

Environmental Assessment Summary of Creation of a New Conservation Reserve Along the South Shore of Prince Edward County

Ontario Parks is proposing to establish approximately 1620 ha of Crown land along the south shore of Prince Edward County (see map) as a conservation reserve under the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006* (PPCRA).

The proposed conservation reserve includes Crown lands known as Point Petre Provincial Wildlife Area and Ostrander Point Crown Land Block, as well as a few road allowances, along the south shore of Prince Edward County. Both areas are currently managed by the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNRF) under the *Public Lands Act*.

Ontario Parks has confirmed that the lands meet criteria for consideration as a conservation reserve, to protect significant natural, cultural and recreational environments while providing opportunities for visitors to participate in traditional activities.

The proposed establishment of a new conservation reserve is subject to the Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves (Class EA-PPCR). The Class EA-PPCR establishes criteria for screening projects to determine an appropriate category for each project, and an evaluation and consultation process to be applied to each project as appropriate. The project is reviewed and the potential net effects of the project on each criterion are considered.

The following is a summary of the potential effects identified through the project screening.

The following potential net positive environmental effects were identified (A "Nil" rating applies to criterion with no anticipated effect or criterion that do not apply):

- Potential effects on the natural environment considerations are anticipated to be in the range of **Nil to Medium Positive**. Eight (8) criteria were assessed as Nil, seven (7) were assessed as Low Positive and one (1) was assessed as Medium Positive. In general, regulation of the project area under the PPCRA provides enhanced protection for the land, water, earth/life science features and species associated with the project area.
- Potential effects on land use and resource management considerations are anticipated to be in the range of **Nil to Low Negative/Positive**. Eight (8) criteria were assessed as Nil, one (1) was assessed as Low Negative, two (2) were assessed as Low Positive and Low Negative, depending on individual perspectives. In general, many existing land uses will be permitted to continue,

although some may be subject to further restrictions consistent with the objectives and provincial policies of conservation reserves. Potential new visitors may result in some changes to traffic patterns and no impacts are anticipated to resource management.

- Potential effects on the social, cultural and economic considerations are anticipated to be in the range of **Nil to Low Negative/Positive**. Two (2) criteria were assessed as Nil, two (2) were assessed as Low Positive, one (1) was assessed as Low Negative/Unknown and three (3) were assessed as Low Positive and Low Negative, depending on individual perspectives. In general, there are both positive and negative potential impacts (social/economic) when establishing a new conservation reserve. A conservation reserve will have some increased demands on government but also provide new opportunities for the economy.

This project has been screened as a **Category B** project. No net negative environmental effects are anticipated.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks is committed to and respects access to provincial parks and conservation reserves for the exercise of Treaty and Aboriginal Rights, as recognized and affirmed under the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and is committed to meeting the province's constitutional obligations.