



# ***Presqu'ile Provincial Park Management Plan Highlights***

These are selected highlights of *Presqu'ile Provincial Park Management Plan*, October 2000. Please refer to the Plan itself for accurate information on the policies approved for Presqu'ile Provincial Park. For more information on how Ontario Parks dealt with the most controversial issues in the planning process, please see *Management Plan: Ontario Parks Position on Major Issues*, October 2000.

## ***The Park***

- ▶ Presqu'ile Provincial Park occupies most of a unique landform that juts into Lake Ontario at Brighton. Packed into this little peninsula and its surrounding waters are tremendous ecological diversity, internationally significant plant communities and wildlife habitats, and outstanding recreational opportunities.
- ▶ The park was established in 1922 and is now 894 ha in area.

## ***The Management Plan***

- ▶ Management plans are prepared for all provincial parks. Presqu'ile's Plan will guide the park's development, management, and operation over the next 20 years.
- ▶ The approved Plan was released on November 17, 2000, after a five year planning process that included extensive public consultation.

## ***Classification and Goal***

- ▶ All provincial parks are assigned to one of six classes. Presqu'ile has been classed as a natural environment park since 1967 and this will not change.
- ▶ The park's goal will be "to protect Presqu'ile Provincial Park's outstanding natural and cultural heritage, and provide high quality recreational and educational experiences appropriate to and sustainable within the park's environment".

**Park Boundary**

- ▶ The park will be expanded to 974 ha, by adding 84 ha of water and removing 4 ha of land.
- ▶ Salt Point will not be added to the park, though this was proposed in the February 1999 Preliminary Management Plan.
- ▶ The water boundary in Presqu'ile Bay will generally be 100 m from shore. This reduces the water area to be added to the park to half that proposed in the Preliminary Plan.
- ▶ The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) will recommend that the new Municipality of Brighton be asked to ensure that its official plans appropriately identify the park's lands and waters, so that the impacts of new development near the park are assessed in accordance with provincial planning policy.

**Park Zoning**

- ▶ Park lands and waters will be zoned as follows:
  - Nature reserve - 80% of the park, including the park's panne (seasonally wet meadow), backdune, and marsh environments, Owen Point, Gull, and High Bluff islands, part of the foredunes, and most of the foot of the peninsula.
  - Historical - 0.2% of the park, including Presqu'ile Point and Lighthouse.
  - Natural environment - 11% of the park, including the managed beach and the foredunes behind it, Calf Pasture Cove day use area, and the park's south shore.
  - Development - 9% of the park, including the campgrounds, south shore day use area, park store, main roads, and park operations areas.
- ▶ The main change in park zoning from what the Preliminary Plan proposed is reducing the area in nature reserve zones, by including less of Presqu'ile Bay in the park and by not including Salt Point.
- ▶ Resource management plans will be prepared for individual zones, to guide landform, vegetation, and wildlife habitat management and restoration, and recreational management. These plans will seek to maintain natural environments in, or restore them to, their original condition as nearly as possible.

**Beach Management**

- ▶ The 1.2 km of recreational beach will be managed to a high standard for recreation during the summer, including raking daily or as needed. Beach management will also seek to optimize conditions for migrating birds, but this will generally not affect summertime recreational use.

***Wildlife Management***

- ▶ The park's deer population will be reduced to, and then maintained at, a sustainable level within habitat carrying capacity. Reduction will be by shooting, and will be undertaken directly by Ontario Parks or through partnerships.
- ▶ A cormorant management strategy will be developed for the park, dealing with cormorant impacts on specific park values.
- ▶ MNR accepts in principle and supports the implementation of the Ontario Parks Board recommendation of February 18, 1998, that waterfowl hunting be phased out of the park provided alternative opportunities are found. The Plan says that waterfowl hunting is permitted to continue until up to five years after alternative hunting opportunities have been established outside the park, at which time hunting in the park will end. At the same time as the Plan is being released, MNR is announcing that it will carry out public consultation early in 2001 on the acceptability of Sawguin Creek Marsh in Muscote Bay, between Belleville and Picton, as an alternative site.

***Development***

- ▶ Campsite development will be capped at existing levels (394 regular sites, plus 10 group sites accommodating up to 750 campers). However, regular sites with electricity will increase from 24 to 132. New comfort stations with showers will be developed in Trail's End campground and the group camping area.
- ▶ Day use parking spaces will be capped at the existing 1,275.
- ▶ The park store will be renovated and modestly expanded.
- ▶ Picnic shelters and a comfort station in the panne around the park store will be removed and their sites restored. New picnic shelters will be built along the south shore.
- ▶ The Paxton Drive-Lighthouse Lane road loop will be made one way for motor vehicles, year round.
- ▶ Roofed accommodation for visitors and a natural heritage visitor centre are among the uses that will be considered for the four heritage cottages along Lighthouse Lane, as part of a heritage buildings management plan.
- ▶ New interpretive and hiking trails will be developed.

***Recreational Management***

- ▶ Ontario Parks will aim to increase day use and camping in the spring, fall, and winter, by increasing heritage appreciation opportunities and improving the suitability of existing park

facilities for year-round use.

- ▶ Not more than 1,275 vehicles holding day use permits will be permitted in the park at one time.
- ▶ Ontario Parks will seek a Boating Restriction Regulation to:
  - prohibit motorboating in the nature reserve zone waters surrounding Owen Point and Gull and High Bluff islands,
  - prohibit motorboating except for electric motors in 36 ha of inlets within the Presqu'ile Bay marsh.

The area of Presqu'ile Bay where most motorboating will be prohibited (the inlets) is only one-fifth the area in which the Preliminary Plan proposed to prohibit all motorboating (all waters that the Preliminary Plan proposed be zoned nature reserve).
- ▶ All boat launches in the park will be closed, except for use of the High Bluff boat launch by authorized waterfowl hunters.

### ***Community Involvement***

- ▶ A Presqu'ile Forum will be established, to advise Ontario Parks on management plan implementation and other matters of mutual park and community interest. The Forum will include representatives appointed by the Municipality of Brighton, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, and key community organizations, as well as knowledgeable individuals appointed by the park superintendent.

### ***Need More Information?***

- ▶ To get a copy of the approved Management Plan, or *Management Plan: Ontario Parks Position on Major Issues*:
  - contact Jim Peets, Park Planner, Ontario Parks, 51 Heakes Lane, Kingston K7M 9B1, fax (613) 531-5730, e-mail Jim.Peets@mnr.gov.on.ca (up to January 17, 2001 only),
  - go to the Presqu'ile Provincial Park office in Brighton,
  - or download them from the Internet: go to [http://204.40.253.254/samples/search/Ebrquery\\_REG.htm](http://204.40.253.254/samples/search/Ebrquery_REG.htm) (Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Environmental Registry); search for Registry number PB5E4003; click on the links to these publications at the beginning of the posting.