



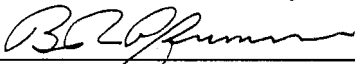
# Carson Lake


Interim Management Statement

## APPROVAL STATEMENT

I am pleased to approve this Interim Management Statement for Carson Lake Provincial Park. The natural features and land base of Carson Lake contribute to the natural heritage protection, heritage appreciation, outdoor recreation, and tourism in the area. Carson Lake Provincial Park was regulated under the *Provincial Parks Act* in 1971 (O. Reg. 49/92 Schedule 93). It was later regulated under O. Reg. 382/01 to reflect a boundary adjustment. The park is managed as a recreation class park.

This Interim Management Statement provides direction for the protection and management of Carson Lake Provincial Park.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Pfrimmer  
Zone Manager  
Central Zone, Ontario Parks

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Carson Lake Provincial Park is located on Highway 60 in the geographic Township of Sherwood, Jones and Burns (now the amalgamated Township of Madawaska Valley), in the County of Renfrew. The park is four kilometres west of Barry's Bay and approximately 50 kilometres southeast of Algonquin Provincial Park's east gate (Figure 1). Carson Lake was regulated as an 11.92 hectare provincial park in 1971 (Figure 2). Prior to 1971, the park was a roadside picnic site operated by the Ministry of Transportation.

Carson Lake was operated as a campground by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources from 1971 to 1994. The park was operated with no formal management plan in place. Low visitation, compounded by extensive capital investment required to maintain its infrastructure contributed to Ontario Parks' decision to cease operations in 1995. The park remained non-operational until 1997 when the park was operated by a local business cooperative. The group ceased operating the park in the spring of 2001 citing liability concerns. The park has been closed since. The park may be decommissioned in the future, but will still be available for passive day-use.

This Interim Management Statement (IMS) will provide direction to ensure custodial management of park resources. Any significant decisions regarding resource stewardship, development, operations, and permitted uses, will require a further planning process by Ontario Parks with public consultation.

## 2.0 CLASSIFICATION

Through park classification, Ontario's provincial parks are organized into broad categories, each of which has particular purposes and characteristics.

Carson Lake is a recreation class park. The emphasis of recreation parks is on providing high quality outdoor recreational experiences in an attractive outdoor setting. Although the park's campground has not operated since 2000, the public may continue to enter the park on foot to enjoy the property for picnicking, hiking, swimming, and other passive recreational uses. Camping is no longer permitted.

## 3.0 OBJECTIVES

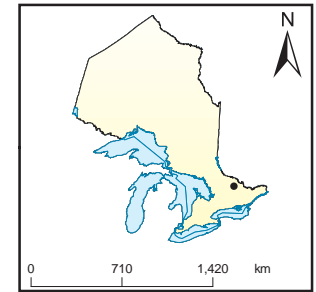
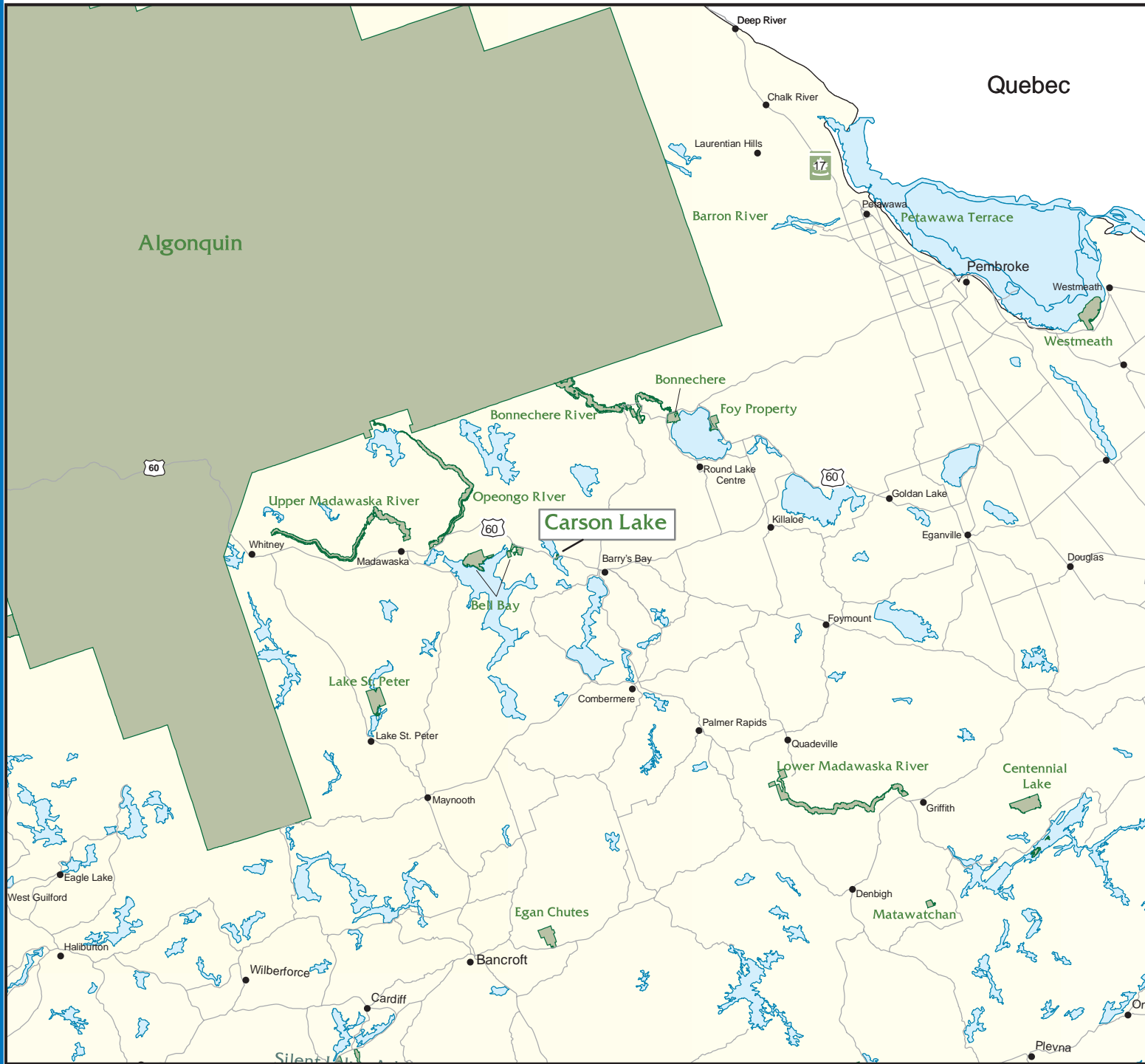
Carson Lake Provincial Park will be managed consistent with the four objectives for provincial parks:

*Protection:* To protect provincially significant elements of the natural and cultural landscapes of Ontario.

*Recreation:* To provide provincial park outdoor recreation opportunities ranging from high-intensity day-use to low-intensity wilderness experiences.

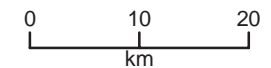
*Heritage Appreciation:* To provide opportunities for exploration and appreciation of the outdoor natural and cultural heritage of Ontario.

*Tourism:* To provide Ontario's residents and out-of-province visitors with opportunities to discover and experience the distinctive regions of the Province.



Legend

- City or Town
- Road
- Lakes
- Provincial Park

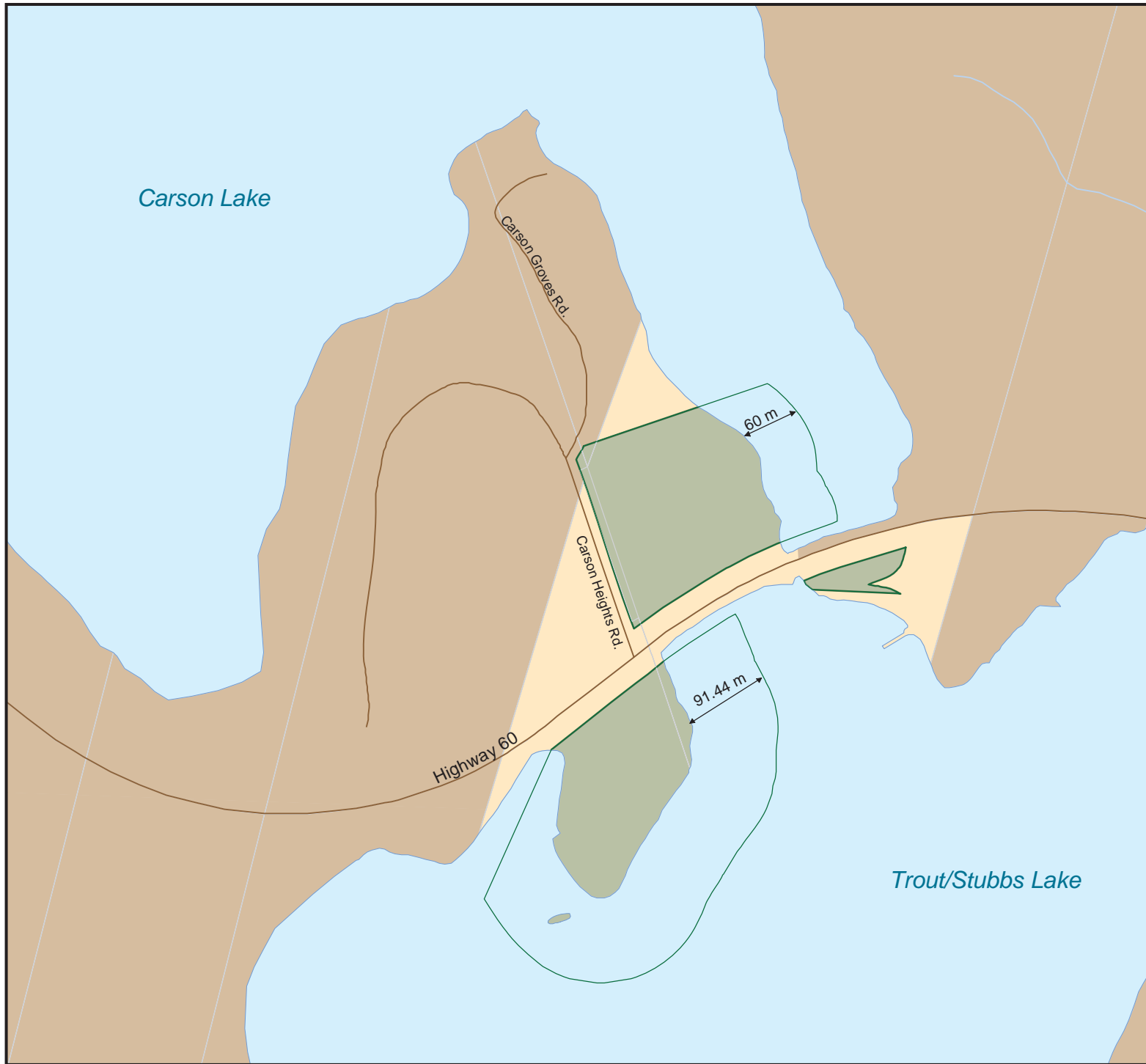


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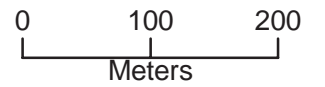
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FIGURE 2



Legend

- Road
- Rivers/Streams
- Lakes
- Lots/Concessions
- Provincial Park
- Crown Land
- Private Land



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## 4.0 MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

Park management will follow direction from:

- *Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies* and updates;
- *Ontario Crown Land Use Policy Atlas* and amendments; and the
- *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act* and regulations.

In addressing custodial management to protect park features and values and ensure public health and safety, Ontario Parks may decommission existing facilities while ensuring that policy and environmental assessment requirements are implemented.

The park superintendent will implement the policies, procedures and legislation that are derived from the above direction and written into the Interim Management Statement for Carson Lake Provincial Park.

### 4.1 Environmental Assessment

As part of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Parks is a public sector agency subject to the *Environmental Assessment Act*. Management of this recreation park will be carried out in accordance with legislation, policies and the MNR *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves*.

## 5.0 ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

The park is subject to the Algonquin Land Claim.

## 6.0 BOUNDARY

The boundary of Carson Lake Provincial Park is described in Ontario Regulation 382/01. The 11.92 hectare park is divided by Highway 60 and consists of three parts. The boundary of the portion of the park north of Highway 60 extends 60 metres into Carson Lake. One portion of the park south of Highway 60 extends 91.44 metres into Trout/Stubbs Lake. The other, smaller portion of the park south of Highway 60 is 0.27 ha.

## 7.0 ZONING

Although the park is managed as a recreation class, it is not zoned. Zoning of the park will be done through management planning.

## 8.0 PARK FEATURES AND VALUES

### 8.1 Life Sciences

Carson Lake Provincial Park is forested by stands of poplar (*Populus balsamifera*) and white and red pine (*Pinus strobus* and *Pinus resinosa*, respectively). Minor amounts of white birch (*Betula papyrifera*) are scattered throughout. A variety of songbirds are present in the park. Carson Lake supports a naturally regenerating population of lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*).

### 8.2 Earth Sciences

Carson Lake Provincial Park is a small holding located in an extensive area of strongly broken deep to shallow sandy till uplands with numerous bedrock exposures (Noble, 1984). Because of its small size and the fact that it is completely covered by development, this park has only local representational value (Noble, 1984).



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The earth science features include biotite gneiss, a common rock type found within the Ontario Gneiss Segment. The outwash material located on the small sand beach south of Highway 60 is also a common deposit. The sensitivity of these features is low.

### **8.3 Cultural Features**

There is little information on the cultural heritage of Carson Lake Provincial Park.

Future planning will use the provincial framework, *The Topical Organization of Ontario History*, as well as updates and discussions with other agencies, First Nations and interest groups to identify cultural heritage values and features within Carson Lake Provincial Park. This information may be used to develop management guidelines to conserve and protect representative archaeological and historical values and features, as well as provide direction for further research.

## **9.0 STEWARDSHIP POLICIES**

An adaptive management approach will be applied to resource management activities within Carson Lake Provincial Park. Adaptive management allows for frequent modification of management strategies in response to monitoring and analysis of the results of past actions and experiences.

### **9.1 Industrial / Commercial Uses**

The following uses are not permitted in Carson Lake Provincial Park:

- Commercial forestry;
- Prospecting, staking mining claims, developing mineral interests, working mines;
- Extraction of sand, gravel, topsoil or peat;
- Commercial hydroelectric power development;
- Trapping;
- Fuel wood cutting;
- Timber salvage and sunken log retrieval; and/or
- Commercial harvesting of non-timber forest products (e.g. Wild Rice, Canada Yew, etc.).

### **9.2 Land Management**

#### **9.2.1 Access and Crossings**

Access to the park is via Highway 60, which bisects the park. Carson Heights Road branches north from the highway on the western side of the park. This road provides access to private parcels of land.

Bell Canada has a switching box and underground cables in the small portion of the park south of Highway 60, under the authority of a Land Use Permit (LUP). Any future utility corridors (e.g. gas pipelines, transmission lines, communications towers, etc.) proposed through the park, where park lands are unavoidable, will be reviewed in a case-by-case basis. Protection of park features and values will be a priority and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Environmental Assessments requirements must be met.

#### **9.2.2 Land Use**

There are no Licences of Occupation and no known unauthorized occupations within Carson Lake Provincial Park. The only LUP in the park is held by Bell Canada. There are no authorized boat caches within this provincial park. As stated in the *Provincial Parks Act* (1990) (R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 952), boats are not permitted to be left unattended in the park without written permission from the superintendent.

### **9.2.3 Adjacent Land Management**

The park is encompassed almost entirely by patented land. Highway 60 bisects the park and Carson Heights Road borders the western side of the northern portion of the park. Some of the adjacent property is either developed or part of a registered plan of subdivision for cottage lots. Carson and Stubbs/Trout Lakes also border the land base of the park. Private land is not included within the park boundary and as such park policy does not apply to these areas. The County of Renfrew Official Plan, adopted by Madawaska Valley, directs planning decisions on private land to be made in consideration of park values.

The Crown lands adjacent to Carson Lake Provincial Park are designated as a Multiple Natural Resource general use area (G396) (See Figure 3). The area is 614 179 hectares in size, however only a very small portion of the general use area is adjacent to the park; most adjacent land is privately owned. The general use area is located in the Ottawa Valley Forest Management Unit # 780 (FMU). The Ottawa Valley Forest is currently management by Ottawa Valley Forest Incorporated under a Sustainable Forest License. The forest management plan for this management unit was implemented in 2006.

### **9.3 Water Management**

Sustaining high quality water resources is fundamental to the protection of park and adjacent land features and values. The Ontario Ministry of the Environment enforces applicable legislation and regulations pertaining to water quality.

There are no dams, water control structures, or diversions within the park boundaries.

### **9.4 Non-Native and Invasive Species**

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. Where non-native species are already established and threaten natural or cultural values, a program of control may be undertaken if feasible and practical. Non-native species are species not native to Ontario or are species native to Ontario but not to the park. Non-native species will not be deliberately introduced. Invasive species are species that are likely to spread and negatively affect native ecosystems.

### **9.5 Forest Fire Management**

Fire management in Ontario is based upon a division of the province by management objectives, land use, fire load, and forest ecology. Carson Lake Provincial Park is located within the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Fire Management Zone. In accordance with existing provincial park policy and the *Forest Fire Management Strategy for Ontario*, forest fire protection will be carried out in Carson Lake Provincial Park as on surrounding lands. The municipality is the first response for any fire emergency within the park.

Whenever feasible, techniques which do not cause undue damage to the landscape (i.e. limiting the use of heavy equipment and/or limiting the number of trees felled during response efforts) will be implemented.

### **9.6 Vegetation**

Insects and diseases may be managed when the aesthetic, cultural, and/or natural features and values of Carson Lake Provincial Park are threatened. Control will follow guidelines established by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Whenever possible, biological controls will be given preference over the use of chemicals.

## 9.7 Wildlife

Hunting is not permitted in the park.

Portions of two separate Bear Management Areas (BMAs) exist within Carson Lake Provincial Park (PE-55B-007 and PE-55A-012) (Figure 3). There is no bear hunting/harvest activity occurring in the park.

From time to time, animals may pose as a threat to public safety, or to park facilities (e.g. beaver flooding, washouts of park roads, felling of trees). Wildlife management may be undertaken on an "as required" basis in order to protect health and safety of park visitors and park staff, or to protect park facilities. The removal of nuisance animals will be undertaken by, or under the supervision of the park superintendent.

## 9.8 Fisheries

Sport fishing is permitted within Carson Lake Provincial Park. Any sport fishing activity is governed by the legislation and regulations in the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act (1997)*, as well as the *Federal Fisheries Act (1985)*. The *Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary (2006b)* (Central, Division 15) contains more details regarding general regulations and exceptions to these regulations for the area of Carson Lake Provincial Park.

There is one baitfish license for Jones Township (PE0179). Existing commercial bait fishing will continue indefinitely, subject to sustainable resource management and local management needs as well as conditions identified in provincial park and fisheries management plans. Existing is defined as that use supported by an active license, permit or other formal authorization. If this authorization lapses the activity is no longer considered an existing use. However, if there is a record of activity since January 1, 1992 then the license can be re-issued. New operations will not be permitted.

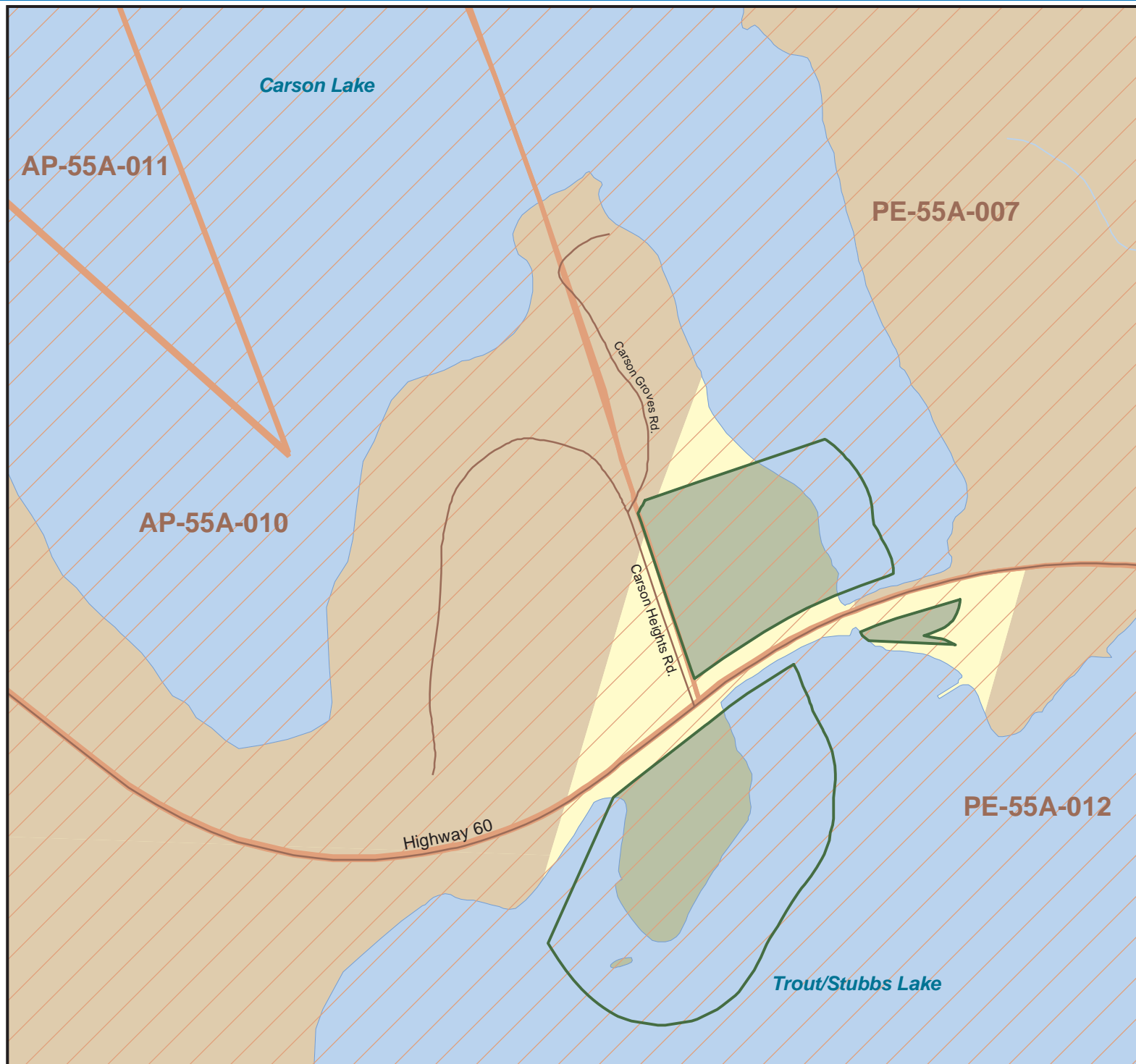
Stubbs/Trout Lake is stocked with lake trout. Most recently, in the past five years, the following quantities of trout have been input into Stubbs/Trout Lake:

Year	Number of Lake Trout
2001	2000 fingerlings
2002	2000 fingerlings
2003	None
2004	4000 fingerlings 493 sub-adults
2005	1750 fingerlings 774 sub-adults

Carson Lake has a naturally reproducing lake trout population. Both the Carson and Stubbs/Trout Lake fisheries are dependent on excellent water quality.

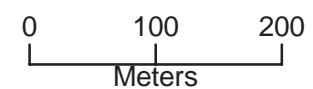
## 9.9 Cultural Resources

An assessment of the cultural resources specific to Carson Lake Provincial Park has not been completed or planned at this time, however upon completion, management of any cultural features and values within this park will be directed toward protection and heritage appreciation. The park is located on what was once the Opeongo Line, a colonization road east from Castletford on the Ottawa River to Bark Lake west of the park. The road was developed in the early 1800s and was intended to reach Opeongo Lake, however it was never extended beyond Bark Lake. The land, now comprising the base of the park, was initially purchased in the mid-1800s by the Conway family for the purpose of a farming settlement.



**Legend**

- Road
- Rivers/Streams
- Lakes
- Bear Management Areas
- Park Boundary
- Land Ownership**
- Crown Land
- Private Land



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## 9.10 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)*. The collection of fossils, rocks, minerals, archaeological/cultural artefacts, plants, seeds and bioprospecting is permitted by research permit and/or scientific collector permit only.

Temporary facilities in support of approved research and monitoring activities may be considered. 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.

## 10.0 OPERATIONS POLICIES

### 10.1 Recreation Management

When Carson Lake was an operating campground, services included 36 tent and trailer sites and privies. Ontario Parks remains open and willing to discuss partnerships and/or private sector business opportunities for the operation of the campground at Carson Lake. Camping is not permitted in the park at this time.

There are no authorized hiking trails within the boundaries of this provincial park. Unauthorized trails will be closed.

Motorized and non-motorized vehicles are not permitted in the park while it is closed for operations.

The use of motorized vehicles may occasionally be used for park maintenance or monitoring under the authority of the park superintendent.

#### 10.1.1 *Emerging Recreation Uses*

Adventure racing and physical geocaching is not permitted. Virtual geocaching may be considered as a recreation use subject to approval by the Park Superintendent (PM 11.03.4).

There are emerging recreation uses for which there is no current or limited policy to deal with their management. The Park Superintendent will use legislation, park policy and guidelines that are in place in the interim to manage emerging uses. The Park Superintendent will also work with the Ministry of Natural Resources Pembroke District office to manage these emerging uses.

### 10.2 Heritage Education

Basic literature and supporting information may be developed to describe Carson Lake Provincial Park in the context of Ontario's provincial parks and protected areas. Boundary limits, significant heritage features and permitted uses of the recreation park may be included in park literature.

Prospective visitors to Carson Lake Provincial Park may be informed about the sensitivity and significance of this park through the Ontario Parks' website.

## **11.0 DEVELOPMENT**

Development at Carson Lake Provincial Park includes the original Ministry of Transportation fire hearths, two privy buildings, an office, and a storage shed. The privy buildings, office, and storage shed will be removed in the future to eliminate any potential for health and safety issues. The fireplaces are in a state of disrepair and will also have to be removed in the future. Fences and gates will be repaired and signage will be replaced as required.

Infrastructure for commercial tourism does not exist within this provincial park. New commercial tourism facilities are not permitted within the provincial park.

Decisions regarding new development will comply with *A Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves* (Parks' Class EA) (2004). Development will be carried out in accordance with approved site plans, utilizing appropriate standards and in conformity with relevant legislation and policy.

## **12.0 INTERIM MANAGEMENT STATEMENT AMENDMENT AND REVIEW**

The park Interim Management Statement can be reviewed or amended to address changing issues or conditions. At ten year intervals, this Interim Management Statement 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 and all resource management, operations and development policies. An amendment can be considered to address specific issues or needs. Any person may initiate an amendment process by submitting a proposed amendment, with an explanation of its purpose, to Ontario Parks, which will determine whether, and under what conditions, the amendment process should proceed.

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### 13.0 REFERENCES

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## APPENDIX 1 ~ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name	Carson Lake Provincial Park (P401)
Classification	Recreation
Ecoregion/Ecodistrict	5E/5E-11
OMNR Administrative Region/District	Southern Region / Pembroke District
Ontario Parks	Central Zone – Bonnechere P.P. Cluster
Total Area (ha)	11.92
Regulation Date & Number	1971 (O. Reg. 49/92 Schedule 93)
	2001 (O. Reg. 382/01)

### REPRESENTATION

#### EARTH SCIENCE

Carson Lake Provincial Park is situated within the Ontario segment of the Grenville structural provinces. The rock is of Middle Precambrian age. There is very little rock outcrop in the portion of the park north of Highway 60. Road cuts at the west edge of the park reveal pink and grey biotite gneiss with good compositional layering. South of Highway 60 is a small, thinly soiled, rocky peninsula of biotite gneiss. Sediment laden glacial meltwaters may have channelled through the present-day Carson Lake basin. The small sand beach south of Highway 60 may consist of reworked glacial outwash material (Spek, 1978).

#### LIFE SCIENCE

Carson Lake Provincial Park is forested by stands of poplar (*Populus balsamifera*), white pine (*Pinus strobes*), and red pine (*Pinus resinosa*). Minor amounts of white birch (*Betula papyrifera*) are scattered throughout. The rock peninsula in Stubbs/Trout Lake is a feature of local significance. This area, the least disturbed part of the park, supports an aesthetic, natural stand of red and white pine. The point rises to a rocky pinnacle which is of local representative value (Simpson, 1979). A stand of pine is situated on a hilltop overlooking the park; they are the largest examples in the immediate area.

#### CULTURAL RESOURCES

There has been no examination of the cultural values that may exist within Carson Lake Provincial Park.

#### RECREATION & TOURISM

The park is currently used for passive recreational activities such as hiking, swimming, canoeing, and picnicking.

#### INVENTORIES

Survey Level	Earth Science	Life Science	Cultural	Recreational
Reconnaissance	Spek, 1978	Simpson, 1979	Required	Required
Detailed	Required	Required	Required	Required