes and streams to the Bay of Quinte Watershed.
 - Protecting the Legacy. This theme will explain how Kawartha Highlands will be managed to protect its ecological integrity and its semi-wilderness characteristics. An important part of this theme will be to explain the role of science in managing Kawartha Highlands. It will also emphasize the importance of monitoring and research, and how individuals and groups can become involved. Emphasis will also be given to interpreting the implementation of the resource management policies of this plan, the preparation of resource management plans, and information related to the protection of species at risk.

8.5.1.3 Outdoor Recreation Programs

- Outdoor/recreational skills training programs (e.g., wilderness tripping, map and compass skills) may be offered by Ontario Parks or through partnerships with private contractors, to help visitors understand and better enjoy the many aspects of the park.

8.5.2 Partnerships

- In the implementation of the approved park management plan, Ontario Parks may pursue opportunities for partnerships involving other agencies and groups through formal partnership agreements.
- Partnerships will be encouraged for resource management and operations projects.
- Partners may represent local communities, and local and provincial interests.
- Partners will work with Ontario Parks to assist with the implementation of the approved park management plan and follow provincial park policies and regulations.

8.6 Marketing and Communications Policies

8.6.1 Marketing

- The park will not be marketed until such time as adequate infrastructure is in place to meet projected uses/user demand.
- When a decision to market the park is made, a marketing plan will be prepared. Kawartha Highlands will be marketed as a distinctive natural area, providing a variety of low-intensity recreational opportunities. The plan will be consistent with the vision statement and it will be developed in cooperation with the Management Advisory Board.
- The marketing plan will be consistent with the Ontario Parks Marketing Plan.
- The plan will be reviewed at three-year intervals or as required.
- The marketing plan may include references to marketing partners such as provincial and regional tourist agencies, chambers of commerce, business improvement associations and other organizations as appropriate.

8.6.2 Communications

- Information regarding Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park will be made available to the public through means such as the Ontario Parks website, at designated kiosks throughout the park and by staff presentations.

8.7 Development Policies

- All development undertaken by Ontario Parks, or by partners on its behalf, will comply with *A Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves (2004)*, and will be carried out in accordance with approved site and development plans that meet development standards for provincial parks.
- Areas proposed for development will require prior assessment for significant cultural heritage features and natural values - such as species at risk - to ensure these values are identified and protected at the site.
- No facility that is intended for public use shall be erected or constructed by Ontario Parks at a location that is within 100 metres of private property that is surrounded by, or abuts, park lands.

8.7.1 Access Roads

- The potential for two new public access roads to Kawartha Highlands has been provided for in the legislation. An Access Roads Study is underway, that

considers route options to minimize the degree of intrusion in the park, as well as impacts on ecological integrity and strives to maximize appropriate access for park visitors. The Study has been carried out as a category C project in accordance with the Ministry's requirements under the *Environmental Assessment Act* in conjunction with (and parallel to) the Management Planning process for Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park. The Study has investigated alternatives for two potential access roads into the park, one from the east and one from the west. The Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park Access Road Study Draft Environmental Study Report, which includes detailed assessment of access road alternatives and proposes the preferred routes, is being released to the public at the same time as the Preliminary Park Management Plan. This will enable the public and agencies to comment on the progress of both projects at the same venue and timeframe and for the two project teams to share the input received.

- Ontario Parks supports the following recommendations of the draft Environmental Study Report:
 - That no new access roads will be constructed.
 - That Beaver Lake Road and Anstruther Lake Road be the two preferred primary access roads into Kawartha Highlands.
 - That other existing side roads (i.e. Mississagua Dam Road, Long Lake Road, etc.) continue to be used by park users to provide access to canoe routes and campsites that would otherwise be inaccessible.
 - That the park superintendent representing Ontario Parks and the municipalities work together to identify what mitigation measures are necessary to address local concerns. Such mitigation measures may include improved signage, parking lot development, road improvements and may consider the development of municipal road improvement agreements, and funding proposals.

8.7.2 Internal Roads and Trails

- Motorized travel within Kawartha Highlands for the purpose of gaining access to private and tenured land is limited to authorized pre-existing roads and trails only.
- Abandoned roads and/or trails will be left to regenerate, and vehicular travel is not permitted on them.
- No new roads, including roads constructed solely to provide access to private property that is surrounded by, or that abuts, park lands will be constructed in or through the park.
- The construction of new roads intended solely for park management purposes is permitted.
- The park superintendent is permitted to reconstruct and maintain existing roads used solely for park management purposes within the park.
- Where existing roads that provide access to private properties are regulated as part of the park, maintenance will not normally become the responsibility of the park. These roads will continue to be maintained by the individuals or groups who are currently responsible, unless otherwise agreed to.
- Under existing provisions of the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act (Effective September 4, 2007)* the park superintendent may close roads or trails to use by motor vehicles. Closure would primarily address situations where continued use would result in significant environmental damage.

- Realignments of existing trails can be permitted, subject to an approval process. Major realignments will be approved through a planning process with public consultation, while the superintendent can approve minor alignments.
- Subject to the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*, the superintendent may authorize a change in the location of a trail or road providing a right or access, if the change is required for reasons of public safety, or in order to protect the park's ecological integrity.
- No new trails for all-terrain vehicles or motorized snow vehicles shall be constructed in the park, unless the trail is intended to be used solely for park management purposes.
- New hiking trails may be developed, in accordance with a recreational use strategy, which would identify and describe the types and standards for trails, and for periodic monitoring of trail conditions within the site.

8.7.3 Parking Areas

- Upon completion of the Access Road Study, a separate plan will be prepared to address parking needs at Kawartha Highlands. The plan will be prepared with local input to address the location and size of parking areas to reduce conflicts between park visitors and private landowners or tenure holders who use public launching and parking facilities to access their properties; and to address health and safety concerns from inappropriate parking by visitors, caused by insufficient parking.
- Emergency access to central regions of the park will be improved by providing off-road parking to keep road allowances accessible and by providing improved signage to the park.
- All parking areas will be developed following approved site plans.

8.7.4 Day Use Areas

- No new day use areas or beach development is proposed in the park.

8.7.5 Campgrounds

- No car campgrounds will be developed in the park.

8.7.6 Backcountry Campsites

- Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park has 117 backcountry campsites which can be accessed by boat or canoe. Sites will be assessed following specific criteria including site suitability, rehabilitation requirements, impact on park values (e.g., species at risk, Atlantic Coastal Plain flora) and carrying capacity. Some campsites may be closed and/or rehabilitated.
- Additional campsites may be developed to the extent carrying capacity studies permit, provided that decisions to develop further sites are consistent with the overall vision for Kawartha Highlands.
- All backcountry campsites will be developed to minimum backcountry standards (fire rings, privies, signage, etc.).
- A backcountry camping strategy will be prepared during implementation planning. The strategy will determine the appropriate number of campsites for Kawartha Highlands identify those campsites that will be closed or rehabilitated and the locations of any new campsites to be developed.

8.7.7 Roofed Accommodation

- Roofed accommodation may be considered where appropriate and consistent with the overall vision for Kawartha Highlands and supported by an approved business plan.

8.7.8 Trails (& Portages)

- There are currently no designated back packing trails at Kawartha Highlands. New backcountry camping trails may be developed if demand is warranted and subject to environmental assessment.
- Portages will be maintained as part of the interior canoe route system.

8.7.9 Maintenance and Administrative Areas

- Any administration and maintenance centre will be developed at a site to be determined during the implementation phase of this plan. The planning and construction of any administration and maintenance centre will be subject to the provisions of the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

9.0 ZONING AND ZONE MANAGEMENT POLICIES

- Two of a possible six zoning categories are designated for Kawartha Highlands (natural environment, and access) and are based on Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies. No development, historical, nature reserve or wilderness zones have been designated.
- Current uses will be controlled and directed as appropriate, to reduce the impacts of park users on park values. New forms of use will not be encouraged or promoted unless they support the protection and heritage appreciation objectives. Consistent with Provincial Park Policy, commercial timber harvesting, mining and commercial electricity generation will not be permitted within park boundaries.
- When new information becomes available through future inventories or planning, or if there are significant demonstrated conflicts as a result of specific land uses, then enhanced protection of heritage values may be considered. This may be carried out through a change in zoning or other amendments to the plan. Zoning will be reassessed at the 10 year management plan review.
- The extent of each type of zone is as follows:

9.1 Natural Environment Zones

- Natural environment zones include natural landscapes which permit the minimum level of development required to support low-intensity recreational activities. Development is generally limited to backcountry campsites, portages, necessary signs and minimal interpretive facilities. One Natural Environment Zone that covers almost the entire park has been identified for Kawartha Highlands.

NE-1

- This zone includes a highly diverse natural area that contains extensive forests, rock barrens, lakes, rivers and wetlands. Many significant species are found interspersed across this zone.

- There are two purposes for this zone. The first is to provide opportunities for low-density semi-wilderness recreation experiences. The second is to protect sensitive natural features and values.
- The zone includes a number of tenured properties that include both private recreation camps and tourist camps. These activities will continue in this zone.
- Hunting, fishing, trapping and bait-fish harvesting are permitted within this zone.
- Use of portages and dispersed backcountry camping at designated sites will continue.
- Use of motorized snow machines is permitted as more fully described in Section 8.4.6.
- Motor vehicle use will continue to be permitted within the natural environment zone on the approved pre-existing road and trail system in accordance with Sections 8.4.6 of this plan. This is a pre-existing, non-conforming use that will continue within the park as prescribed by the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park Act. s. 13 (2).
- To enhance backcountry use, the establishment of small, all-season, roofed accommodations (such as yurts) may be considered. These could provide opportunities for canoe-in use, hut-to-hut hiking, and cross-country ski touring.
- Hiking trails may be considered.
- Research, monitoring and resource management activities are permitted.

9.2 Access Zones

- Access Zones serve as staging areas, a means of both providing and regulating use in areas of the park geared towards extensive recreation. Generally development will be limited to roads, parking areas, information kiosks, boat launches, and sanitation facilities. Provisions may be made for limited orientation, interpretive or educational facilities, though generally more for self-use rather than through structured personal service. Limited facilities for research and park management may also be present. Seven access zones are identified.
- A1 - Long Lake
- A2 - Loon Call Lake
- A3 - Wolf Lake
- A4 - Anstruther Lake
- A5 - Anstruther Lake (adjacent to Marina)
- A6 - Bottle Lake
- A7 - Mississagua River

10.0 IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES

- Park development, operations and resource management will be contingent upon the availability of funding and unforeseeable changes in priorities or policy. Implementation of the management plan and operation of the park will meet the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*, *Environmental Bill of Rights*, *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act (Effective September 4, 2007)*, *Endangered Species Act*, and other pertinent legislation.

- All aspects of park management, development and operations will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of *A Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves*.
- Implementation of the operations and management of the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site will follow the direction contained in the final park management plan. A number of implementation priorities will result from ongoing dialogues with key stakeholders such as municipalities, cottage associations, OPP, etc. The ongoing management of the park will recognize the essential role played by these stakeholders. Phasing priorities will be determined through consultation on the Preliminary Park Management Plan and will be shown in the final management plan. Some examples of implementation initiatives include:
 - Prepare and submit changes to regulations under appropriate legislation (e.g. chainsaws, generators, non-burnable food or beverage container, bait-fish ban)
 - Develop access zones
 - Select and develop site for administration and maintenance centre
 - Prepare fire emergency and evacuation plan
 - Amend affected area-specific land-use policies and mapping found in the Crown Land Use Policy Atlas
 - Develop monitoring plan
 - Promote pack-in/pack-out garbage initiative
 - Prepare and implement boat cache strategy
 - Assess impact of fuel wood harvesting
 - Inspect significant cultural sites for use impacts
 - Evaluate and quantify carrying capacity and space standards
 - Prepare recreational use strategy
 - Develop process for considering additions or improvements to recreation camps.
 - Prepare park operations plan
 - Prepare and implement Natural Heritage Education Plan
 - Complete parking needs analysis and develop parking plan
 - Improve emergency access to central regions of the park
 - Assess backcountry campsites and prepare backcountry campsite strategy
 - Develop interior campsites to Ontario Parks standards
 - Develop administration and maintenance facilities
 - Develop and implement permit issuing and fee collection strategy
 - Develop and implement research strategy
 - Prepare strategy for the protection and recovery of endangered, threatened, or special concern species in accordance with existing recovery strategies and zone-wide species at risk strategies

11.0 PLAN AMENDMENT and REVIEW

- The park management plan can be reviewed or amended to address changing issues or conditions. At ten year intervals, this plan will be assessed for the need for a review or amendment.
- A review may involve a reassessment of all or part of the plan, including classification, zoning, goal, objectives and all resource management, operations and development policies.

12.0 GLOSSARY

Access Point: A site, usually along or at the end of a road, used to gain access to backcountry areas. Access points take the form of trailheads, boat launches, road pullouts and water crossings. Typically for the Kawartha Highlands area, access points enable water access by boat or canoe to recreational resources such as canoe routes, angling lakes, cottages and hunting areas.

Access Zones: Designated areas of a park that serve as staging areas, a means of both providing and regulating use in areas of the park geared towards extensive recreation. Generally, development is limited to roads, visitor control structures and group campgrounds. Provision may be made for limited orientation, interpretive or educational facilities, though generally more for self-use rather than through structured personal service. Limited facilities for research and park management may be present.

Aggregate: Gravel, sand, clay, earth, shale, stone, limestone, dolostone, sandstone, marble, granite, rock other than metallic ores, or other prescribed material under the *Aggregate Resources Act*.

Aggregate extraction: The excavation or removal of aggregate.

Alien Species: Plants, animals and micro-organisms that have been accidentally or deliberately introduced into areas beyond their normal range. Synonyms may include introduced, non-native and exotic.

All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV):

Has four wheels, the tires of which are all in contact with the ground

Has a steering handlebar

Has a seat that is designed to be straddled by the driver

Meets requirements of the Motor Vehicle Safety Act (MCSA) and the National Standards Institute (NSI standard)

Is designed to carry a driver only and no passengers

Alvar: A limestone plain with thin soil and, as a result, sparse vegetation. This environment is characterized by poor drainage, so these areas flood in the spring and become very dry and hot in the summer. This challenging habitat supports a community of rare plants and animals, including species more commonly found on prairie grasslands.

Approved Land Use Direction: *The Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* (July 1999), and any other land use direction formally approved by a ministry of the Ontario Government (e.g., MNR's District Land Use Guidelines, Atlas of Land Use Designations, etc.). Land use planning processes are used to arrive at Land Use Direction.

Archaeological Resource: The remains of any building, structure, activity, place or cultural feature, which because of the passage of time is on or below the surface of the land or water. Significant archaeological resources are those which have been identified and evaluated and determined to be significant to the understanding of the history of a people or place. The identification and evaluation of this resource is based upon an archaeological assessment.

Area of Archaeological Potential: An area with medium or high potential for the discovery of archaeological resources. The potential is based on the presence of a wide range of geographic and historical features, which influenced past settlement. Archaeological potential is confirmed through archaeological assessment, and refers to the probability, based on a wide range of information sources, that a significant archaeological site will occur.

Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSIs): Areas of land and/or water having natural landscapes or features with important natural heritage, scientific or educational values. Depending on their features, they may be referred to as Life Science (ecological) or Earth Science (geological) sites. These areas vary in their level of significance and their vulnerability to environmental impacts. They are identified by the Ministry of Natural Resources and are classified as being either of “provincial”, “regional” or “local” significance.

Authorized Resource Users: Individuals or groups (to whom MNR may have issued a letter of authority to use motorized vehicles) who carry out activities associated with their licenses within the park. These include trappers, Bear Management Area operators and bait-fish dealers. Authorized resource users also include those existing private property owners and land use permit holders who may travel by mechanized means to access their property only.

Authorized Roads and Trails (Existing): These are roads that have been agreed upon between Ministry of Natural Resources/Ontario Parks and a non-government interest. Snowmobile trails are the authorized trails of the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs.

Backcountry: A term applied to areas where there are no permanent access roads, developments or settlements. Camping facilities are generally primitive (fire pit, tent pads, pit privy) and few other facilities exist.

Backcountry Recreation: Activities that include canoe tripping and backpacking in remote areas, accessible only by non-mechanized means.

Bear Management Area (BMA): A large area of land that is managed by the bear management area licensee for the sustainable harvest of black bear.

Backcountry travel: Non-mechanized travel through remote areas characterized by minimal facilities to support recreational use. Examples include canoeing, kayaking, day hiking and extended backpacking.

Biodiversity or Biological Diversity: The variability among all living organisms from all their habitats and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

Boat Cache: A temporary or indeterminate storage site for boats/canoes adjacent to a water body. Typically boat caches are found at the “far end” of portages, enabling anglers to access lakes by foot or ATV that do not have direct vehicle access. Other boat caches are found on lakes which are typically accessed only by aircraft.

Built Heritage Resources: One or more significant buildings, structures, monuments, installations or remains associated with architectural, cultural, social, political, economic or military history and identified as being important to a community. These resources may be identified through designation or heritage conservation easement under the Ontario Heritage Act, or listed by local, provincial or federal jurisdictions.

Carrying Capacity: Capacity of a site to support a use without substantial negative impact on environmental features such as water quality, natural vegetation, soil, wildlife population and visual attractiveness.

Commercial Bait-fish Harvest Area: An area of water that has been licensed for the purposes of commercially taking minnows and bait-fish.

Conservation: The wise use of natural resources in a way that will maintain, restore, enhance and protect their quality and quantity to ensure their future availability to humans and the

environment. This includes maintaining ecosystem, species and genetic diversity and the processes that shaped them.

Conservation Organization: A non-government conservation body including a land trust, conservancy or similar not-for-profit agency governed by a charter or articles of incorporation or letters patent, and with by-laws and objectives that support the protection of the natural environment. Such an organization must have registered charitable status.

Conservation Reserve (CR): A second type of regulated protected area in Ontario regulated and managed under the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act (Effective September 4, 2007)*. CRs complement provincial parks in protecting representative landscapes and ecosystems across the province, while allowing a range of existing uses (such as wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, hiking, boating) to continue. Commercial uses such as forestry, mining, hydro development or aggregate extraction are not permitted in CRs.

Crown Land: All land held by the Province of Ontario (including lands under water) that has never been granted to any individual or group. This also includes lands that have been re-acquired by the Province.

Crown Land Use Policy Atlas: A Ministry of Natural Resources strategic planning document that provides Crown land planning direction in policy reports concerning the use of land and water in a defined area (e.g. provincial park, enhanced management area, forest reserve). The *Crown Land Use Policy Atlas* has replaced the *District Land Use Guidelines* (OMNR 1983) and is available online at: www.crownlanduseatlas.mnr.gov.on.ca.

Cultural Heritage Resource: Any resource or feature of archaeological, historical, cultural, or traditional use significance. This may include archaeological resources, built heritage or cultural heritage landscapes. Heritage resources and features are usually identified by federal or provincial agencies, municipalities, municipal heritage committees or other equivalent local heritage groups, and local and regional band councils. Some heritage resources and features are legally “designated”, and can be found in official sources. Some may only be inventoried or listed, either officially, or by interested stakeholders. Others have never been identified, although this does not necessarily diminish their cultural significance.

Development Zones: Designated areas within a provincial park that support intensive car camping and day-use activities. They constitute a relatively small portion of most parks. Development may include roads, visitor control structures, beaches, picnic areas, car campgrounds, commercial service facilities, and orientation, interpretive, educational, research and management facilities.

Dike: In geology, a dike is a thin sheet of intrusive igneous rock that cuts across other pre-existing layers or bodies of rock.

District Land Use Guidelines (DLUG): A series of 1983 Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) planning documents that provided direction concerning the use of land and water in a defined area. These documents identified where and how MNR could achieve its objectives in a specific district through the use of Crown land and through influencing the use of private land.

Dome: A round or oval bulge on the Earth’s surface, containing the oldest section of rock in its raised, central part.

Drift: Any material such as till, boulders, gravel, sand or clay, transported by a glacier and deposited by or from the glacial ice, or flowing from it.

Ecodistrict: A unique area of land and water having a characteristic set of physiographic features including bedrock and/or surficial geological features and topography. These features

affect local climate, soils and vegetation, thus playing a major role in determining how landscapes may evolve, habitats may develop and species may associate. The term comes from the Ecological Land Classification (ELC) system for Ontario, a hierarchical classification and inventory of ecosystems in Ontario. The system has three levels, including ecozones, ecoregions, and ecodistricts. Ecodistricts, represent the smallest spatial divisions and are entirely nested within ecoregions, which again are nested within ecozones.

Ecological Integrity: The quality of a natural, unmanaged or managed ecosystem in which the natural ecological processes are sustained, with genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity assured for the future.

Ecological(ly): The sum total of all the natural and cultural conditions which influence and act upon all life forms including humans.

Ecoregion: A large ecological landscape unit that captures major subdivisions of Ontario, primarily identified by sub-continental climatic regimes. Ecoregions identify broad abiotic factors such as temperature and precipitation that influence patterns of primary productivity, biotic distribution, and soil development. Within Ontario there are 14 different ecoregions, ranging from the Hudson Bay Lowlands to the Carolinian Forest. Their sizes range from hundreds of thousands to tens of thousands of square kilometers.

Ecosystem: A dynamic complex of plants, animals and micro-organisms and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit. This unit can be from the small scale, such as a drop of water, to the large scale, such as the biosphere.

Ecosystem Approach: An ecosystem approach to management is as much a philosophy as it is a set of planning and management tools. It aims to understand the interrelationships that may exist between the elements associated with the social, economic and natural environments that are considered when evaluating projects. Furthermore, it encourages people to: consider the elements of ecosystem composition, structure and function; understand how people's actions affect the human and natural environment; ensure that human actions and disturbance mimic natural processes to the greatest extent possible; recognize the wide range of resource values, and; use ecological classifications to map ecosystems.

Ecosystem Health: The condition of an ecosystem, through its structure and functions, that allows biological diversity, biological processes and the integrity of the non-living environment to be maintained over time.

Ecozone: An area of the earth's surface that represents a large ecological zone and has characteristic landforms and climate. Each ecozone is distinguished from others by its unique mosaic of plants, wildlife, climate, landforms and human activities

Endangered Species: The species lives in the wild in Ontario but is facing imminent extinction or extirpation.

Endangered Species (Regulated): A species facing imminent extinction or extirpation in Ontario which has been regulated under Ontario's *Endangered Species Act* (ESA).

Endangered Species (Not Regulated): A species facing imminent extinction or extirpation in Ontario which is a candidate for regulation under Ontario's ESA.

Enhanced Management Area (EMA): A land use category established to provide more detailed land use direction for Crown land. EMAs are intended to maintain a range of values, some of which warrant specific management policies to enhance a particular feature or value.

Environmental Assessment: A process that identifies and evaluates the effects of an undertaking, and its alternatives, on the environment. These effects are presented in a document prepared in accordance with the *Ontario and/or Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*.

Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) Registry: An Internet site, established under the EBR, that allows the public to have input into activities that may impact the environment in Ontario. The Registry assures the basic environmental rights of Ontario residents and allows the decision-making process to be subject to greater public scrutiny.

Environmental Monitoring: The long-term and repeated measurement of selected properties or characteristics of the environment and of the activities believed to be responsible for changes in the environment. The most significant properties or characteristics are often referred to as indicators. Monitoring may be carried out on a very broad, even global scale or on a restricted, local scale.

Environmental Study Report (ESR): The report that formally documents a project evaluation process carried out for a Category C project, under this Class EA.

Existing Land Holder: An existing land holder refers to any person holding Crown land occupational authority, such as a land use permit (LUP), Crown leases, easements or licenses of occupation (LO). It also refers to holders of patented land adjoining the Signature Site (enclosed or landlocked).

Extirpated Species: Species that are no longer found in the wild in the portion of their natural range that is within Ontario but that still exist elsewhere in the world.

Fen: Fairly acidic wetland areas similar to a bog, except for its vegetation which is generally more varied and richer because of the higher mineral content of the water percolating through it.

Fishery Habitat: Any body of water sustaining or having potential to sustain healthy game, forage or fish populations including bait-fish, as identified by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Fisheries Management: Action taken to sustain and improve the health and number of fish by managing their habitat and populations.

Fish Stocking: The release of fish into a waterbody or watercourse.

Ongoing (Fish Stocking): The regular releases of a fish species into a waterbody or watercourse as part of an established program using established stocking procedures in order to meet a desired management objective.

Introduction: The initial release of a fish species into a waterbody or watercourse where it does not occur (i.e. a species is not naturally present, is extirpated, or is not likely to have persisted from past stocking efforts). (The re-establishment of a stocking program that has ceased for a period of time that is greater than the maximum life span of the species being stocked, and where the species is no longer present, would be considered an introduction).

Forest Reserve: An area where protection of natural heritage and special landscapes is a priority, but some resource use can take place with appropriate conditions.

Futed Surfaces: Smooth gutterlike channels or furrows on the face of a rock mass, formed by glaciers as they move over it.

Glaciofluvial: Referring to meltwater streams flowing from glaciers or to the deposits made by such streams.

Gneiss: A metamorphic rock with a banded or foliated structure, typically coarse-grained and containing quartz, feldspar and mica.

Granite: A very hard, crystalline, igneous rock containing quartz, mica and feldspar.

Habitat: The place or environment where an individual species or population naturally occurs. Species may require different habitats for different uses throughout their lifecycle.

Headwater: The source (springs, bogs, lakes, etc.) and first order streams of the drainage system of a given watershed.

Identified Archaeological Site: A registered, designated or identified (existing evidence) site that is contained within the MNR-NRVIS values information data base and/or is a locally identified site that is deemed to be a cultural heritage resource. A registered archaeological site is identified on a Ministry of Culture site registration form with an assigned Borden Number.

Implementation Plan: A subsidiary planning document which takes direction from the park management plan. These plans deal with specific issues such as resource management, park operations or development. They provide more detail to *implement* specific activities within a park as directed by an approved park management plan. Examples include: cultural resources management, emergency plans, recreation management, fisheries, research, vegetation management, facility development and so on.

Interpretation: Any recreational/educational activity by which visitors (actual and potential) gain a greater awareness of the park's natural and cultural history.

Intrusion: The action of forcing a body of igneous rock between or through existing formations, without reaching the surface.

Invasive Species: Any alien species whose introduction or spread threatens the environment, the economy, and/or society, including human health.

Land Disposition: The sale or lease of Crown land or the disposition of Crown land by other instruments.

Landscapes: Complexes of terrestrial ecosystems in geographically defined areas.

Land Use Permit (LUP): A permit to occupy a specific site on Crown land for a specific purpose. It does not convey any right, title or interest in the land being occupied. A *Commercial Land Use Permit* allows for commercial uses of the site to generate income. These typically consist of remote outpost camps that provide overnight accommodation for clients engaged in resource based activities such as hunting, fishing or dog sledding. A *Private Recreational Land Use Permit* allows the construction and use of a cottage or "camp" for private (non-commercial) recreational activities.

Management Direction: An interim management statement (IMS) for a provincial park, a statement of conservation interest (SCI) for a conservation reserve, or a management plan. Management direction for provincial parks or conservation reserves may be planned in conjunction with other MNR management planning processes such as forest, fire or fisheries management plans, or in the case of specific projects, through these other relevant MNR planning processes. These planning documents are prepared with different information standards and accordingly provide the appropriate type of direction in keeping with their purpose.

Management Plan: A document that identifies management objectives and implementation priorities for a defined area, over a period of time (e.g., 20 years). Management plans are based

on an understanding of the natural, social, cultural and economic values of the area, usually obtained through detailed inventories. The plans are prepared through a multi-stage public consultation process.

Mechanized Travel: In a provincial park, this refers to all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), snowmobiles, motorboats, and vehicles as defined under the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act*, as well as other mechanical devices such as bicycles or paddleboats.

Metamorphic Rock: A rock formed from pre-existing solid rocks by mineralogical, structural, and chemical change in response to extreme changes in temperature, pressure or shearing stress. Pre-existing rocks may be igneous, sedimentary, or other metamorphic rocks.

Metasedimentary Rock: A sedimentary rock that has been subject to some degree of metamorphism.

Metavolcanic Rock: Volcanic rock that has been subject to high pressures and temperatures causing the rock to recrystallize.

Middle Ordovician: The geological epoch occurring between the Upper and Lower Ordovician, beginning approximately 460,000,000 years ago.

Migmatite: A composite rock composed of igneous and metamorphic materials, the result of partial melting at the upper limit of metamorphism.

Mining Claim: A parcel of land (including lands under water) that has been staked and recorded in accordance with the Mining Act and its regulations. The claim conveys mineral rights only to an area of Crown land that has been staked for that purpose.

MOE: Ministry of the Environment.

Motorboat: A boat propelled by a motorized device (gas or electric).

Motorized Vehicle: Includes an automobile, motorcycle, motor assisted bicycle unless otherwise indicated in the *Highway Traffic Act*, and any other vehicle propelled or driven otherwise than by muscular power, but does not include a street car, or other motor vehicles running only upon rails, or a motorized snow vehicle, traction engine, farm tractor, self-propelled implement of husbandry or road-building machine.

Natural Heritage: A collective term used to describe features of the natural landscape (e.g., botany, zoology, geology, *geomorphology* worthy of preservation.

Natural Heritage Features and Areas: These include significant: wetlands, fish habitat, woodlands, valleylands, portions of the habitat of endangered and threatened species, wildlife habitat and Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest that are important for their environmental and social values as a legacy of the natural landscapes of an area.

Natural Environment Zones: Designated areas within a provincial park that include natural landscapes that permit the minimum level of development required to support low-intensity recreational activities. Development is limited to backcountry campsites, portages, necessary signs and minimal interpretive facilities.

Nature Reserve Zones: Areas designated within a provincial park that protect provincially significant earth and/or life science features. These areas may include a protected buffer area in which a minimum of development is permitted. Such development is generally restricted to trails, necessary signs, interpretive facilities (where warranted) and temporary facilities for research and management.

Off-Road Vehicle (ORV): A vehicle propelled or driven otherwise than by muscular power or wind and designed to travel on not more than three wheels or on more than three wheels and being of a prescribed class of vehicle; (*Off-Road Vehicles Act*, 1990). The term off-road vehicle is often used as a broader term than all-terrain vehicle to cover all forms of such vehicles (with the exception of snowmobiles and automobiles).

Operating Park: An operating park is a park for which operating dates have been established in policy and approved by the Assistant Deputy Minister.

Ordovician: A period in the Paleozoic Era that includes the time interval from about 505 to 438 million years ago.

Outwash: Sand and gravel deposited by meltwater streams in front of the end moraine or the margin of an active glacier.

Paleozoic: An era of geological time marked by the appearance of marine and terrestrial plants and animals.

Park Classification: A system of classification that organizes provincial parks into broad categories, each with particular purposes and characteristics, as well as distinctive planning and management policies. There are six classes of park within Ontario's provincial park system: Wilderness, Nature Reserve, Historic, Natural Environment, Waterway and Recreation.

Park Management Plan: A document which defines the long-term protection, management and use of a provincial park. Management plans provide overall guidance in accordance with provincial policies.

Park Zoning: A system of designations within a provincial park that establishes zones based on resource significance and recreational potential. In this manner, park lands and waters can be allocated to their most appropriate role in each park.

There are six possible zone types that can be applied during the management planning process.

Depending on its classification, provincial parks may contain the following zones: Nature Reserve, Wilderness, Natural Environment, Historical, Access and Development. Not all zones are applicable in all classes of parks. Planning and management policies appropriate to each type of zone are applied consistently throughout the parks system.

Pegmatite: A very coarse plutonic rock, generally granitic in composition. Usually forming dikes that cut granite or the gneisses and schists that border granite masses. They represent the last liquid portion of the crystallizing magma. They are coarse because the liquid residue at the time of their crystallization contained a high percentage of water and other volatile elements that did not go into the makeup of the common minerals of granite, and which were for that reason concentrated in the residue. They are interesting mineralogically because minerals of the rarer elements such as uranium, tungsten and tantalum are found with the coarse quartz, feldspar, and mica that principally compose them.

Pluton: A body of intrusive igneous rock.

Policy: A statement of direction developed for the purpose of guiding present and future actions and decisions.

Precambrian: The 'unofficial' time period that encompasses all time from the earth's formation, 4.55 billion years ago to 570 million years ago, the beginning of the Paleozoic Era.

Protected Area: Lands and waters with defined boundaries established to achieve specific protection objectives for natural and cultural heritage features. These areas are protected by legislation, regulation or policy to control human use, occupancy or activity. In Ontario, protected areas typically include provincial parks and conservation reserves.

Protection: A commitment to protect individuals, a subpopulation or a population, or ecosystems (or parts thereof) from adverse impacts that may result in their loss.

Provincial Park: A protected area regulated under the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act (Effective September 4, 2007)*. Provincial parks are established to ensure that features representing the most significant aspect of Ontario's natural and cultural history are protected—now, and for future generations. Ontario's system of parks strives to meet four key objectives: protection, heritage appreciation, recreation and tourism.

Public Consultation: As part of a planning exercise, relevant information is provided to the public through Information Centres, the EBR registry, newspaper releases and mailings, with the public being encouraged to provide input and participate in the decision-making process.

Rare Species: Any native species of flora or fauna that is represented in Ontario by small but relatively stable populations, and/or that occurs sporadically or in a very restricted area of the province or at the fringe of its range. These species are usually localized within restricted geographical areas or habitats, or are thinly scattered over a more extensive range. Rarity can be defined locally, regionally, provincially/territorially, nationally or globally.

Recovery: An action that is necessary to reduce or eliminate the threats that cause a species to be listed as threatened, endangered or extirpated.

Recreation: Leisure time activity undertaken in built or natural settings for purposes of physical activity, health benefits, sport participation and skill development, personal enjoyment, positive social interaction and the achievement of human potential.

Rehabilitation: The return of a species, population or ecosystem to a healthy, functioning state.

Remoteness: Refers to the distance from roads and motorized trails. The perception of remoteness may also include the presence of development (e.g. buildings, bridges) or people and activities (e.g. other park users). Semi-remote refers to areas that are relatively natural in setting but are interspersed by existing development, access and uses.

Research: Research includes measuring, monitoring, and testing and means an undertaking that is carried out for the purposes of or consists of research. For MNR this can consist of projects such as lake surveys, wildlife population and habitat studies, inventories, and other studies, surveys or inventories including measuring, monitoring and testing that is carried out for the purpose of or consists of research.

Resource: Generally, a value, feature, attribute, or physical component; an available renewable or non-renewable supply that can be drawn on when needed, be it animal, vegetable, mineral, etc.

Sill: In geology, a sill is a thin sheet of intrusive igneous rock that is located along bedding planes or between strata that are of older geological age.

Species at Risk (SAR): Any wild plant or animal threatened by, or vulnerable to, extirpation in Ontario or extinction. These species have been assessed and assigned a designation to represent their degree of imperilment: extinct, extirpated, endangered, threatened, or special concern. Federal and provincial species at risks lists are updated and amended from time to time

by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and/or the Committee of the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO.)

Species of Special Concern: The species lives in the wild in Ontario, is not endangered or threatened, but may become threatened or endangered because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.

Stewardship: Managing property on someone else's behalf. Stewardship involves protecting significant natural resources on public and private lands for the benefit of society and/or future generations.

Strata: Geologically, a set of successive layers of any deposited substance.

Tectonic: In geology, processes that move and deform the earth's crust.

Tenure: Title or disposition status that a specified area is under (e.g. land use permit, patent (Private Ownership) or lease).

Terrane: A rock formation or assemblage of rock formations that share a common geologic history. A geologic terrane is distinguished from neighbouring terranes by its different history, either in its formation or in its subsequent deformation and/or metamorphism. Terranes are separated by faults.

Threatened Species: The species lives in the wild in Ontario, is not endangered, but is likely to become endangered if steps are not taken to address factors threatening to lead to its extinction or extirpation.

Till: Unstratified drift deposited by a glacier with no re-working by meltwater.

Trapline: An area of land and water that is allocated to a registered trapper (and their helper(s)) that is managed for the sustainability of its fur-bearing animals, according to quotas assigned by MNR.

Vascular Plants: Those plants that have specialized cells for conducting water and sap within their tissues.

Watershed: An area that is drained by a river and its tributaries.

Wetland: Land that is seasonally or permanently covered by shallow water, as well as where the water table is close to the surface. In wetlands, the presence of abundant water has saturated the soil, thereby allowing aquatic or water tolerant plants to grow. In Ontario, there are four types of wetland: swamp, marsh, bog and fen.

Wilderness: Areas that are typically in a near-natural state, very remote and the probability of meeting other people is very low. Active management of wilderness is minimal.

Wilderness Park: A class of provincial park of substantial area where the forces of nature are permitted to function freely and where visitors travel by non-mechanized means and experience expansive solitude, challenge and personal integration with nature.

Wilderness Zones: Areas designated within provincial parks that include wilderness landscapes of appropriate size and integrity to protect natural and cultural values, and to support extensive types of backcountry recreation such as canoeing or hiking. Development is limited to backcountry campsites, portages, trails and signs necessary for route identification. Wilderness campsites are canoe-in or hike-in; established at a very low density. They offer primitive facilities

(e.g. fireplaces and pit privies), in keeping with the character of the landscape which the zone protects.

Wildlife Habitat: Areas where plants, animals and other organisms live, and find adequate amounts of food, water, shelter and space needed to sustain their populations. Specific wildlife habitats of concern may include areas where species concentrate at a vulnerable point in their annual or life cycle; and areas which are important to migratory or non-migratory species.

Wildlife Management: The management of wildlife and/or their habitats for the purposes of controlling populations and improving the health of wildlife.

Yurt: Originating centuries ago with the nomads of Mongolia, a yurt is a portable, all-season round tent-like structure. Ontario Parks has adopted this type of structure as a form of roofed accommodation in selected provincial parks.

13.0 REFERENCES

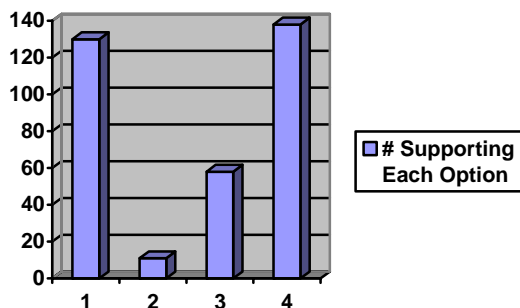
- Bellhouse, T. 2005. *Identification of Perceived Stresses at Kawartha Highlands Signature Site*. Ontario Parks unpublished report. 6pp.
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR). 1992. *Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies (1992 Update)*. Queen's Printer for Ontario, Toronto. 90pp.
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR). 1999. *Ontario's Living Legacy – Land Use Strategy*. Queen's Printer for Ontario, Toronto. 136pp.
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR). 2003. *Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Charter*. Queen's Printer for Ontario, Toronto. 18pp.
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR). 2004a. *Forest Fire Management Strategy for Ontario*. Queen's Printer for Ontario, Toronto. 64pp.
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR). 2004b. *Fire Management Policy for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves*. Queen's Printer for Ontario, Toronto. 5pp.
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR). 2005. *Protecting what sustains us: Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy*. Queen's Printer for Ontario, Toronto. 44pp.
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR). 2005. *Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park: Background Information*. Queen's Printer for Ontario, Toronto. 111pp.
- Parks Canada Agency. 2000. "*Unimpaired for Future Generations*": *Protecting Ecological Integrity with Canada's National Parks*. Vol. I "A Call to Action." Vol. II "Setting a New Direction for Canada's National Parks." Report of the Panel on the Ecological Integrity of Canada's National Parks. Ottawa, ON.
- Van Sleeuwen, M. 2006. *Natural fire regimes in Ontario*. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Queen's Printer for Ontario, Toronto. 145pp.

14.0 APPENDIX 1 – SUMMARY OF COMMENTS ON MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

The focus of this review period was to seek Aboriginal and public comment on seven (7) management topics. Information provided on these topics included a brief background of each topic, including a summary of related legislative and/or policy direction; a broad assessment of actual and potential impacts to park values; and perceived ecological stress. For each topic, possible management policies (options) were presented to address the topic, and respondents were asked to identify their preferred option. Option #1 was always the least restrictive and each subsequent option was more restrictive. The following summarizes the **distribution of public support** for the options provided and how this input was considered.

It is important to note that all comments received have been considered in the development of the Preliminary Park Management Plan and the most popular options may or may not be the preferred option put forth in the plan. This document is intended to demonstrate how the comments received from Aboriginal communities and the public were considered.

1. Aircraft Landing Options:



OPTION 1: Aircraft may land by permit for recreation and/or property/tenured land access purposes on any body of water, open or frozen, that the pilot in command determines to be safe to operate an aircraft on.

OPTION 2: Aircraft may land by permit on the following bodies of water only (open or frozen): Anstruther, Wolf, Loon Call, Long, Loucks, Bottle, Sucker, Rathbun, Copper, Serpentine, Poplar, Pilot, Elm, Fair, Bear, Cloudy, Crane, Agate, Cox, Triangle, Cherry, Stoplog and Vixen. Aircraft may also land by permit for access only to private properties and tenured land on lakes not included in the preceding list.

OPTION 3: Aircraft may land by permit on the following bodies of water only (open or frozen): the five main cottages lakes (Anstruther, Wolf, Loon Call, Long, Loucks) and the commercial outpost camp lakes (Pilot, Elm, Fair and Bear). Aircraft may also land by permit for access only to private properties and tenured land on lakes not included in the preceding list.

OPTION 4: Aircraft may land on lakes (open or frozen) by permit for access to private properties and tenured land only.

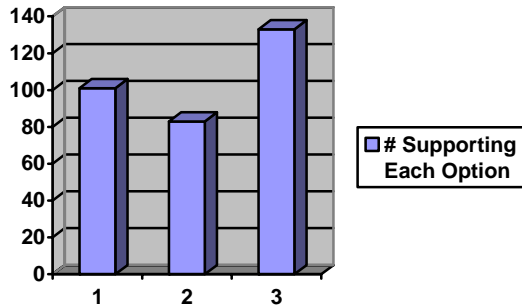
Overview of Comments:

The support from respondents was mainly split between option 1 (38% of respondents) and option 4 (40% of respondents). In addition to miscellaneous comments, additional comments received can be categorized as regarding the permit system (supportive and opposed), allowing landing for emergency use, minimizing lakes where aircraft are allowed (ranging from prohibiting landing to variations of the proposed options), and maximizing the number of lakes where aircraft may land.

How Comments were Considered:

Based on consideration of the responses received and further review of the topic, option 4 was determined to be preferred. This option is expected to minimize potential impacts on ecological integrity and is consistent with the legislation. A permit system for aircraft is a requirement of the park legislation. Proposed policy for this topic is found in Section 8.4.6.

2. Motorboat and Boat Cache Options:



OPTION 1: No motorboat restrictions on lakes within Kawartha Highlands. Boats may be cached in specific locations identified by the superintendent for the purpose of accessing private property or tenured land only, with authorization by permit (for example, a boat cache would be allowed between Anstruther and Rathbun lakes for the use of the Rathbun property owners).

OPTION 2: Motorboats to be allowed on any lake which has private property and/or tenured land. All other lakes are motor free. Those lakes which have tenured land only would have a motor restriction imposed (e.g. horse power restriction or electric motors only or 4 stroke motors only). Boat caches by permit and only available for access purposes to private property or tenured land.

OPTION 3: Motorboats to be allowed on any lake which has private property (Anstruther, Wolf, Loon Call, Long, Loucks, Rathbun, Crab, Bottle, Buzzard, Cox and Cold lakes) (subject to federal regulations). All other lakes are motor free. Boat caches by permit are only available for access purposes to private property or tenured land. Ontario Parks would consider motorboat access restrictions on Crab, Bottle, Buzzard, Cox and Cold lakes on a lake by lake basis where this is supported by the private land owners on these lakes.

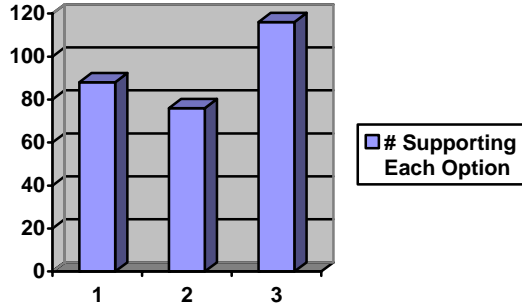
Overview of Comments:

Respondents were relatively evenly split between the three options, with highest support for option 3 (41%) and lowest support for option 2 (26%). In addition to miscellaneous comments, additional comments received can be categorized as regarding boat caching (supportive and opposed, and other options for locations of caches), support for horsepower and engine restrictions (various limits suggested), support for watercraft restrictions (types of watercraft, certain lake restrictions), opposition for motorboat restrictions.

How Comments were Considered:

Option 3 was given further consideration as the preferred option, subject to changes required to address comments. As a result, some modifications were made to reflect policy for lakes where there is no public boat access but there is private property and those landowners may operate motorboats on those lakes. Proposed policy for boat caches and motorboat use is found in Section 8.3.1.3 and 8.4.6.

3. ATV Use for Hunting Purposes:



OPTION 1: ATV use for hunting purposes within the park may only occur on the approved road and trail system during the open season for any legal species.

OPTION 2: ATV use for hunting purposes may only occur on the approved road and trail system during the open seasons for large game mammals - moose, deer and black bear.

OPTION 3: ATV use for hunting purposes may only occur on the approved road and trail system during the open seasons for deer and moose.

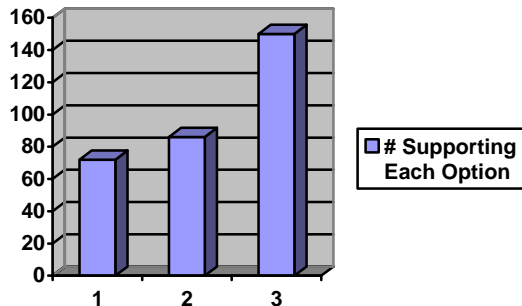
Overview of Comments:

Respondent support was relatively similar for each option, with slightly higher support for option 3. In addition to miscellaneous comments, additional comments received can be categorized as regarding support and opposition to ATV use for hunting purposes, support for use for game retrieval and ATV permits.

How Comments were Considered:

As a result of consideration of comments received on this topic, policies in the Preliminary Park Management Plan regarding ATV use will not restrict the use of ATVs to specific species or hunting seasons. This reflects the clear commitment in the Charter/Act to allow the use of ATVs on pre-existing roads or trails to access areas within the park for hunting purposes. Policies regarding ATV use are found in Section 8.4.6.

4. Backcountry Camping Options:



OPTION 1:

- Backcountry camping on authorized campsites only. Maximum of 9 persons per campsite.
- Campers carry out and take home garbage.
- No radio free campsites (electronic amplified music allowed).

OPTION 2:

- Backcountry camping on authorized campsites only. Maximum of 6 persons per campsite. Several group sites to be established which would accommodate up to 20 persons.
- Campers carry out and take home garbage. Bottle ban for entire park (restriction does not apply to private property or tenured land).
- Electronically amplified music allowed only with the use of head sets.

OPTION 3:

- Backcountry camping on authorized campsites only. Maximum of 6 persons per campsite. Several group sites to be established which would accommodate up to 20 persons.
- Campers carry out and take home garbage. Both a can and bottle ban for entire park (restriction does not apply to private property or tenured land).
- Electronically amplified music allowed only with the use of head sets.

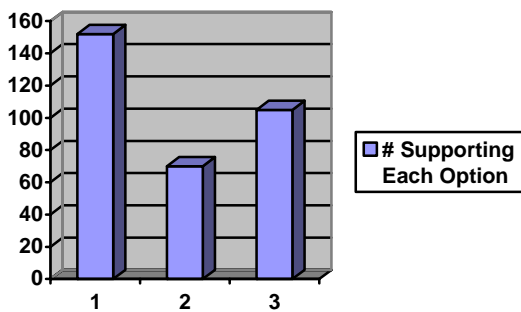
Overview of Comments:

Most respondents preferred option 3 (48%), with the other half of respondents split between option 2 (27%) and option 1 (23%). In addition to miscellaneous comments, additional comments received can be categorized as regarding camping and campsites in general, enforcement needs, group campsites (opposed, support but lower number of persons, other modifications) and can and bottle bans.

How Comments were Considered:

Option 3 was considered further as the preferred option, with some modification to address comments received. Group campsites will not be proposed. Proposed policies are found in Section 8.4.5.

5. Recreational Activity Options:



OPTION 1: Subject to certain conditions, the existing traditional activities allowed by park policy or regulations would be allowed to continue on designated trails only.

OPTION 2: Subject to certain conditions, the list of "Lower Impact Activities" noted above would be allowed to continue. In addition, dog sledding and mountain biking would be allowed on designated trails with appropriate activity conditions.

OPTION 3: Subject to certain conditions, only the list of "Lower Impact Activities" noted above would be allowed to continue.

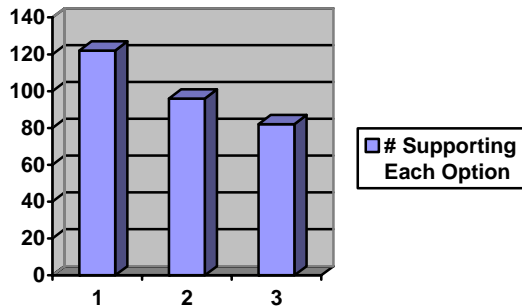
Overview of Comments:

The majority of respondents preferred option 1 (46%), with the other half of respondents split between option 3 (32%) and option 2 (21%). In addition to miscellaneous comments, additional comments received can be categorized as specific to cross-country skiing (support for off trail), mountain biking (supportive and opposed), dog sledding (supportive and opposed), and horseback riding (supportive and opposed).

How Comments were Considered:

Given the split in comments supporting option 1 (least restrictive) and option 3 (most restrictive) and to address concerns raised regarding mountain biking, a modified option 2 was preferred. As a compromise between option 2 and option 3, the preferred option will permit lower impact activities and dog sledding (expected to have minimal environmental effects) but not mountain biking. Policies for recreational uses are found in Section 8.4.8.

6. Fuelwood Permits:



OPTION 1: Existing permits may continue to be issued and new permits for water access only properties may be issued based on an area identified by lot and concession. Dead wood harvesting only.

OPTION 2: Existing and new fuelwood permits may be issued with the following restrictions made for harvesting areas: water access cottagers may be allowed to harvest dead wood only within 100m of their property and recreation camp permit holders may be allowed to harvest dead wood only from the permit area (.5 ha) or within 5m on either side of the approved motorized vehicle access road and trail system. Other areas may be identified for fuelwood harvesting by the park superintendent (for example, a blowdown in a stand of trees may be identified as a location to allow harvesting).

OPTION 3: Future fuelwood permits may be issued for harvesting dead wood, but harvest areas would be identified outside the park boundary or areas within the park which may be identified for fuelwood harvesting by the superintendent (for example, a blowdown in a stand of trees may be identified as a location to allow harvesting).

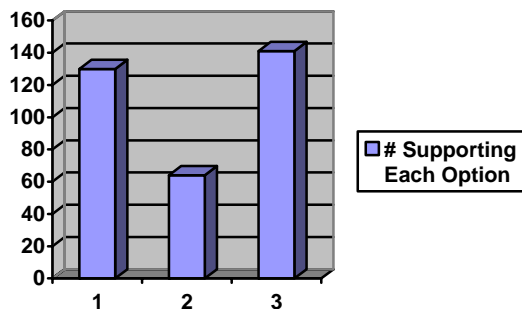
Overview of Comments:

Respondents were split between preference for option 1 (40%), option 2 (32%) and option 3 (27%). In addition to miscellaneous comments, additional comments received can be categorized as regarding support or opposition to fuelwood harvesting and the use of wood for campfires.

How Comments were Considered:

Option 2 was considered further as the preferred policy. Proposed policies are found in Section 8.3.8.

7. Commercial Tourism:



OPTION 1: Existing outpost camps would continue and operators would be allowed to transfer their business if interest exists. New commercial tourism opportunities would be screened to ensure that they are consistent with the park values, vision and purpose and will not impact the ecological integrity of the park.

OPTION 2: Existing outpost camps would continue and when current operators no longer wish to continue their business venture the opportunity would be phased out. New commercial tourism opportunities, which are consistent with the park values, vision and purpose, would be considered only if the new facilities are road accessible and will not impact the ecological integrity of the park.

OPTION 3: Existing outpost camps would continue and when current operators no longer wish to continue their business venture the opportunity would be phased out. New commercial tourism opportunities would not be considered.

Overview of Comments:

Respondent support was similar for option 3 (41%) and option 1 (39%), and least for option 2 (20%). In addition to miscellaneous comments, additional comments received can be categorized as opposed to and supportive of commercial tourism.

How Comments were Considered:

Proposed policy is most similar to option 1, with some additional conditions for renewal of existing land use permits. Cancelling of existing tenure in the event that operations cease to be used for commercial use is proposed. Proposed policy can be found in Section 8.3.1.2.