



Opportunity to Comment on the Creation of a Conservation Reserve Along the South Shore of Prince Edward County

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) invites you to comment on the creation of a conservation reserve along the Lake Ontario shoreline of Prince Edward County, located 15 km south of Picton and 65 km southwest of Kingston.

The proposed conservation reserve includes Crown lands known as Point Petre Provincial Wildlife Area (PW4502) and Ostrander Point Crown Land Block (G4500), and adjacent shoreline and lakebed. Both areas are currently managed by the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNR) under the *Public Lands Act* (PLA).

MECP is proposing to establish approximately 1620 hectares (ha) of these lands (see attached map) as a conservation reserve under the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006* (PPCRA). To establish the land use intent to regulate this area as a conservation reserve, a major land use amendment to re-designate these lands as recommended conservation reserve under the PLA is being proposed. If regulated under the PPCRA, the lands would be under the authority of MECP.

Conservation reserves protect significant natural and cultural features while providing opportunities for visitors to participate in ecologically sustainable land uses, including traditional outdoor heritage activities, and research. If designated a conservation reserve, the land would provide opportunities for the community to enjoy the area's natural beauty, including hiking, hunting and birdwatching, while strengthening the long-term protection of biodiversity.

Although most current permitted recreational uses would be able to continue, changes could be made in the future if uses threaten the values of the conservation reserve. These changes would be considered through a management planning process which would include public consultation, following regulation. Industrial and some commercial uses would be restricted in these areas.

By exploring creating a conservation reserve in Prince Edward County, the Ontario government is moving forward on its commitment to protect natural areas and promote the importance of healthy, natural spaces for future generations to use and enjoy.

Consultation

For this conservation reserve proposal, the province is consulting on the following processes at the same time:

- **Crown land use amendment** to re-designate the Crown lands to Recommended Conservation Reserve and establish the land use intent to regulate as a conservation reserve. The proposed land use amendment, including a map and policy report, can be viewed on NDMNRF's Crown Land Use Policy Atlas under Amendment #2021-001.
- **Regulatory amendment** (PPCRA Ontario Regulation 315/07: Designation of Conservation Reserves) to establish these lands as a conservation reserve. If you would like to view the PPCRA regulation proposal and/or submit a comment, please visit the Environmental Registry of Ontario at ero.ontario.ca and search for number **019-4597**.
- **Environmental assessment** to evaluate the proposal as a Category B project under A Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves (Class EA). To submit a comment on the Class EA or request the full Record of Screening, please contact the individual listed below during the comment period indicated in this notice. A Notice of Completion will be sent to those who submit comments or request further notice when project evaluation is finished. MECP may proceed to implement the project without issuing a further Class EA project general notice.

The 45 day comment period ends on March 12, 2022. Comments must be received by this date.

We have also created a survey to get your answers to specific questions about the project. You can find it here: https://www.research.net/r/OntarioParks_PEC.

Comments received by the deadline will be considered in preparing the decision on whether to create the conservation reserve.

For more information, please contact:

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MECP is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority of section 29 of the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006* and under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. The personal information is being collected and used for the purpose of public consultation(s) on establishing a new conservation reserve. Your comments will become part of the record of consultation and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may also be used to send you information about future projects involving this proposed conservation reserve. Any personal information you provide will be protected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and will be handled in accordance with the government of Ontario's Privacy Statement, which can be found at www.ontario.ca/page/privacy-statement. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact the contact listed above.