

# La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve Resource Management Plan



October 2005  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
Sudbury District, Espanola Area

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Approval Statement

I am pleased to approve this Resource Management Plan for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.

The La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve was regulated on October 3, 2001. Direction for establishing, planning and managing conservation reserves is defined under the Public Lands Act, the Crown Land Use Policy Atlas, the Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy and other applicable policies. The specific direction for managing this conservation reserve will be in the form of a Resource Management Plan, which defines the area to which the plan applies, provides the purpose for which the conservation reserve has been proposed, and outlines the Ministry of Natural Resources' management intent for the protected area.

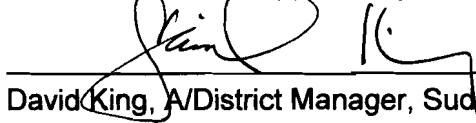
This Resource Management Plan has been created with input from program specialists within the Sudbury District, Espanola Area and with input from the Planning Team. A 30 day public consultation period was held from July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005 to August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005 to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to comment on the Draft Resource Management Plan. First Nations were also provided an opportunity to comment on the Draft Resource Management Plan.

The management guidelines outlined in the Resource Management Plan will be implemented by the Espanola Area Supervisor, and will be reviewed every 5 years and amended as required by the District Planner, Sudbury District, and Ministry of Natural Resources.

Prepared by: Lynn Moreau, Crown Lands and Protected Areas Planner

Date: October 27, 2005

Recommended for Approval by:



David King, A/District Manager, Sudbury District

Approved by:



Rob Galloway, Regional Director

## **Glossary**

**Local Citizen's Committee (LCC)**-Local Citizen's Committees are groups of local stakeholders and members of local First Nations communities appointed by the MNR District Manager, with representation from a variety of interest groups including tourist lodges, local industry, the forestry sector, angler and hunter groups, municipal interests, naturalists and recreational interests.

**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**-A legal document signed between MNR and specifically with respect to this document, any trail proponent, outlining roles and responsibilities of each party in regards to trail authorization, liabilities, standards, maintenance, rehabilitation and stewardship.

**Outfitting Service Provider**-An outfitting service provider is a business (and associated infrastructure) which rents or sells recreational supplies and equipment (e.g. canoes, tenting equipment etc) to enhance recreational enjoyment for local users.

**Outpost Camp**-An outpost camp is defined as a camp used for commercial tourism where road access is not possible.

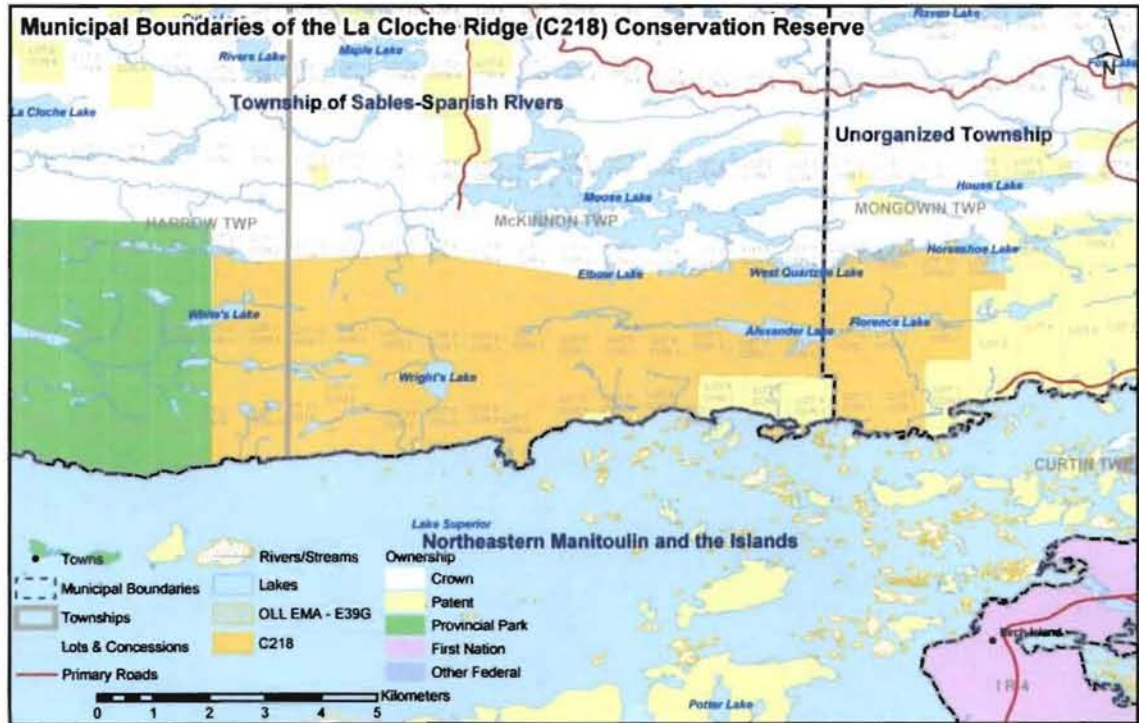
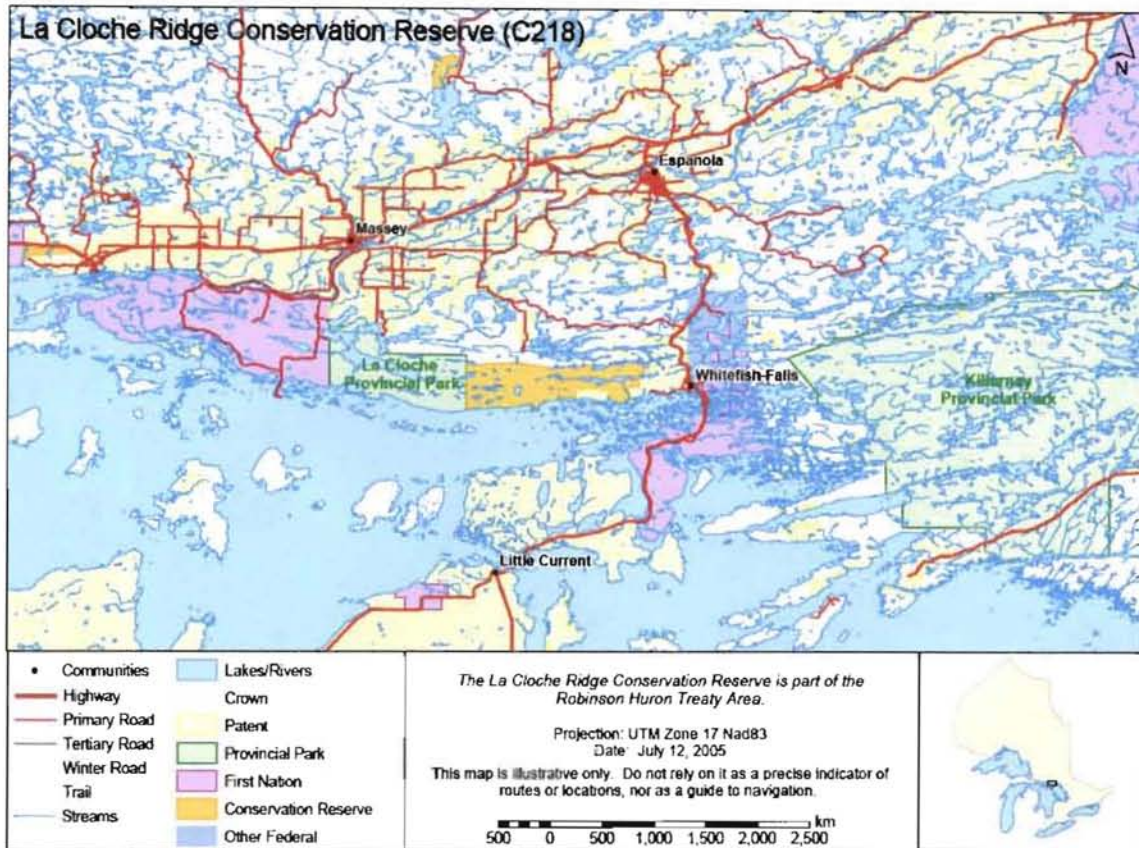
**Trail**- A trail is defined as "a path over public lands not used for mineral exploration or extraction". A trail is minor in nature compared to a road, allowing passage of pedestrians, ATV's, snowmobiles or the like.

## 1.2 Executive Summary

The La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve is located approximately 16 kilometres southwest of Espanola, along the north shore of the North Channel of Lake Huron. The 4,004-hectare reserve protects a rugged ridge system of water-washed white quartzite bedrock with pockets of sandy glacial ground moraine. Exposed bedrock areas are sparsely covered by wind swept, fire origin white pine, red pine, jack pine and red oak. American beech, eastern hemlock, sugar maple, red maple, white birch and yellow birch are also commonly encountered in the conservation reserve. Several old-growth candidate forest stands as well as a variety of orchids and saprophytic flora are also protected by the conservation reserve. White-tailed deer, moose and black bears are common wildlife species in the area.

The conservation reserve encompasses several coldwater and warmwater lakes including Elbow Lake, West Quartzite Lake, Wright's Lake, White's Lake, Alexander Lake and Florence Lake. The conservation reserve is nestled between existing provincial parks (La Cloche Provincial Park to the west and Killarney Provincial Park to the east) and is an important complement to the protected areas system of northeastern Ontario.





Several groups have a vested interest in the conservation reserve: First Nations, recreational trail users, the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) and Espanola & District Snowmobile Club (EDSC), the Red Deer Village Trail Association (RDVTA), adjacent property owners, and tourism operators. The area is popular for hunting, fishing and trapping, for recreational camp activities and for both motorized and non-motorized trail use. The development of the resource management plan will recognize and respect Aboriginal and treaty rights as identified under the Canadian Constitution.

Planning for the development of a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve (CR) has been underway since June of 2004. Stages in the planning have included creation of the following documents. Public review periods and Open Houses have taken place for each milestone in the planning process.

<i>Invitation to Participate</i>	Completed August 2004
<i>Development of Terms of Reference and Planning Team Selection</i>	Completed October 2004
<i>Public Review of Background Document</i>	Completed February 1-March 3, 2005
<i>Public Review of Issues and Management Options-Open Houses</i>	Completed: March 14-April 11 2005
<i>Public Review of Refined Management Options</i>	Completed: May 31 <sup>st</sup> to June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2005
<i>Draft Resource Management Plan-Open Houses</i>	Completed: July 25 <sup>th</sup> to August 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2005
<i>Public Inspection of Approved Plan</i>	Target: September 2005

At the initiation of the planning process, a “**Background Information Document**” was assembled which assisted in the planning process by documenting the biological, geological, historical, environmental and recreational values within the conservation reserve area. The document was made available for public review and modified as a result of public input. The final version was completed in June of 2005.

A number of significant issues were identified at the initiation of the planning process. These issues are detailed in the document “**Issues and Management Options**” and can be summarized as follows:

- The lack of crown land access into the CR from Bay of Islands Drive and the associated access issues with trails leading from private to public land within the CR
- First Nation’s claims
- Closure of the OFSC D 110 snowmobile trail linkage with Bay of Islands Drive
- Unauthorized trail development, stewardship and trespassing
- Unauthorized use of the Abrey portage for access into the CR
- Environmental, safety and user conflicts associated with ATV use
- Safety and liability concerns on multi-use crown land trails
- Issues with access to private land parcels landlocked within the CR
- Issues with protection of wildlife values including deer yarding and protection of species at risk
- Unauthorized and improperly maintained infrastructure (bridges, etc)
- Authorization, stewardship and maintenance of recreational trails
- Protection of First Nation values

- Potential for introduction of exotic species

Following review and analysis of public consultation on the Issues and Management Options document, the Planning Team worked to develop the "**Refined Management Options**" document. This document contained a list of recommendations made by the planning team, a summary of public and First Nation consultation (issues raised), a proposed method of zoning for the conservation reserve, and details of the Refined Management Options.

The final Resource Management Plan developed must be consistent with the Crown Land Use Policy Atlas (CLUPA). If the RMP results in uses not permitted by the CLUPA, then the CLUPA must be amended and the proper process followed prior to approval of the RMP or dove-tailed with the RMP process.

**The goal for the conservation reserve which will guide the development of options and planning is "*To protect the natural resource and heritage values of the conservation reserve and to provide for compatible recreational activities.*"**

### 1.3 General Management Objectives

General management objectives which will be addressed during this planning process include the following:

1. To protect and preserve the La Cloche Ridge natural resource and heritage values by ensuring sustainable management of its wildlife, forests, lakes, geology, plant communities, species at risk and other key features.
2. To conduct an inventory and constraints/capability analysis of the natural resource values within the conservation reserve to ensure that compatible permitted uses take place which do not compromise the values of the conservation reserve.
3. To honour prior commitments with interest groups/organizations that have a vested interest in the La Cloche Conservation Reserve by maintaining recreational uses currently taking place within the reserve, while ensuring that recreational uses do not negatively impact upon conservation reserve values.
4. To make public safety a priority for users of the reserve so that insurance liability risks and associated costs will be minimized.
5. To manage and/or improve public access to the conservation reserve without detrimentally impacting on adjacent landowners, while respecting private property rights, and while ensuring the continued remote character of the reserve.
6. To address and minimize conflicts associated with crown land trail use.
7. To strive for a management model that will involve the local community in the stewardship, maintenance and monitoring of the area's recreational resources through partnership/stewardship agreements.
8. To maintain a balance between allowing for recreational enjoyment of the La Cloche Ridge while protecting the area's natural values and pristine qualities.
9. To provide a mechanism in the form of a Trail Strategy, which will address trail authorization, standards, maintenance, rehabilitation and stewardship?

10. To support existing tourism and recreational uses within the reserve while moderating promotion of the area and initiating a process to monitor the impacts of tourism and recreational use.
11. To identify, document and protect the cultural and historical values of the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.

## **1.4 First Nation Community Involvement**

La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve lies within the 1850 Robinson-Huron Treaty territory. The conservation reserve is part of areas recognized by Whitefish River First Nation and Sagamok Anishnawbek as being part of their traditional lands. Aundeck Omni Kaning and Whitefish Lake are other First Nations that consider the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve to be part of their traditional territory.

### **1.4.1 Direction**

Existing Aboriginal and treaty rights are protected under the Constitution of Canada. There is no intent to infringe upon Aboriginal or treaty rights through the designation of the area as a conservation reserve. The Crown has a duty to consult with local First Nation communities who have existing aboriginal or treaty rights which may be infringed upon by such decisions. Any First Nation land claims within this area will be addressed according to the appropriate Ontario Government procedures. The Ontario Government has stated that designation of the area as a Conservation Reserve is not irreversible and would not preclude consideration of lands, if appropriate, in future claims negotiations or settlement.

## **1.5 Management Strategies**

- a) Work with adjacent First Nation communities to develop and implement management strategies that will ensure the protection of medicinal plant collection sites, pictographs, vision questing areas and other traditional locations and cultural values as identified by the communities. Consultation with First Nations concerning medicinal plant collection sites will occur to establish mutual understanding on operational arrangements.
- b) Involve First Nation communities in the review of any new trail development proposals that may be proposed within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.
- c) Work with First Nation communities to provide a forum for discussion of topics that may affect resources within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve boundaries and lands adjacent to the conservation reserve (land claims, economic opportunities, hunting, fishing, trapping, medicine gathering, exotic species introductions, aboriginal awareness education, development of consultation processes, etc.)
- d) Ensure that the First Nation communities involved in the planning process receive an updated MNR map of the alternate Abrey portage location and any relevant planning documentation related to the planning process.
- e) Involve interested First Nation community members in the implementation of the trail strategy, including creation and establishment of trail kiosks, installation of directional signage, trail maintenance and stewardship.

## 2.0 SPECIFIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

### 2.1 Access

- To manage access within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve so as to ensure the continued remote character of the conservation reserve.
- To permit at this time unrestricted marine access to the shoreline of the La Cloche Conservation Reserve and to monitor shoreline impacts to ensure shoreline access is not negatively affecting resource values at heavily used locations. MNR will work with local interested parties to advance our collective knowledge on how to maintain the quality of the coastal representative communities and landscapes and to address any observable negative impacts that may occur over time.
- To restrict motorized access within the conservation reserve through zoning, by designating snowmobile and ATV use to specific trail corridors, in locations best suited to motorized uses and/or in previously authorized locations to minimize negative impacts on resource values.
- To work toward developing and maintaining (through potential partnerships) one high quality access point at either the Fox Lake Road or the Horseshoe Lake proposed access point in the north-eastern Wilderness zone and/or at the Bay of Islands Drive Location within the southeastern portion of the conservation reserve.
- To implement a zoning strategy that will ensure that current access points are used in a manner adequate to ensure the protection of values at the access locations.
- To ensure existing and future access point and trail development/use does not fragment the cohesiveness of the terrestrial component of the reserve.
- To manage and/or improve public access to the conservation reserve without detrimentally impacting on adjacent landowners, while respecting private property rights, and while ensuring the continued remote character of the reserve.

### 2.2 Portaging

- To officially define an alternate portage corridor for the Abrey portage so as to ensure the public a continued rite of passage from Freud Bay to Lake Huron.

### 2.3 Recreational Trails

- To limit the development of new trails within the conservation reserve to ensure the ecological integrity and protection of the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.
- To consider some new trail developments within the conservation reserve, by evaluating new trail proposals in consideration of the zoning intent for each zone and in consideration of environmental, economic and social values, and effects on public safety and liability. All trail proposals will be subject the *Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves*.

- To ensure that a stewardship process for existing and new trails is put into place in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding, to initiate a process to maintain trails and monitor the environmental impacts on trails.
- To address and minimize conflicts associated with Crown Land recreational trail use, in conjunction with trail proponents.
- To implement the use of a Trail Strategy to address trail authorization, standards, maintenance, monitoring, rehabilitation and stewardship.
- To support existing tourism and recreational uses within the reserve while limiting promotion of the area and initiating a process to monitor the impacts of tourism and recreational use. New tourism and recreational uses within the reserve will be reviewed on a case by case basis and only considered within a planning framework which will include but not be limited to a review via the *Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves*.
- To investigate and pursue, through partnership with local First Nations and/or other user groups, the installation of interpretive/directional/safety signage and trail marking within the reserve.

## 2.4 Crown Land Use and Infrastructure

- To protect the pristine and undeveloped character of the conservation reserve by allowing no Crown Land disposition for recreation camps, tourist resorts/lodges, or outpost camps
- To allow for Crown Land use activities (camping, hiking, boating, hunting) within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation reserve, while ensuring the protection of key features (e.g. maintaining the quality of identified representative features) as well as more specific features (e.g. erodible soils, old-growth forests, deer yarding areas, nesting sites, species at risk, etc.) through designation of non-motorized wilderness and natural environment zones.
- To encourage, through educational brochures, kiosks and signage, low impact non-motorized wilderness camping and respect for the conservation reserve environment, its plants, fish, wildlife and geology
- To educate users about the aboriginal history, local history, geology, ecology and cultural values of the conservation reserve through the development of kiosks, interpretive signage and information brochures.
- To ensure that adjoining land and water uses in close proximity to the conservation reserve will have regard for and ensure protection of the values and features of the conservation reserve.
- To contribute to the pristine and undeveloped character of the conservation reserve by supporting the dark sky initiative for any existing or proposed activities planned to occur within the conservation reserve boundaries.
- To protect the pristine and undeveloped character of the conservation reserve by limiting infrastructure developments for commercial tourism and ecotourism and by permitting small infrastructures (picnic tables/benches) only within the access zone of the CR.
- To ensure that existing structures on Crown Land within the conservation reserve (trap cabins, bridges, shelter cabins) are suitably authorized and are being used for their designated purpose and to require their removal if they are not.

- To ensure that new structures on Crown Land within the conservation reserve are authorized and considered through zoning, and that they comply with current MNR policy standards for safety.
- To ensure the continued remote character of the inland lakes and Lake Huron shoreline within the conservation reserve, to prohibit dock structures as may be detailed through zoning.

## 2.5 Water Resources

- To protect the water resources of the conservation reserve by prohibiting the damming, diversion or removal of water from groundwater sources and underground aquifers for commercial use.
- To promote a peaceful recreational experience for users and to contribute toward the maintenance of excellent water quality within the small lakes of the reserve, by promoting non-motorized uses on the inland lakes within the reserve.
- To prohibit aquaculture and associated infrastructure within the conservation reserve.
- To prohibit commercial and recreational aircraft landing within the reserve. (Future legislation may provide a mechanism of enforcing this activity within conservation reserves).
- To identify, document and address any sources of pollution within the conservation reserve (ie. Sewage, phosphorus, organic material from access points, litter, etc).

## 2.6 Fisheries

- To protect, rehabilitate and sustain aquatic ecosystems and populations within the conservation reserve while allowing for the benefits of sport, bait and Aboriginal fishing in accordance with existing policies.
- To maintain native and stocked fish populations consistent with existing community structure and productive capabilities.
- To pursue fish stocking where it is consistent with management objectives.
- To collect information necessary for the management of the fisheries resource, as required to implement management programs.
- To encourage First Nations to be partners in the management of the fisheries within conservation reserve boundaries by involving them in information gathering, public education and enforcement.

## 2.7 Wildlife

- To protect and sustain wildlife habitat and populations within the La Cloche Conservation Reserve while allowing for the benefits of wildlife viewing, Aboriginal hunting, sport hunting and trapping.
- To promote opportunities for non-consumptive use of wildlife in the conservation reserve such as nature appreciation, interpretation, education, photography and scientific study
- To ensure the protection of the deer yarding area in the eastern and southwestern portions of the conservation reserve through maintenance of habitat and insuring ecosystem integrity and environmental quality

- To protect wildlife habitat so as to ensure sustainable and diverse wildlife populations and to maintain environmental quality and ecosystem integrity
- To work to protect and where possible expand the populations of wildlife species at risk in the conservation reserve.
- To encourage First Nations, local communities and interest groups to be partners in the protection and management of wildlife in the conservation reserve by involving them in information gathering, public education and habitat improvement projects.

## **2.8 Vegetation**

- To manage vegetation in the conservation reserve in order to ensure a natural diversity of vegetation cover and structure.
- To investigate opportunities to use fire and fire management strategies in order to enhance or protect important vegetative communities and habitat.
- To protect regionally and provincially significant plant species/communities within the conservation reserve and encourage research to identify and document vegetation species at risk within the conservation reserve.

## **2.9 Resource Stewardship**

- To seek a broader membership on an existing Local Citizen's Committee (LCC) to include a citizen or citizen(s) who would perform an advisory role in the management of La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve as well as other conservation reserves within the district. (Local Citizen's Committees are groups of local stakeholders appointed by the MNR District Manager with representation from a variety of interest groups including tourist lodges, local industry, first nations, the forestry sector, angler and hunter groups, municipal interests, naturalists and recreational interests.)
- The District Planner under direction of the Area Supervisor will conduct regular plan reviews one year after plan implementation and at five-year intervals thereafter, and consider future amendments to the Resource Management Plan under appropriate circumstances.

## **2.10 Cultural Heritage**

- To protect the known cultural and historical values of the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve
- To encourage partnerships with local communities, user groups and tourist facilities in order to promote public knowledge, understanding and appreciation of cultural values in the conservation reserve.
- Any future cultural values management and promotion will be completed in consultation with local First Nations.

## **2.11 Zoning**

- To identify three zones and snowmobile travel corridors within the conservation reserve boundaries. The zones include an access zone, wilderness zone and natural environment zone.



- To specify the appropriate permitted uses which will occur within each zone.

### 3.0 MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES-INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES

All management guidelines in this Resource Management Plan are based on the policy direction contained in the Crown Land Use Policy Atlas (CLUPA). For the most up-to-date version of the policy report, please refer to the CLUPA on the internet at <http://crownlanduseatlas.mnr.gov.on.ca>, or contact your local Ministry of Natural Resources office. A summary table of the management guidelines, outlining permitted uses within the site, is located in Section 10.9

The management guidelines outlined in this section are specific to the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve and are intended to protect the site's unique values. The guidelines in this document are subject to change and may be amended as necessary. If a conflict between management guidelines exists, the conservation reserve will be managed to protect the integrity of its natural values, while permitting compatible land use activities.

Proposed new uses and/or development, including research and education activities, will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and subject to the *Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves*. The *Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves* (OMNR, 2003) will be used to screen all proposals and management activities occurring within the conservation reserve.

When applicable, the document *Conserving a Future for Our Past; Archaeology, Land Use Planning and Development in Ontario, Section 3* (MOC, 1997) will be consulted as well as additional references and expert opinions when managing archaeological and cultural resources within the area.

Adjoining land and water uses in close proximity to the CR will have regard for and ensure protection of the values and features of the La Cloche CR.

#### 3.1 Aggregate Extraction

No large aggregate extraction sites have been developed within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. Some small aggregate extractions have occurred in the eastern portion of the CR adjacent to sections of Loop 2 in several areas to build up the trail in the vicinity.

##### **3.1.1 Direction**

Aggregate extraction activities will not be permitted within the conservation reserve as per the Conservation Reserves Policy.

##### **3.1.2 Management Strategies**

- a) The hollow areas where aggregate has been removed adjacent to the northern portion of Loop 2 will be rehabilitated by the MOU holder for the trail or by MNR (Junior Rangers). The pits will be refilled manually using existing material at the site and hand tools to create shallow slopes which can be filled with leaf litter, to encourage natural reseeding and regeneration.

## 3.2 Commercial Hydro Development

There are no commercial hydro developments currently located within the La Cloche Conservation Reserve.

### **3.2.1 Direction**

No commercial hydroelectric development or ancillary activities (i.e. flood-ways) will be permitted within the La Cloche Ridge CR in accordance with the Conservation Reserves Policy.

## 3.3 Commercial Timber Harvest

### **3.3.1 Direction**

Commercial forest harvesting is not permitted within conservation reserves as per Conservation Reserves Policy (February 1997). This management plan will not support any supplementary activities (i.e. camps) associated with this activity. Please refer to subsection 5.1.4 for information regarding non-commercial (personal) wood harvesting.

## 3.4 Sunken Log Retrieval

It is unknown but seems unlikely that the La Cloche CR has sunken log resources. Several small inland lakes and coldwater streams are situated within the CR. These lakes are not highly accessible and there is no knowledge of them being used to transport logs historically. Also, no roads are located close to these lakes, meaning if sunken log resources were present it would be very difficult to access these areas for harvest. Harvest could also result in localized negative environmental impacts on the values the CR was designed to protect. The topography of the CR would make it very difficult to transport logs from one location to another.

### **3.4.1 Direction**

Timber salvage/sunken log removal/retrieval is not permitted within the La Cloche CR.

## 3.5 Commercial Wind Power Development

No commercial wind power developments currently exist within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.

### **3.5.1 Direction**

Wind power development is not permitted in conservation reserves according to MNR's policy and procedure 4.10.04 "Wind Power Development on Crown Land". This policy came into effect on January 27, 2004.

## 3.6 Energy Transmissions and Communications Corridors

No transmission lines or pipeline corridors exist within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve, nor have any been proposed.

### **3.6.1 Direction**

Utility corridors will not be supported within the conservation reserve unless there are no demonstrated alternatives. Ancillary activities will not be permitted within the site i.e. pumping stations, service yards, etc.

## **3.7 Mineral Exploration and Development**

Current policy states that no mineral exploration or extraction activities are permitted to occur within any conservation reserve that was regulated as part of the *Ontario's Living Legacy* initiative. These conservation reserves have been removed from mineral exploration and development activities. There are no associated mining claims or leases within the conservation reserve. Mining and surface rights within the conservation reserve's boundaries have been withdrawn from staking under the Mining Act (RSO 1990 c M. 14).

### **3.7.1 Direction**

Mineral exploration or development, or any ancillary activities, will not be permitted within the conservation reserve.

## **3.8 Mining**

No mining activities are currently taking place within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. Several mining claims are situated north of the conservation reserve.

### **3.8.1 Direction**

Mining will not be permitted within the conservation reserve.

## **3.9 Peat Extraction**

No peat resources have been identified in the conservation reserve, however it is possible that peat resources could exist in the wetlands situated within the reserve.

### **3.9.1 Direction**

Extraction of peat, soil, aggregate or other similar materials will not be permitted within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.

## **3.10 Transportation Corridors (Roads, Rail Lines)**

No transportation corridors (roads or rail lines) currently exist within the La Cloche Conservation Reserve.

### **3.10.1 Direction**

New transportation corridors will not be permitted through the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.

### **3.11 Resource Access Roads**

There are no current resource access roads (i.e. Forestry roads) within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. Since the conservation reserve is situated along a coastline and is bounded to the west by La Cloche Provincial Park, it is not anticipated that any resource access roads will be required in future within the area.

#### **3.11.1 Direction**

New resource access roads will not be permitted within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.

## **4.0 COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES**

### **4.1 Bait Fishing**

Only one baitfish block is licensed within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve and it is held by a commercial licensee. No conflicts are known to be occurring with regards to baitfish harvesting within the reserve.

#### **4.1.1 Direction**

Existing bait fishing harvesting activities may be permitted to continue, unless there are significant demonstrated conflicts. Existing baitfish licensee holders will be issued letters of authorization for use of motorized vehicles within the natural environment and wilderness zones, should this be required. Conditions may be applied to any future authorizations. Transfer requests will be considered on a case by case by the MNR Area Office, and should the request be granted, future transferees will need to abide by new access and zoning restrictions (ATV use only in Zone A, snowmobile use only in zone A and the snowmobile corridors). New baitfish operations will not be considered. Structures for baitfish activities will not be permitted.

#### **4.1.2 Management Strategies**

- a) Maintain the existing baitfish reporting system and work with local baitfish operators to monitor the status of the resource.

### **4.2 Commercial Fishing/Aquaculture**

No commercial fishing or aquaculture is currently occurring within the boundaries of the La Cloche CR. It is very unlikely that the lakes within the CR could provide viable commercial fishing opportunities due to their size and degree of accessibility. Since aquaculture sites have been developed in waters south and east of the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve within the North Channel area, there may be a potential pressure for development of aquaculture sites along the southern boundary of the La Cloche Ridge CR.

#### **4.2.1 Direction**

No new commercial fishing operations will be considered in the inland lakes and streams within the La Cloche CR. No existing uses are currently occurring and the status quo

will be maintained. No aquaculture or associated infrastructure will be permitted within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.

#### **4.2.2 Management Strategies**

- a) Applications for aquaculture facilities adjacent to the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve will be monitored by the Espanola Area Team to ensure that no infrastructure will be installed within conservation reserve boundaries and that any potential impacts to the conservation reserve including any negative cross boundary effects will be minimized and/or mitigated.
- b) Should aquaculture facilities be authorized in proximity to the conservation reserve, standards for monitoring will be developed to ensure that these facilities do not negatively impact on lands and waters within conservation reserve boundaries.

### **4.3 Commercial Fur Harvesting (Trapping)**

There are two trapline areas that fall within the conservation reserve, EP 32 and EP 36. Trapper's harvest summaries indicate that species trapped include beaver, mink, marten, otter, fisher, muskrat, raccoon, weasel, red fox, timber wolf and coyote.

#### **4.3.1 Direction**

Existing trapping will be permitted to continue unless there are significant demonstrated conflicts. Existing trap cabins can continue but no new trapping cabins or trapping infrastructure will be permitted. The relocation of existing cabins may be permitted if it is consistent with the protection of natural heritage values and other uses/activities. Repair and replacement of existing cabins should normally be permitted, as long as the scale and function are not significantly altered and within the proposed area all natural heritage values evaluated as to their significance. Proposals will be reviewed on a case by case basis and mitigations/alterations may be required.

Existing trapline licensee holders will be issued letters of authorization for use of snowmobiles within the natural environment and wilderness zones, should this be required for trapping purposes only.

Transfers can be considered on an individual basis by the MNR Area Office, but should the request be granted, new trappers and transferees will need to abide by new access and zoning restrictions (ATV use only in Zone A, snowmobile use only in zone A and the snowmobile corridors). As part of the determination of whether new trapping would be permitted, the associated trails that would be required to be used will be considered.

Changes in trapline quotas will be evaluated by Area Staff, on an individual basis.

#### **4.3.2 Management Strategies**

- a) Inform trapline holders of changes to MNR policy regarding letters of authorization for travel by snowmobile within wilderness and natural environment zones and the prohibitions on ATV use in these zones.
- b) Require trappers to submit to MNR a map showing the location of trails that are utilized for trapping.

- c) Require the Fish and Wildlife Technical Specialist to conduct trapline audits as necessary.
- d) Encourage sharing of aboriginal harvest information (ie. harvest estimates for beaver, mink, marten, otter, fisher, muskrat, raccoon, weasel, red fox, timber wolf and coyote) between MNR and First Nation communities to help ensure the sustainability of the resource.

## 4.4 Commercial Tourism

There are no existing tourist establishments within the La Cloche CR. However several commercial ecotourism companies utilize lands within or adjacent to the La Cloche CR. Nearby resorts and lodges in Whitefish Falls and in the Bay of Islands also utilize the conservation reserve lands. While there are no commercial tourism outposts located within the conservation reserve, one shelter cabin is situated within the CR along the Heaven's Gate Trail.

### **4.4.1 Direction**

Existing ecotourist operations are permitted to continue, in accordance with Conservation Reserve Policy. Repair and replacement of the existing shelter cabin may be permitted as long as the scale and function of the shelter are not significantly altered. The relocation of this structure may be permitted if consistent with the protection of natural heritage values and other uses/activities. No new infrastructure for tourism or ecotourism uses will be permitted within the conservation reserve.

## 4.5 Commercial Campgrounds

Currently there are no commercial campgrounds located within the La Cloche Ridge CR.

### **4.5.1 Direction**

This management plan does not permit development of commercial campgrounds within the La Cloche Ridge CR. The establishment of commercial campgrounds is not consistent with the management goal of maintaining the pristine and remote character of the area. Furthermore, limited access to the conservation reserve suggests that commercial campgrounds could be better accommodated outside of its boundaries.

## 4.6 Commercial Bear Hunting

The conservation reserve forms part of four active bear management areas (BMA's) managed by the Espanola Area MNR office. Four local businesses provide bear outfitting services to non-residents of Canada. Commercial bear hunting has historically taken place using a combination of boat access and land-based access mostly using non-motorized means.

### **4.6.1 Direction**

Existing commercial bear hunting will be permitted to continue within all zones of the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. However, the use of motorized vehicles (ATV's) to retrieve large game will only be permitted within the access zone. No new bear hunting operations will be permitted. All of the conservation reserve land is currently represented within existing trapline areas; therefore, the issuance of "new operations" does not apply

to this conservation reserve. The issuing of new BMA's within the conservation reserve is not possible because all areas are currently allocated.

Transfer requests will be considered on an on-going basis. All bear operators must abide by zoning restrictions. Transfer requests based on inheritance will be considered. Bear management areas that have never been active will not be re-activated. Where the BMA license has reverted to the crown, it will not be re-allocated.

#### **4.6.2 Management Strategies**

- a) Existing BMA licensee holders will be sent a letter describing the changes in policy which may affect their BMA operations.
- b) Negotiation with some affected BMA holders may be necessary to re-adjust the BMA fee structure where the section of BMA within the conservation reserve has reverted to the crown.

### **4.7 Outfitting Services**

There are currently no outfitting service providers within the La Cloche Ridge CR. See glossary for definition.

#### **4.7.1 Direction**

Infrastructure associated with outfitting services will not be permitted within the boundaries of the La Cloche Ridge CR. Examples include but are not limited to cabins, docks and tent platforms.

### **4.8 Outpost Camps**

There are currently no outpost camps within the La Cloche Ridge CR. See the glossary for a definition of outpost camps.

#### **4.8.1 Direction**

New outpost camps or any associated infrastructure will not be permitted within the boundaries of the La Cloche Ridge CR.

### **4.9 Resorts/Lodges**

There are currently no resorts or lodges located within the La Cloche Ridge CR.

#### **4.9.1 Direction**

No new resorts or lodges or any associated infrastructure will be permitted within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.

### **4.10 Food Harvesting (Commercial)**

Commercial food harvesting includes such activities as blueberry picking or the harvesting of wild mushrooms for resale value. Currently there is no known commercial food harvesting operation within the La Cloche Ridge CR, with the exception of traditional blueberry picking by First Nation communities.

#### **4.10.1 Direction**

Commercial food harvesting is not permitted within this Conservation Reserve. The rationale for this direction is that these activities may compromise values which the conservation reserve is intending to protect. Traditional blueberry picking activities by First Nation communities will continue.

### **4.11 Wild Rice Harvesting**

MNR currently has no knowledge of wild rice harvesting occurring within the La Cloche CR for personal or commercial use.

#### **4.11.1 Direction**

New operations for personal or commercial use of wild rice (i.e. seeding) may be considered subject to the Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves.

#### **4.11.2 Management Strategies**

- a) Encourage investigations to identify the potential for wild rice harvesting/planting/seeding within the conservation reserve.

### **4.12 Ground Hemlock (Canada Yew)**

Ground Hemlock, also known as Canada Yew, is a native evergreen shrub that has received increased attention recently due to its medicinal properties. It is a traditional medicine of First Nations which is being harvested locally for use in the pharmaceutical industry. The quantities of ground hemlock within the reserve have not been assessed.

#### **4.12.1 Direction**

This plan does not permit harvesting of ground hemlock within the conservation reserve boundaries.

## **5.0 LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

### **5.1 Crown Land Dispositions and Infrastructure**

Crown land use in the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve involves recreational activities such as camping, hiking, angling, boating, wildlife viewing and hunting. It also involves commercial uses including trapping, commercial baitfish collection and commercial bear hunting. Issues relating to crown land use include environmental degradation (illegal wood cutting and removal, erosion, soil compaction, destruction of vegetation, garbage), and impacts to animal populations related to user activity and unauthorized infrastructure.

There are unauthorized structures within the conservation reserve, which have no tenure or letter of authority.

#### **5.1.1 Direction**

The sale of Crown land is not permitted within the conservation reserve.



The intent is to encourage a diversity of Crown land uses within the conservation reserve where these uses are compatible with natural heritage and resource protection. Crown land activities occurring or proposed that may have a negative impact on the environment will be managed by restricting activities or excluding them entirely. Structures on Crown Land within the conservation reserve that are authorized and being used for their intended purpose will be permitted to remain if compatible with CR values, and will be authorized under MOU. Unauthorized structures will be either approved under MOU or removed, at the discretion of the crown.

### **5.1.2 Management Strategies**

- a) MNR will notify the owners of unauthorized structures that they must remove them from Crown Land within a reasonable time period or they must be authorized under a Memorandum of Understanding.
- b) An MOU for the OFSC water crossing over Alexander Creek must be signed between the Espanola and District Snowmobile Club and MNR or the structure removed.
- c) The OFSC snowmobile bridge over Frood Creek must be modified with a locked post to ensure pedestrian/groomer access only to the Loop 2 area. Groomer access would be for cross-country skiing maintenance purposes only.
- d) Place educational signage outlining the restrictions on Crown Land use at trail kiosks which includes but may not be limited to the Frood Creek Bridge location, the Alexander crossing location and the South Florence Lake location (and/or other access locations deemed suitable in the future).
- e) New infrastructure to be constructed within the conservation reserve requires a work permit and will be reviewed in conjunction with the zoning designations to ensure compatibility.
- f) The signs that have been illegally placed in the Loop 2 area will be removed from the trails to eliminate safety and liability issues.
- g) A designated trail marking system and signage plan will be administered by MNR to ensure a consistent sign style, and implemented through partnerships with user groups and/or through the assistance of the Junior Ranger program.
- h) The erosion concern at the Alexander Crossing must be repaired by the OFSC snowmobile club by planting of native grasses and shrubs, and other appropriate erosion control techniques as directed by MNR area staff.
- i) Dock structures will not be permitted within the La Cloche CR including the shoreline of Lake Huron.
- j) Through partnerships with First Nations and other user groups, develop educational materials on low-impact camping and distribute through kiosks.
- k) The OFSC snowmobile trail will be posted to restrict use by motorized vehicles (except snowmobiles).

## **5.2 Fire Suppression**

Two large fires took place within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve in 1923 and 1934 which affected the western portions of the reserve. Since then a number of smaller fires have occurred within the reserve, the majority of which have been caused by lightning. Many of the previously burned areas have regenerated. The fire strategy which covers Mongowin Township and area is that of a full response. All fires are aggressively actioned, based on measured priorities. Whitefish Falls/Willisville

Volunteer Fire Department has signed an agreement with MNR which allows the department to respond to forest fires on behalf of MNR, only if MNR requests it.

### **5.2.1 Direction**

The responding agency for forest fires within the CR will be the MNR. The MNR recognizes fire as an essential process fundamental to the ecological integrity of conservation reserves. Forest fire protection will be carried out in accordance with approved MNR fire management strategies for conservation reserves which state "Forest fire protection will be carried out on a conservation reserve as on surrounding public lands". The Fire Management Planning Guidelines for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves provides direction on fire response and fire use other than that directed by the Forest Fire Management Strategy for Ontario but additional planning and public consultation will be required.

Where aggressive fire suppression is undertaken, a 'light-on-the-land' approach to fire management will be adopted for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. This will include such practices as minimal use of heavy equipment, trenching, camp construction, tree cutting etc.

Opportunities for prescribed burning to achieve ecological or resource management objectives may be considered, but would be subject to the MNR Prescribed Burning Manual; screened under the Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves and require the development of a separate implementation plan (e.g. resource stewardship plan) that would require public consultation.

### **5.2.2 Management Strategies**

- a) Inform adjacent private landowners when a fire within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve may put private properties at risk to ensure public health and safety.

Opportunities for alternative responses and/or prescribed burning to achieve ecological or resource management objectives may be considered. These management objectives will only be considered if public consultation occurs prior to the development of a fire management plan for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. This type of plan would likely be considered a type of implementation plan for a protected area and would be developed in accordance with the new Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves and MNR Prescribe Burning Manual. Co-operate with adjacent landowners who have developed fire management systems for their properties in the event that MNR has difficulty controlling a fire within the conservation reserve.

## **5.3 Fisheries Management**

Sport fishing currently takes place in the inland lakes and streams located within the reserve, namely Florence Lake, Alexander Lake, West Quartzite Lake, Elbow Lake and Wright's Lake. Many of the lakes within the reserve are coldwater lakes.

### **5.3.1 Direction**

Sport fishing will be permitted within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. The Ontario fishing regulations will continue to govern fishing in the reserve. Infrastructure required for cage aquaculture will not be considered within the conservation reserve

boundaries. Any future fish stocking activities will be evaluated by MNR prior to implementation by using the Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves. Fish rearing within the La Cloche Ridge CR through the use of artificial rearing ponds and other similar infrastructure will not be permitted since this would negatively impact on CR values.

### **5.3.2 Management Strategies**

- a) Continue stocking F1 splake in Alexander Lake where funding is available.
- b) Attempt to maintain a diversified angling experience and meet future angler demand for Alexander Lake.
- c) Continue to stock Florence Lake with appropriate species where funding is available.
- d) Continue to stock Elbow Lake with brook trout, (where funding is available) to provide a put-grow-take fishery to provide increased angling opportunities.
- e) Continue stocking White's Lake with F1 splake where funding is available.
- f) Maintain the status of Wright's Lake as a B 1 lake trout lake and continue stocking brook trout where funding is available.
- g) Monitor impacts on the local smelt fisheries.
- h) Protect the coastal wetland component of the reserve to allow for spawning and rearing functions for muskellunge and northern pike.
- i) Attempt to rehabilitate natural lake trout populations within Florence and Alexander Lakes.
- j) Encourage catch and release of fish within the reserve.
- k) Work in partnership with the Whitefish Falls Sportsman's Club to enhance fishing opportunities in the local area, possibly to include future fish stocking projects within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.
- l) Encourage sharing of aboriginal fish harvest information between MNR and first nation communities to help ensure the sustainability of the resource.
- m) Work with First Nation communities and the Anishnabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre to incorporate traditional knowledge, increase First Nation participation in information gathering, and promote sustainable fisheries.
- n) Continue to assess fish populations as required.
- o) Identify any barriers to fish migration and work with DFO to ensure any problems with water crossings are corrected.

## **5.4 Insect and Disease Suppression**

The predominance of hemlock as a forest type within the northeastern portion of the conservation reserve may make this area more vulnerable to infestations of *Lambdina f. fiscellaria*, the hemlock looper. This is one insect that has had a significant impact on the hemlock stands within the northeastern portion of the La Cloche Ridge CR. The conservation reserve is not immune to infestations of a variety of forest insects and diseases.

### **5.4.1 Direction**

Control of insects and disease will be addressed on a site-specific basis. If necessary measures will be taken to prevent the spread of exotic species of insects within the conservation reserve and to areas adjacent to the conservation reserve. The decision for MNR to manage insect and disease outbreaks is usually related to maintaining eligible timber until such time as harvesting can occur. As timber harvesting is not a

permitted use within the conservation reserve, these natural processes will be permitted to occur without intervention. For example, the application of microbial control agent - *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), to control budworm will not be permitted within the conservation reserve. However, if it was deemed necessary through the appropriate processes, this management plan would support the application of control agents to the lands within the conservation reserve if the forest/vegetation was threatened by an infestation of a non-native species.

#### **5.4.2 Management Strategies**

- a) Where necessary, chemical, biological or physical controls may be implemented to control insect and disease infestations which may affect forest lands within and adjacent to the conservation reserve, in consultation with the Area Forester, particularly with respect to non-native species.
- b) Work with educational institutions, individuals and user groups who may have an interest in conducting research and monitoring forest insects and diseases within the conservation reserve.
- c) Monitor infestation through advance technologies (e.g. Supplementary Aerial Photography (SAP); GIS technologies; etc.) and via Ontario Parks monitoring program (e.g. surveys via the stress questionnaires).

### **5.5 Featured Species Management**

#### **5.5.1 Direction**

Existing habitat management practices will be reviewed to ensure that they are consistent with the protection of identified natural heritage values. New featured species management will be permitted and will be implemented using the Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves.

### **5.6 Forest Renewal**

Forestry activities were carried out within the La Cloche Conservation Reserve from the early 1900's to the early 1960's. Following the harvesting of the late 1940's and early 1950's, the Ministry of Lands and Forests (now MNR), conducted renewal activities to regenerate some of the harvested areas. These renewal activities were concentrated in the areas directly north of Flat Point, where red pine was the main species planted. No other renewal activities have taken place within the conservation reserve since this time, however the planning team have recommended that planting could be an active form of natural abandonment which could be used to assist in the decommissioning of forest trails which are deemed unnecessary.

#### **5.6.1 Direction**

Forest renewal can be conducted by MNR or through stewardship partnerships where it will be of net benefit to the protected area. To the greatest extent possible, the renewal should be designed to replicate natural conditions, using trees, shrubs and/or grasses native to the location which would be similar in species composition to the surrounding environment. If planting is carried out, it will be done randomly. Tending will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In all cases of proposed renewal activities, there must be prior review and approval of the proposals by the Area Forester, in order to determine what actions would best support the long-term ecological integrity of the area.

In the locations where planting is to occur, temporary signage should be placed to inform conservation reserve users to minimize disturbance to young seedlings. Forest renewal will not be conducted in areas that have been disturbed by fire, in order to allow natural succession processes to take place.

## **5.7 Wildlife Population Management**

A variety of wildlife are supported by La Cloche Ridge CR's natural habitat, which is located within WMU 42. For a detailed listing of species observed within the CR, see the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve Background Document. Wildlife species of significance within the CR include white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), moose (*Alces alces*), and black bear (*Ursus americanus*). In the past bear problems have occurred in the Camp Manitou area. Electric fencing was a method attempted to control problem bears.

Documented wildlife values specifically associated with this conservation reserve include: a deeryard in the eastern portion of the conservation reserve, coldwater fisheries in Alexander, Florence and Wright's Lake, and a heronry. Several species at risk (SAR) including smith's clubrush, bald eagles, eastern cougar and red-shouldered hawk have been observed within the conservation reserve. One species of note, the hooded warbler, has been observed along the northern boundary of the reserve. Blanding's turtle, another species at risk, has been observed east of the conservation reserve boundaries.

Some information has been gathered on moose, bear and deer populations within the reserve as well as species at risk, however very little is known about insect, amphibian, reptile, bird or small mammal diversity and abundance. Increases and decreases in population numbers and the presence or absence of species is useful information for determining the health of the ecosystem and in making management decisions. Hunting by first nation community members is a popular activity within the CR. MNR has limited information regarding aboriginal harvest levels for wildlife within the reserve.

Bald eagle numbers appear to be increasing in the conservation reserve according to local observations.

### **5.7.1 Direction**

Protection of wildlife and their associated habitats will take precedence over human use and development activities, especially in the case of species at risk. The collection of information needed to make management decisions will be given priority. All known sensitive habitat will be protected through restricted use zoning.

Wildlife population management will follow the most appropriate and current resource management direction provided it is consistent with the other management directions stated within this Resource Management Plan. Currently, wildlife population management is carried out at a high scale (depending on Wildlife Management Unit), which makes it difficult to determine the sustainability of harvest within an area as small as the La Cloche Conservation Reserve.

### **5.7.2 Management Strategies**

- a) Promote opportunities for non-consumptive uses of wildlife in the conservation reserve such as nature appreciation, interpretation, education, photography and scientific study.
- b) Protect wildlife habitat so as to ensure sustainable and diverse wildlife populations in cooperation with Espanola Area Team.
- c) Work to maintain and where possible, expand the populations of wildlife species at risk in the La Cloche Ridge CR.
- d) Encourage First Nations, local communities and interest groups to be partners in the protection and management of wildlife in the conservation reserve by involving them in information gathering, public education and habitat improvement projects (ie. Deer surveys, bird counts, marsh monitoring, species at risk).
- e) Work with the Natural Heritage Information Centre, Sudbury Ornithologists, Camp Manitou, the academic community and other interested partners to consolidate, collect and document information on wildlife populations and unique habitats present within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.
- f) Develop and implement management strategies to protect and/or rehabilitate rare and unique species/communities, such as zoning sensitive nesting habitat as seasonally restricted from Crown Land use.
- g) Nuisance bear activities reported to be occurring on private properties landlocked by conservation reserve boundaries will be managed in conjunction with the Bear Wise program from the Espanola Area Office, by accessing private properties by water access where necessary.
- h) Educate private property landowners landlocked within conservation reserve boundaries to reduce the risk of bear problems on the adjacent private lands.
- i) Encourage sharing of aboriginal wildlife harvest information (i.e. for moose, deer, bear, hare, grouse and waterfowl) between MNR and first nation communities to help ensure the sustainability of the resource.
- j) Improve information relating to small mammal, forest nesting birds, amphibian and reptile populations as well as for species at risk by developing partnerships to establish long term trend-through- time monitoring stations at various locations in the conservation reserve including rare habitats, following standard protocols (e.g. Forest Bird Monitoring, Marsh Monitoring, Small Mammal trapping surveys).
- k) Establish regular monitoring for species at risk (bald eagles, golden eagles, blanding's turtle) to determine long-term population trends and habitat use.
- l) Encourage research studies to determine trend-through-time monitoring stations for the deer population within the deer yarding area of the conservation to study the impacts of how snowmobiling and other trail uses affects the deer population within the reserve.
- m) Encourage the use of new technologies to monitor habitat/ecological communities (e.g. supplementary aerial photography, remote sensing techniques and GIS). Partner with Ontario Parks, First Nations and other stakeholders for such initiatives as aerial flight surveys and stress questionnaire surveys (i.e. for species at risk that may go beyond the boundaries of the site) where possible.

### **5.8 Access**

There is no automobile access into the La Cloche Conservation Reserve. Access is possible by boat to the southern shoreline of the conservation reserve along Lake

Huron. Boat launches are situated at several tourist establishments in Whitefish Falls to the east of the site, at Fort La Cloche near Sagamok Anishnawbek to the west of the site, and at Little Current.

Access to the eastern end of the conservation reserve is achieved via two main locations. The Heaven's Gate Trail (Eastern Trailhead) off Highway 6 is limited to non-motorized uses. The Red Deer Village Trail Association (RDVTA) Trailhead north of Bay of Islands Drive in Whitefish Falls is a multiple use access point. The RDVTA was incorporated in June 2000 as a not-for-profit corporation by the residents of Red Deer Village and provides access to the general public for recreational use on its multi-use trail as specified in its title covenant.

The northern boundary of the conservation reserve has three crown unmaintained land access points in the form of abandoned tertiary forest access roads/trails. The most easterly of these provides non-motorized access into the northeastern portion of the conservation reserve in the non-snowmobiling season and in winter is the D-110 OFSC snowmobile trail access. In recent years, ATV users have been using this location to access the conservation reserve. Such uses were not authorized in the planning process for the snowmobile trail. ATV access will not be permitted at this location through posting under the Public Lands Act.

The two other accesses from Elbow Lake and Moose Lake Road are used by snowmobilers in winter. It is unknown to what extent ATV use occurs at these locations in the non-snowmobiling season. Access into the conservation reserve during the winter season can be gained via the Moose Lake Road, which runs south from the Cutler Lake Lodge road south of the Lee Valley Road. Snowmobiles typically travel from Moose Lake Road to the Wright's Lake area via Elbow Lake and the Marsh Trail, after crossing Moose Lake by snowmobile.

The only access to the conservation reserve from the west is via the Heaven's Gate Hiking Trail which enters the reserve just south of White's Lake. The trail continues westward 14 km to Fort La Cloche, which is situated in La Cloche Provincial Park directly to the west of the conservation reserve. It continues eastward for 18 km through the reserve and through private lands to Highway 6.

### **5.8.1 Direction**

The Espanola and District Land Use Guidelines were amended through extensive public consultation in 1996 to include a Limited Access Area designation for the area encompassed by the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. The intent of the Limited Access Area designation was to encourage traditional uses in the designated areas, and prohibit year round motorized public access improvements.

Access point management within the boundaries of the conservation reserve will take this pre-existing policy direction into account. Measures will be taken to address any negative environmental impacts resulting from access development/activity. Trails which could improve motorized access within the reserve will be discouraged.

### **5.8.2 Management Strategies**

- a) One additional crown land access point to the conservation reserve along Bay of Islands Drive will be permitted if MNR is able to acquire crown land access in the area through purchase, lease, easement or donation from existing private landowners in the area. If MNR can acquire crown access, some amenities may

- be provided, possibly including a parking area, information kiosk, and directional and/or interpretive signage. These amenities would be dependent upon MNR funding capabilities at the time of plan implementation.
- b) The existing private access point at Bay of Islands Drive (RDVTA) will be permitted to continue to provide motorized and non-motorized access into the access zone of the conservation reserve.
  - c) Existing and new forest access roads coming in close proximity to the northern boundary of the CR from the Fox Lake Road/McKinnon Creek Road area will be monitored to ensure no new access is created into the wilderness zone of the CR (Zone B).
  - d) Postings stating "no motorized use" including ATV use will be placed at the eastern and western boundaries of the conservation reserve where the Heaven's Gate Trail passes through the reserve, and at the junction of the Heaven's Gate Trail and the D 110 OFSC route. These postings will be enforceable under the Public Lands Act.
  - e) Postings stating "no ATV Use permitted" will be placed at all three existing northern access points to the reserve, and at the junction of the OFSC trail and the Florence Lake Trail. These postings will be enforceable under the Public Lands Act.
  - f) Motorized access into the Loop 2 area will be restricted by MNR by placing a "no motorized access" sign south of the Frood Creek bridge. The OFSC bridge leading south to the Loop 2 area will be modified to a pedestrian bridge with a locked post to keep motorized users out of the area (although snowmobile grooming of cross-country ski trails may be permitted through a letter of authority to the MOU holder of Loop 2).
  - g) To ensure no motorized access from the relocated portage location, signage stating "No motorized access" will be placed at the eastern boundary of the conservation reserve at the relocated portage location where it meets with the junction of Loop 2.
  - h) MNR will consider the potential for a future new crown access point at the Horseshoe Lake/Old Landfill Road location to link into the existing Heaven's Gate Trail's eastern limits, should a trail proponent come forward wishing to construct a trail and new access point at this location.
  - i) The impact of motorized activities in the Access Zone will be monitored by establishing a monitoring system at specific locations within the reserve through MOU's with local partners. A simple photographic monitoring system will be implemented to document the changes in trail impacts over time. Should there be negative environmental impacts associated with ATV use in the Access Zone, further restrictions on this type of use may be implemented, or this type of use may become prohibited in the future. Periodic monitoring will be conducted by conservation officers to ensure there is no unauthorized motorized access within the specific zones where motorized access is prohibited.

## 5.9 Water Resources

Currently, no water level manipulation occurs on water bodies within the La Cloche CR. An old dam structure exists at the southern outlet of Wright's Lake which is a remnant from logging days. The structure is degraded to a degree that it no longer controls flows into the creek.



Water level management is crucial in maintaining healthy lake trout lakes because water level manipulation can negatively affect spawning activities, hatching and recruitment of fish.

The normal water flow of the major lakes and streams within the La Cloche Ridge area is as follows: Alexander Lake drains eastward via Alexander Creek into Florence Lake. Florence Lake drains southward into Froid Creek which flows southward into Lake Huron. Wright's Lake flows southward into Lake Huron via an unnamed creek. Along the northern boundary of the CR, a chain of lakes including Elbow Lake and West Quartzite Lake drain to the north into Moose Lake and then west via McKinnon Creek into La Cloche Lake and then into the North Channel.

### **5.9.1 Direction**

Maintenance of a healthy watershed will be the priority in all water management decisions within the La Cloche Ridge CR. Water level manipulations that could affect the lakes and creeks within the reserve will not be permitted. No water will be removed, dammed or diverted from inland lakes or groundwater sources/aquifers located within the boundaries of the La Cloche Ridge CR for commercial use. Use of electric motors will be encouraged within the conservation reserve.

### **5.9.2 Management Strategies**

- a) The use of marine engines on small lakes within the reserve will be monitored by MNR and if negative impacts on water quality are observed in the future, or if other significant impacts or conflicts with the use of marine engines are observed, further management actions may be taken to restrict the use of marine engines.

## **5.10 Exotic Species Impacts**

The introduction of exotic species is a concern to the MNR and members of the public. These are organisms that have been introduced into habitats where they are not native. The introduction of invading species is an extensive problem and a serious threat to biodiversity. Invading species can cause widespread and unpredictable changes to ecosystems. These changes can result in damage to ecosystems and native fish and wildlife populations. Preventative measures must be taken to ensure that these species are not introduced into the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.

No exotic species are currently known to affect the CR, although extensive inventory work has not been completed. The proximity of the conservation reserve to Lake Huron provides a possible vector for exotic species such as zebra mussels and spiny water flea.

Prevention and education are the key to eliminating the potential for unwanted exotic introductions.

### **5.10.1 Direction**

To the fullest extent possible, minimize exotic species impacts through public education.

### **5.10.2 Management Strategies**

- a) Issue scientific collector's permits for any research occurring within La Cloche Ridge CR and ensure that data collected is transferred to the Espanola Area

- Office of the MNR to the Area Biologist so that MNR can monitor exotic species introductions (distribution and abundance).
- b) Educate local tourism operators and campground operators and enlist their support in education of the public.
  - c) Encourage investigation and research on management strategies to deal with exotics in an effort to determine what might provide a successful strategy for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.
  - d) Ensure that research taking place within the La Cloche Ridge considers methods to minimize transfer of exotic species from outside CR boundaries.
  - e) Identify exotic species in proximity to the conservation reserve and determine appropriate methods for minimizing their transfer within conservation reserve boundaries.
  - f) Take action to help prevent the introduction of exotic species into waters within the La Cloche CR by posting signage at access points, educating the public about exotics (ie. no dumping of bait buckets).
  - g) Educate local tourist operators and enlist their support in education of the public regarding transfer of exotic species.
  - h) Boat caches should remain on their specified lake rather than being moved around to minimize transfer of exotic species from one lake to another.

## **5.11 Waste Sites, Litter and Pollution**

Although litter within the conservation reserve does not currently appear to be a problem, if use of the area is increased due to tourism promotion, litter could become a problem in the future. The presence of litter within the conservation reserve could diminish the quality of experiences within the area and could also impact on the CR values.

There are no known existing waste sites within the boundaries of the La Cloche Conservation Reserve. The use of motorized vehicles within the conservation reserve could cause problems with spillage of gasoline, oil or other products which could have negative affects on water quality, local plant or animal life. The use of motorized vehicles could increase the potential for dumping of garbage on crown lands. One issue which has been identified is the lack of waste facilities in the immediate area for water-access properties in the Bay of Islands. This may need to be addressed in the future.

### **5.11.1 Direction**

No waste sites will be permitted within the La Cloche Conservation Reserve. Where the use of motorized vehicles is permitted, such motorized vehicles should not be re-filled with gasoline within 50 m of a water body.

### **5.11.2 Management Strategies**

- a) A program to properly store and manage waste sites on private properties directly adjacent to and landlocked by CR lands should be implemented in partnership with landowners to ensure organic wastes are properly stored, covered on a regular basis and that non-organic wastes are removed by boat on a regular basis.
- b) Any future waste sites constructed on privately owned properties directly adjacent to the CR need to obtain a C of A (Certificate of Approval) from the Ministry of the Environment.

- c) The Ministry of the Environment should be immediately made aware of any large spills of gasoline, oil or other pollutants within or directly adjacent to the conservation reserve.
- d) Should litter become a problem, signage could be placed at selected access points to educate the public about reducing/eliminating litter and enforcement efforts in this area could be increased. As part of MOU agreements, partners will monitor the impacts of litter as part of their annual maintenance tasks.

## 5.12 Access Roads and Trails

No private access roads exist within the conservation reserve. However the two camp properties (which are surrounded by conservation reserve and Lake Huron) may require occasional motorized access through CR trails in order to transport a tractor for servicing. Camp Manitou is deemed water access only. Motorized travel (use of the tractor to haul luggage) takes place between the two properties owned by Camp Manitou.

### **5.12.1 Direction**

New private access roads will not be permitted within the conservation reserve boundaries. Upgrading of trails within the CR used for occasional private access will not be permitted. Letters of authorization from MNR will be issued to Camp Manitou should they require occasional motorized access on the northern section of Loop 2 (within the natural environment zone) for the purposes of transport of machinery or equipment that cannot reasonably be expected to be transported by water.

## 5.13 Facility Development

The only facility currently existing within the La Cloche Conservation Reserve is one shelter cabin situated on the Heaven's Gate Trail north of Florence Lake. Sagamok Anishnawbek has expressed an interest in the development of small infrastructure (ie. overnight shelter) within the reserve to complement non-motorized ecotourism in the area.

### **5.13.1 Direction**

The use of existing facilities is permitted. New facilities or modifications to existing facilities may be considered but would need to be screened through the Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves. New facilities for resorts and lodges (i.e. Main base lodges) will not be permitted within CR boundaries. Small infrastructure developments for commercial tourism/ecotourism activities (i.e. overnight shelters) may be considered through the Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves and will be approved through a work permit. No aquaculture facilities will be permitted within the conservation reserve boundaries.

### **5.13.2 Management Strategies**

- The shelter cabin on the Heaven's Gate Trail will be added to the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) for the Heaven's Gate Trail.

## **5.14 Personal Timber Harvest**

The Crown Forest Sustainability Act directs that any timber harvesting on Crown land must follow an approved Forest Management Plan. The Forest Management Plan directs if, where and how personal fuelwood harvesting may be carried out in Crown Forests. Opportunities for personal use fuelwood harvesting are provided through the Forest Management Plan. The cutting of trees for non-commercial (i.e. fuelwood) purposes in other locations has in some cases been found to be necessary for leaseholders, cottagers, and other property owners who do not have road access to their properties. Intended uses of trees cut include fuelwood, dock stringers and other occasional, small scale uses. Some island residents are permitted to harvest fuelwood at designated fuelwood blocks with authorization from MNR in the form of a personal fuelwood license. However, no fuelwood blocks are located within the La Cloche Ridge CR.

### **5.14.1 Direction**

The cutting of trees for non-commercial purposes within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve for large scale and small-scale uses (ie. firewood) will not be permitted. In the case of the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve, the property owners who do not have road access to their properties own land that is an adequate size to support their local wood harvesting needs. Fuelwood blocks for island residents or any other residents will not be permitted within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. Cutting of trees for trail maintenance will be addressed in Section 7.15 and will require a personal use fuelwood permit.

## **5.15 Vegetation Management**

The La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve is located in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Lowlands and includes a variety of vegetation community types such as forest, wetlands and rock ridges. Vegetation management includes such techniques as allowing the natural processes of forest succession to occur within these various ecosystems.

The plant species within these communities are extremely important to wildlife as food sources and provide habitat and food for insects, prevent erosion, control nutrient and water flow, play a role in energy flux, affect insulation, depth of thaw and moisture content of the soil. These species also provide nature appreciation opportunities to various hiking and naturalist groups that visit the area. Unfortunately, sensitive species grow in areas used by recreational groups hiking and climbing around the cliffs. The risk of destroying sensitive flora communities may increase as the profile of the extraordinary climbing opportunities in the La Cloche Conservation Reserve heightens.

### **5.15.1 Direction**

Vegetation in the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve will be managed to ensure unique habitats, vegetation communities and rare or significant flora will be protected. Efforts will be made to improve the level of knowledge of the vegetation communities and flora in the conservation reserve.

## **6.0 SCIENCE, EDUCATION AND HERITAGE APPRECIATION**

## **6.1 Wildlife Viewing**

### **6.1.1 Direction**

The conservation reserve was established to protect the natural resource values contained within the La Cloche Ridge CR area. This management plan will support wildlife viewing within this area.

## **6.2 Collecting**

Collections of a personal nature, such as gathering animal bones, wildflowers, small rocks, feathers and antler sheds have likely occurred within the CR for nature study, environmental education and First Nation spiritual activities.

### **6.2.1 Direction**

Collecting is not permitted within the conservation reserve. However, collecting may be permitted as part of an authorized research project. The issuance of permits for collecting will be considered on a site-specific basis. Authorized collectors need to be aware that collections of certain flora and fauna may put species at risk and may be subject to other legislation such as but not limited to the *Endangered Species Act*. Species that have been identified in this management plan as being at risk should not be collected, unless part of an authorized research project. Collection and spiritual activities by First Nation customs, practices and traditions will continue.

## **6.3 Historical Appreciation/Cultural Heritage**

No archaeological digs have taken place within La Cloche Ridge CR. Cultural heritage values do exist within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve including some known but unsurveyed sites such as the old logging camp at Florence Lake. Other First Nation sites of cultural and historical significance likely exist since the La Cloche Ridge CR has been accessible for over a century.

### **6.3.1 Direction**

Ontario archaeological sites and artifacts are protected through provincial legislation under the *Cemetery Act*, the *Ontario Heritage Act* and the *Planning Act*. The alteration, destruction, and/or removal of any archaeological values are prohibited by law and could result in prosecution and significant fines. Archaeological research or studies undertaken will be permitted through this management plan, but subject to the above acts listed, prior to initiation of the study.

Furthermore, approved and licensed research may be beneficial in documenting the cultural/historical significance in the La Cloche Ridge CR area. Additional studies would help to identify and to ensure protection of such artifacts, provided that the research does not compromise the conservation reserve's currently identified values.

This management plan will continue to support the protection of the area's historical, cultural and archaeological values.

### **6.3.2 Management Strategies**

- a) Further study of the Wright's Chimney location should be completed to assess the cultural and archaeological significance of this site by involving the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture. Measures should be taken not to permit direct trail access to this location.
- b) Discussions with First Nations should continue to identify measures to protect identified and unidentified sites of cultural and historical interest within the conservation reserve.
- c) Should any archaeological sites be identified within the reserve, measures should be taken to protect them by initiating buffer zones within the CR.

## **6.4 Scientific Research**

Past research has been carried out in the La Cloche Ridge CR area to determine geological values, life sciences, fisheries and water quality. Further studies will likely be initiated in the future to assess various aspects of the environment within the reserve.

### **6.4.1 Direction**

Research inventories and monitoring activities are permitted within the conservation reserve with the permission of the MNR Espanola Area Office. These activities are encouraged in order to provide a better understanding of the natural processes, to advance their protection, planning and management. This management plan supports the continuance of this activity provided it does not compromise the values for which the conservation reserve was intended to protect. Prior to research being conducted, researchers will contact MNR who will consider any potential negative impacts on species at risk, and the potential for transfer of invasive species.

### **6.4.2 Management Strategies**

- a) Applications for scientific study within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve will be screened by the Espanola Area Team and if permitted, will be authorized by the Espanola Area Supervisor through a letter and issuance of a Scientific Collector's Permit. Any conditions deemed necessary for the protection of the values of the conservation reserve will be outlined on the Scientific Collector's Permit and in the approval letter. At the conclusion of the research, the permittee must provide copies of the study results to the Ministry of Natural Resources in digital and paper formats. The results will include methodology and results of the study and will include location data and GPS co-ordinates as well as any information collected on species at risk.
- b) Information on any in-house studies that are being conducted within the conservation reserve by MNR staff must be maintained on file at the MNR office and must include details of methodology, results, location data and GPS co-ordinates as well as any information collected on species at risk. Such information will be available to the general public through a FIPPA (Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy) request.

## **7.0 RECREATION ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES**

### **7.1 All Terrain Vehicle Use**

All terrain vehicle (ATV) use is a popular recreational activity within the south-eastern portion of the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve, on the Red Deer Trail and the Florence Lake Trail.

Past planning determined that the level of acceptable access to this area was low-intensity hiking. However concern has been expressed about the use of ATV's within the area and the growing impacts. Potential ATV impacts, many of which have been observed within portions of the conservation reserve, include but may not be limited to the following;

- Damage to wetlands
- Multiplication of trails
- Extensive trail rutting
- Soil compaction leading to tree root exposure and tree damage/death
- Damage to vegetation communities
- Redirection of surface water flows into ruts and depressions formed from ATV use
- Noise, which may affect First Nation vision questing activities and disturb the pristine character of the conservation reserve
- Potential for increased poaching and garbage deposition on crown lands
- Possible vector for transfer of invasive species due to soil compaction in tires
- Formation of extensive parallel trail networks which destroys ecological integrity
- Incompatibility with other trail uses including snowmobiling, skiing and hiking
- ATV use presents a potential public safety hazard in environments with mountainous terrain which is the case in the La Cloche Ridge

ATV use in many areas of the conservation reserve is for all of the above reasons, incompatible with the land use policy for the majority of the trails within the conservation reserve and also incompatible with protection of the terrain and vegetation along the La Cloche Ridge.

### **7.1.1 Direction**

ATV use will be restricted to use within zone A, the Access Zone. This zone will allow ATV use on the Red Deer Trail and the Florence Lake Trail as far north as the south shore of Florence Lake. Non trail ATV use may be permitted for direct retrieval of large game, within the access zone only. The use of ATV's for emergency rescues is permitted within the La Cloche Conservation Reserve with notification and approval by MNR. The use of ATV's for maintenance purposes in specialized or emergency circumstances may be considered by MNR staff and if permitted, would be described in the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) for the individual trail or trail section and would be authorized through a letter of authority. MNR may consider the option of issuance of letters of authority for current commercial users (i.e. bait fishermen) to utilize ATV's within the conservation reserve for commercial use only.

### **7.1.2 Management Strategies**

- a) Restrict ATV access on trails that are incompatible with ATV use including the OFSC trail, the Fox Lake Road access point, the Loop 2 area, the Heaven's Gate Trail, the Marsh Snowmobile Trail, the Wright's Lake Trail, the Shoreline Trail, the Camp Manitou Trail, the Moose Lake Access Point, and the McKinnon Creek culvert. (See the Authorized Trail map for these trail locations). Post signage enforceable under the Public Lands Act at appropriate locations.
- b) ATV use will be permitted only within Zone A the access zone.

- c) A timing restriction on ATV use in Zone A is recommended so that ATV use will not occur between April 1<sup>st</sup> and May 30<sup>th</sup> so as to reduce the environmental impacts and erosion on the trails. This period was chosen because areas in the CR can be snow and ice free as early as mid-March leaving areas susceptible to rutting and ponding. Also the bark of trees is very sensitive to scraping and damage between April 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>. Should the timing restriction not be voluntarily followed, MNR may consider further enforcement measures.
- d) Work with the Red Deer Village Trail Association to restrict ATV access to trails within Zone A during the spring rainy season, to minimize the possibility of rutting and erosion on the trail.
- e) With the assistance of Ontario Rangers and through partnerships with recreational users, perform trail repair and rehabilitation in locations where ATV use has caused trail forking, rutting, widening and shortcuts.
- f) Place signage and flagging at sites where trail repair and rehabilitation is taking place.
- g) Address erosion concerns at the Alexander Creek crossing by using erosion control and revegetation techniques as approved by the MNR technical staff.
- h) Monitoring and enforcement of decommissioned trails to ensure they are not being used.
- i) MNR will develop a maintenance standard for motorized and non-motorized trails that will address materials used, and allowable activities that can be used by stewardship partners, to be included in MOU's (Memorandums of Understanding) for the trail sections.
- j) Educate recreational users about responsible ATV use and its potential impact on other recreational users.
- k) Conduct enforcement activities to ensure poaching, garbage and unauthorized woodcutting does not become an issue.
- l) Implement directional, educational and hazard signage to increase safety for ATV users on the trail.

## 7.2 Camping

The development of campsites was a popular issue identified. With increased tourism in the area and/or increased ecotourism use, pressures for campsites may increase. At the Planning Team level there was some discussion about which areas are currently being used for camping and which areas may be under increased pressure in the future.

There are currently no maintained campsites within the conservation reserve. Crown land camping policies currently apply, unless adverse effects on protected values necessitate further planning and management for this activity. Currently, popular camping areas include the south shores of Florence Lake, Alexander Lake and Wright's Lake, Wright's chimney, Lake Huron shoreline at Flat Point, and south of Wright's Lake.

### **7.2.1 Direction**

This management plan will continue to permit low impact, wilderness recreational camping within the La Cloche Ridge CR area as a means of experiencing solitude and nature in a protected area. Due to administrative and enforcement issues, designated and maintained campsites are not practical for the La Cloche Ridge CR at this time. However, signage at access points may provide messages about proper campsite



maintenance and usage to the users. No car camping will be permitted. Normal Crown land camping policies will apply within the Conservation Reserve.

### **7.2.2 Management Strategies**

- a) The MNR Area Team will monitor the use of crown land camping areas within the reserve to ensure these areas are not being negatively impacted by camping.
- b) Develop educational material on low-impact camping and distribute through partners and trail kiosks (municipalities, tourist establishments, tourist booths, outdoor clubs), funds permitting.

## **7.3 Food Harvesting (Personal)**

Food harvesting and gathering activities, such as picking blueberries or mushrooms, or gathering of medicinal plants has likely occurred within the conservation reserve as a traditional activity.

### **7.3.1 Direction**

Existing personal use food gathering activities are permitted within the conservation reserve and are supported by this management plan if sustainable. Harvesting of new foods within the conservation reserve for personal use is permitted within known sustainability levels. Should personal food harvesting have any negative impacts on the values the conservation reserve is intended to protect, then this direction may be revoked.

## **7.4 Horseback Riding**

Horseback riding was not documented as a recreational activity occurring within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. Conservation Reserves policy states that horseback riding is permitted on existing trails. However, safety may be a concern with horseback riding on the Heaven's Gate Trail, since this trail includes mountain ridge sections which are very steep in nature and do not provide suitable footing for horses. It has also been raised that horseback riding can be a possible vector for the introduction of exotic species of plants. The introduction of horse excrement can contain seeds of plants not native to the area, and which can be deposited onto trails, resulting in the growth of plants not normally found in the area.

### **7.4.1 Direction**

Conservation Reserves policy states that horseback riding is permitted on existing trails. It is recommended that horseback riding be limited to the Red Deer Trail and the Florence Lake Trail for safety reasons. The extent of horseback riding in the area should be monitored, and if problems occur in the future, appropriate measures should be taken, which could include posting of signage restricting horseback riding from certain areas of the reserve.

## **7.5 Sport Hunting**

Hunting for white-tailed deer, moose, black bear, and game birds is known to take place within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve, which is within wildlife management unit 42. Hunting by Aboriginal communities continues to take place within the reserve.

### **7.5.1 Direction**

Sport hunting is permitted within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act and its regulations will continue to govern sport hunting within the reserve. The use of ATV's for the direct retrieval of large game will only be permitted in Zone A.

### **7.5.2 Management Strategies**

- a) Encourage hunters within the area to adhere to game laws and regulations.
- b) Education on hunter safety could be included at kiosks.
- c) In consultation with Aboriginal communities in the area, develop estimates of subsistence harvests for moose, deer, bear, hare, grouse and waterfowl for the La Cloche area.
- d) Encourage sharing of Aboriginal wildlife harvest information (i.e. for moose, deer, bear, hare, grouse and waterfowl) between MNR and First Nation communities to help ensure the sustainability of the resource.

## **7.6 Mountain Bike Use**

Some mountain bike use does occur on trails within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.

### **7.6.1 Direction**

Mountain bike use on existing trails is permitted. Off-trail use is prohibited. The impacts of this activity should continue to be monitored and should problems occur in the future, education and/or restrictions on this activity may be necessary.

## **7.7 Motorized Boating**

Existing motorized boating within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve appears to be nonexistent, with the exception of commercial users. Most existing boating activities are non-motorized in nature and include the use of small rowboats and canoes. The limited accessibility of the area tends to preclude the use of motorized watercraft.

### **7.7.1 Direction**

Motorized boating is permitted within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. However non-motorized boating or the use of small electric motors is recommended within CR boundaries to promote a peaceful recreational experience for users, to contribute toward the maintenance of excellent water quality within the reserve, and to minimize the potential for the introduction of exotic species within the aquatic environment (i.e. zebra mussel, spiny water flea).

### **7.7.2 Management Strategies**

- a) Should the use of motorized watercraft begin to have negative effects on water quality, introduce exotic species and/or cause a decline in the quality of other recreational experiences within the reserve, a prohibition on internal combustion outboard marine engines may be considered. In this case only electric motors may be permitted. Should enforcement be required, signage will be placed at access points to the small lakes within the reserve, and will be enforced under the Public Lands Act.

- b) Promote the use of electric motors and non-motorized enjoyment of the reserve at kiosks.

## **7.8 Non-Motorized Recreational Use (Hiking)**

Non-motorized recreational use is the most common form of recreational use within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.

### **7.8.1 Direction**

Non-motorized recreational use is a permitted activity within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. Recreational trails, signage and educational/interpretive material and kiosk displays will be permitted within the area. No large-scale development in the form of lodges, outpost camps, or recreation camps will be permitted. Motorized forms of recreation will be confined to existing specified trails designated through zoning.

### **7.8.2 Management Strategies**

- a) ATV use will be permitted only within Zone A the access zone.
- b) A timing restriction on ATV use in Zone A is recommended so that ATV use will not occur between April 1<sup>st</sup> and May 30<sup>th</sup> so as to reduce the environmental impacts and erosion on the trails. This period was chosen because areas in the CR can be snow and ice free as early as mid-March leaving areas susceptible to rutting and ponding. Also the bark of trees is very sensitive to scraping and damage between April 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>. Should the timing restriction not be voluntarily followed, MNR may consider further enforcement measures.
- c) Work with the Red Deer Village Trail Association to restrict ATV access to trails within Zone A during the spring rainy season, to minimize the possibility of rutting and erosion on the trail.
- d) Place directional, interpretive and safety signage within the conservation reserve at appropriate locations and manage/maintain these amenities through partnership agreements with local first nations and other user groups.
- e) Request that trail proponents (MOU holders) conduct simple photographic volunteer monitoring of trail conditions and recreational impacts by evaluating trail condition at specified pre-existing benchmarks, and submit trail monitoring reports to area team staff at 2 year intervals.

## **7.9 Private Recreation Camps**

There is one recreation camp within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. It is held under Land Use Permit. The recreation camp is situated within McKinnon Twp on the Lake Huron shoreline within the reserve and is accessible by water.

### **7.9.1 Direction**

New private recreation camps will not be permitted in the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. The existing recreation camp will be permitted to continue. If lands are needed to protect significant natural or recreational values, tenure may be affected. Enhanced tenure (lease) will not be considered and this land use permit may not be sold. If the existing recreation camp holder wishes to relinquish their tenure MNR will not reallocate the land. Tenure granted for the existing LUP must follow the conditions below:

- a) The permit will not confer authority to use private roads.
- b) Neither the site nor the camp will be used for any commercial purpose.
- c) No improvement, alteration, renovation, enlargement or reconstruction of the camp, or no installation of any water or sewage system, will be undertaken without written approval from the district manager.
- d) Access to the site, and the quality of that access, is strictly the responsibility of the permittee.
- e) Transfer of interest in the camp, except by inheritance, is subject to the written consent of the District Manager.
- f) Enhanced tenure is defined as anything beyond term and current form of tenure.

### **7.9.2 Management Strategies**

- a) Contact the permittee and determine their intentions for this land use permit. Regular inspection of this LUP must be performed by area team staff to ensure the conditions of the LUP are being met.

## **7.10 Rock Climbing**

It is unknown to what extent rock climbing takes place within the conservation reserve. This activity may present a danger, but this area could become renowned for rock climbing due to the resources of the La Cloche Ridge.

### **7.10.1 Direction**

Rock climbing is a permitted activity within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.

### **7.10.2 Management Strategies**

- a) Rock climbing routes should be marked with rock cairns rather than the use of spray paint, which defaces the natural beauty of the area.

## **7.11 Snowmobiling (On Trails/ Off Trails)**

Snowmobiling is a popular mode for accessing the La Cloche Ridge CR area during the winter months. Popular snowmobile routes within the reserve include the D 110 OFSC trail and the Marsh snowmobile trail that passes from Lake Huron to Wright's Lake, then passes eastward through Elbow and Alexander Lakes where it links with the OFSC trail at the eastern end of Alexander Lake and Elbow Lake.

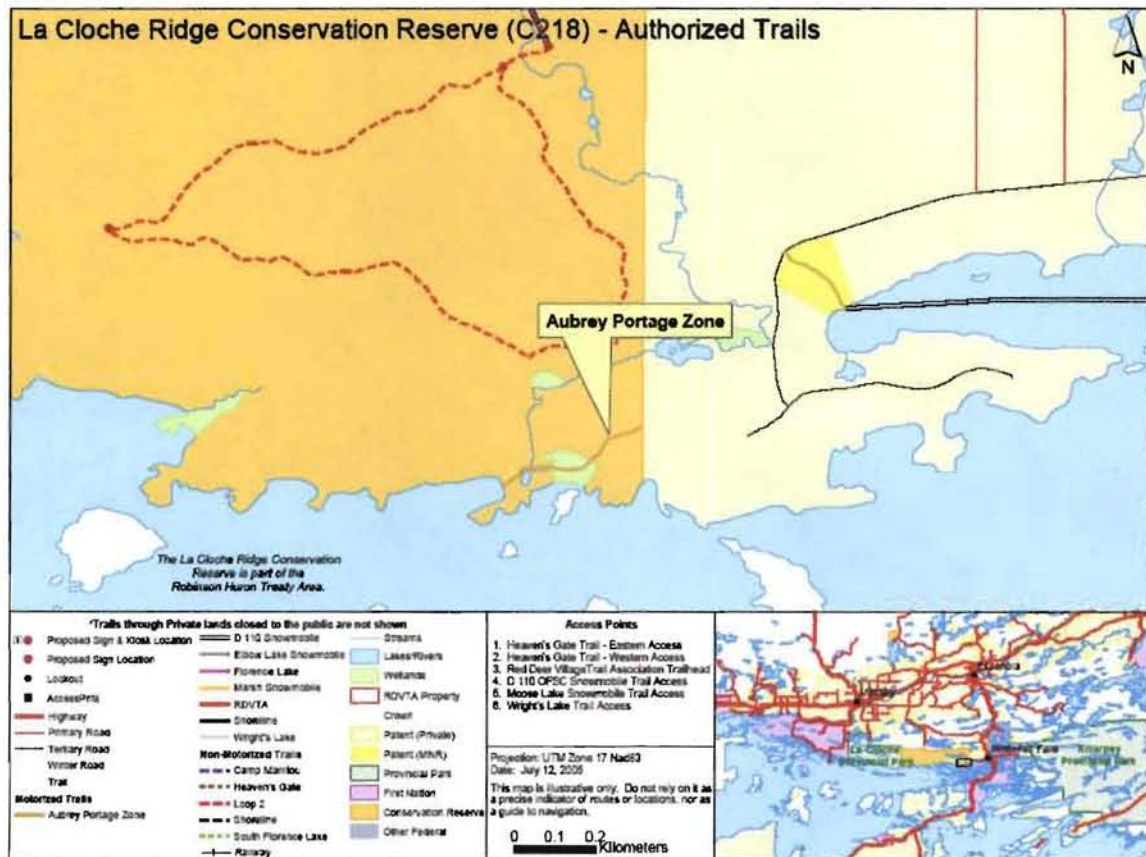
Prior to December 2004, the Espanola and District Snowmobile Club had an agreement for passage of OFSC trail D 110. In December 2004 this agreement was terminated. As a result snowmobiles began to use alternative routes to access the conservation reserve which provides a link between the North Shore and the Killarney area. The authorized D 110 route within the conservation reserve currently terminates at the southeastern portion of the site on patent land. The OFSC would like to re-establish the 2 kilometer link between the picnic table location and connect a section of new OFSC trail authorized in partnership with private landowners. This would re-establish the link with Bay of Islands Drive to connect to the water-based trail along Lake Huron.

### **7.11.1 Direction**

Off-trail snowmobile use within the reserve is not permitted. Existing use of snowmobiles will be permitted to continue on designated trails within the access zone

and within the snowmobile travel corridor as detailed on the Zoning Map. No snowmobile access will be permitted within the natural environment and wilderness zones of the reserve.

The only exception to this will be that snowmobiles are permitted to access the relocated Abrey portage in the southeastern corner of the CR continuing in a westerly direction and crossing Frood Creek to enable their continued travel by water from Freud Bay to Lake Huron. Snowmobiles are not permitted to access the CR via Loop 2 in this manner and signs stating that no motorized access is permitted will be placed at the junction of the relocated Abrey portage and Loop 2. The Abrey portage is defined by a zone on Crown land 10 metres wide as shown in the map below:



Construction of new snowmobile trails and/or identification of snowmobile trails as authorized OFSC routes will be permitted within the conservation reserve but only within zone A and the existing snowmobile travel corridor. No other new snowmobile corridors (OFSC or otherwise) will be considered within the reserve.

### 7.11.2 Management Strategies

- Seek stewardship agreements in the form of an MOU for all existing and new snowmobile trails within the La Cloche Ridge CR. Infrastructure requirements for the snowmobile routes (bridges, culverts) will be incorporated into the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) for the trail or trail section.
- Research the effects of snowmobile use on the deer yarding area within the conservation reserve.

- c) The erosion concern on the OFSC trail south of Alexander Creek should be addressed as detailed in the Refined Management Options Document.

## **7.12 Boat Caches**

There have been no conflicts identified in regard to boat caching within the La Cloche Ridge CR. Existing boat caches fall into one of three categories; commercial, resource harvester and recreational/private. Boat caches exist on the southern shorelines of Alexander Lake, Florence Lake and Wright's Lake. The caches on the southern shores of Florence Lake and Wright's Lake are for recreational use and add to the recreational enjoyment of the reserve. The cache on the southern shore of Alexander Lake is for resource harvesting use by a local trapper.

### **7.12.1 Direction**

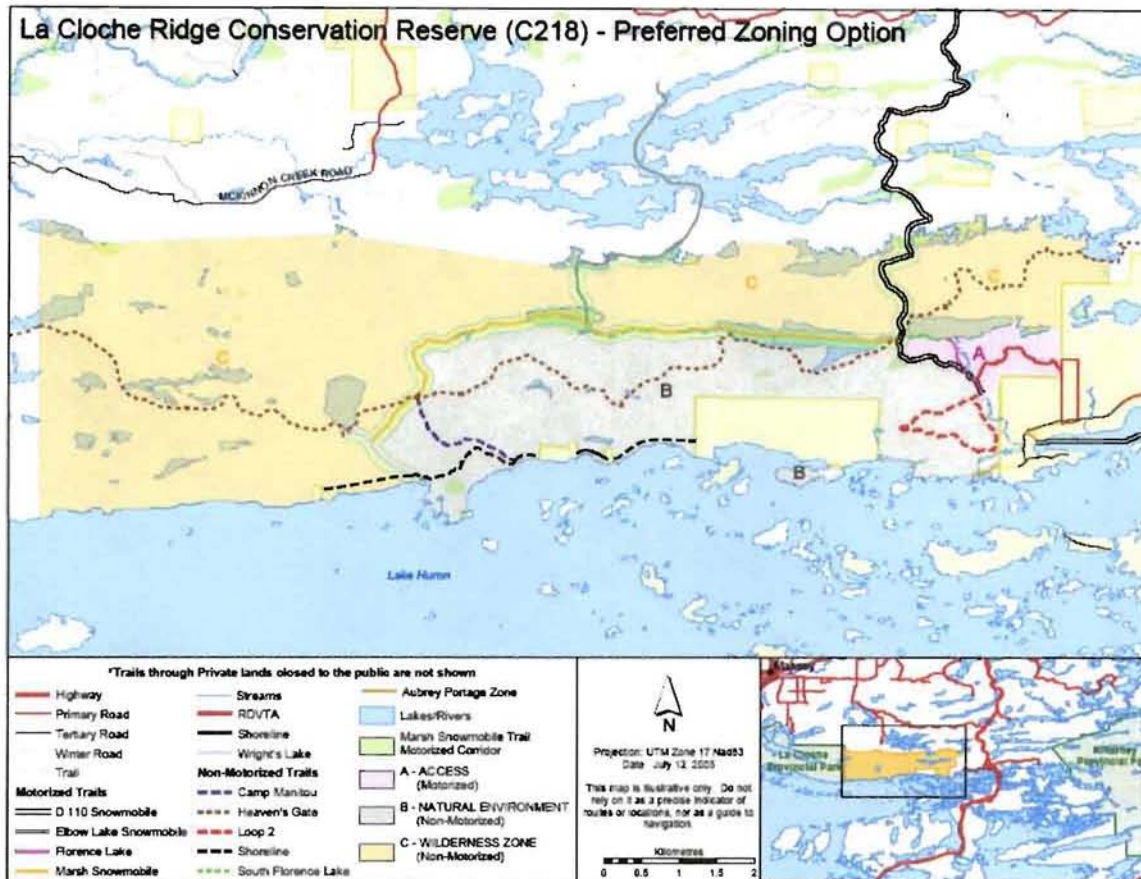
Existing boat caches for commercial, resource harvester and recreational use are permitted to continue unless significant conflicts are demonstrated. The Crown Land policy for boat caches will be adhered to.

### **7.12.2 Management Strategies**

- a) If boat caching becomes an issue in the future, MNR may look at developing a boat cache program which requires all boats cached on Crown Land to display a decal with an assigned identification number.

## **7.13 Zoning**

The La Cloche Conservation Reserve has been divided into three zones for management purposes. See the Zoning Map below:



For details on the recreational trails, issues and natural resource values of each zone, see the document ***“Refined Management Options, May 2005”***.

### **7.13.1 Management Direction, Zone A (Access)**

It is anticipated that this zone will be the most heavily used within the entire CR, since it is most easily accessed. Therefore, enforcement requirements here will be higher than in other zones within the CR. This area will not be open to travel by large motorized vehicles including argos, four wheel drive trucks, dune buggies, dirt bikes (for racing and recreation), or other such vehicles but will be limited to ATV vehicles for general public access, snowmobiles and a dirt bike that is utilized for bear management purposes only. Should the use of these ATVs, snowmobiles and the dirt bike which is utilized for bear management purposes begin to degrade the landscape and/or affect the values for which this area was protected, this use may need to be re-evaluated and a new strategy developed. Campsites will not be designated within this area. Day use and overnight camping will be permitted.

Applications for new motorized and non-motorized trail developments and limited infrastructure including bridges, interpretive and/or directional signage and trail kiosks may be considered within this zone and will be screened by MNR under the Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves.

One additional crown land access into this zone along the eastern boundary of the La Cloche CR will be considered within this zone, should lands be made accessible to MNR through purchase, lease, easement or donation.

### **7.13.2 Management Direction, Zone B (Non-motorized)**

This area will not be open to travel by snowmobiles, ATV's, or other motorized vehicles including argos, four wheel drive trucks, dune buggies, or dirt bikes.

The only exception to this is that snowmobiles are permitted to access the relocated Abrey portage in the southeastern corner of the CR continuing in a westerly direction and crossing Frood Creek to enable their continued travel by water from Freud Bay to Lake Huron. Snowmobiles are not permitted to access the CR via Loop 2 in this manner and signs stating that no motorized access is permitted will be placed at the junction of the relocated Abrey portage and Loop 2.

Campsites will not be designated within this area. Day use and overnight camping will be permitted.

Zones B and C are bisected by a snowmobile travel corridor, where snowmobile travel is permitted.

Applications for new non-motorized trail developments and limited infrastructure including bridges, interpretive and/or directional signage and trail kiosks may be considered within this zone and will be screened by MNR under the *Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves*.

One additional crown land access into this zone along the eastern boundary of the La Cloche CR will be considered within this zone, should lands be made accessible to MNR through purchase, lease, easement or donation.

Grooming of cross-country ski trails using a snowmobile on Loop 2 and the Florence Lake Trail will be permitted through issuance of a letter of authority to the MOU holder for the trail. Trail maintenance in this zone will be completed by non-mechanized means by the MOU holder, as specified in the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding).

The objective of this zone is to provide a high-quality recreational site for low-intensity non-motorized recreational uses such as hiking, cross-country skiing and mountain biking. Hunting and fishing will be permitted. An amendment to the District Land Use Guidelines pre-dates the current CR designation and reinforces the directive for non-motorized uses in this area. Only recreational pursuits compatible with the land base characteristics will be permitted.

Campsites along the Lake Huron shoreline will not be designated, but it is expected that kayakers, sailors and canoeists will utilize the shoreline of this area. Protection for a plant species at risk will be ensured by not publicizing the location of this species and through MNR monitoring of the site(s) to ensure vegetation is not being negatively impacted.

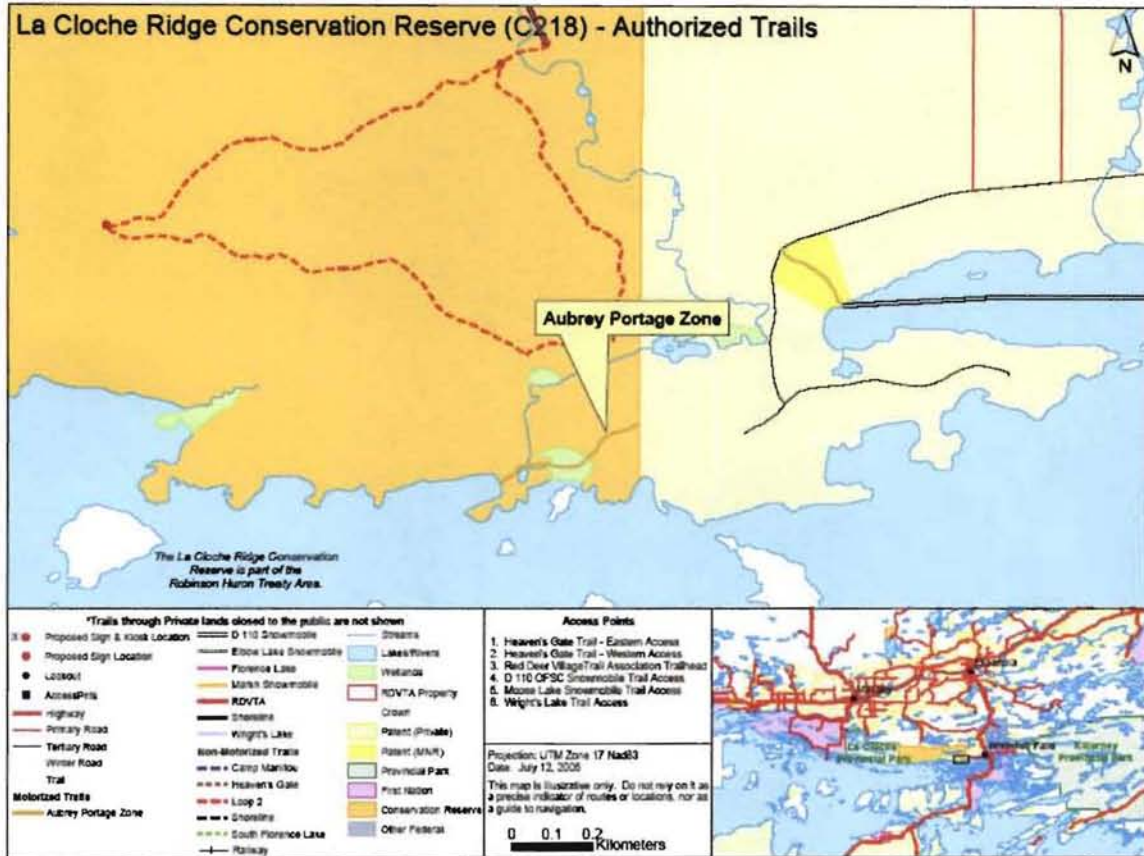
#### **Abrey Portage**

The Abrey portage provides a rite of passage from Freud Bay to Lake Huron and is not meant to provide access to the conservation reserve. In winter the portage is used by a



small number of snowmobilers to avoid an area of unsafe ice at First Narrows, before the official OFSC snowmobile route is marked on Lake Huron's northern shoreline. The portage is not designated as an official OFSC trail and will not be designated as such.

The location of the alternate portage location can be seen in the figure below. It has been mapped using GPS technology but is not considered a trail within the conservation reserve.



### 7.13.3 Management Direction for Zone C-Wilderness Zone (Non-motorized)

The objective for this area is to provide a high quality wilderness experience for recreational users where visitors travel by non-mechanized means and experience solitude, challenge and personal integration with nature. Minimal infrastructure developments will be permitted within this zone. Wilderness camping will be permitted to occur and fishing and non-motorized hunting will be permitted. Use of motorized vehicles on land will not be permitted.

Zones B and C are bisected by a snowmobile travel corridor, where snowmobile travel is permitted.

## 7.14 New Trail Development and Access

In the past, some trail construction within the conservation reserve has taken place without MNR authorization, as a result some trail access has occurred across private property. To address this concern, specific direction regarding any proposed new trail developments is required. New trail development could challenge the management goal of protecting the remote and pristine character of the La Cloche Ridge CR. For this reason, new trail developments will be very carefully considered by MNR, especially where new trails create new access to the LRRCR.

### **7.14.1 Direction**

New trail development proposals that utilize non-motorized means of access within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve will be considered. However, trail development that could enhance motorized access by ATV or snowmobile will not be considered in the natural environment and wilderness zones in order to maintain the remote and pristine character of the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.

New non-motorized trail proposals which will provide access to La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve will be limited to the following:

Western boundary: No new trails will be permitted to provide additional access to the western boundary.

Eastern boundary: One additional crown land access along the eastern boundary of the La Cloche CR will be considered, should lands be made accessible to MNR through purchase, lease, easement or donation.

Northern boundary: One additional crown land access along the northern boundary of the La Cloche CR will be considered.

Southern boundary: No new trail developments which provide access along the south shore of the LRRCR from the water will be considered.

Trail relocations within the conservation reserve may be considered where current routes conflict with natural heritage values and alternate locations are sought to ensure protection of the values.

MNR will not be responsible for construction of any new trails within the conservation reserve. MNR will be responsible for managing the crown lands associated with the conservation reserve. Such management will include direction to user groups in rehabilitation of damaged trails, enforcement of management decisions, and assisting in conflict resolution where trail conflicts occur between affected parties.

Any new trails proposed for La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve will be subject to the Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves. If volunteer trail groups, first nation communities, other stewardship partners or private individuals (hereinafter referred to as **trail proponents**) wish to construct new trails within the conservation reserve, they will be required to develop and submit a written proposal to MNR in the

form of a work permit application. No new trails will be permitted to be constructed until after sign-off and approval of the Final Resource Management Plan by the Minister.

New trails will be required to be monitored by the trail permittee (person or organization requesting and constructing the new trail). Should new trails, as a result of monitoring, be found to be negatively impacting CR values, or causing significant conflicts with other recreational users, the trail proponent may be requested by MNR to decommission the trail at the permittees own cost, to a condition similar to the natural environment before the construction of the trail, as directed by MNR.

New trails will follow the guide "*Guidelines for Reviewing Recreational Trail Proposals on Public Land*" (MNR Draft, December 8, 2004) and "*Recreational Trails on Public Land, Policy 5.01.02 Draft Dec 8 2004*".

New trails must meet the following conditions:

- Must have minimal infrastructure requirements which can be serviced through non-motorized means
- Must not create additional access to the small named lakes within the reserve (Alexander Lake, Wright's Lake, Florence Lake, White's Lake, Elbow Lake, West Quartzite Lake).
- Must have a signed MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) for maintenance and monitoring.
- Must not impact upon any documented species at risk.
- Must identify protocols as may be deemed appropriate to protect fish and wildlife.

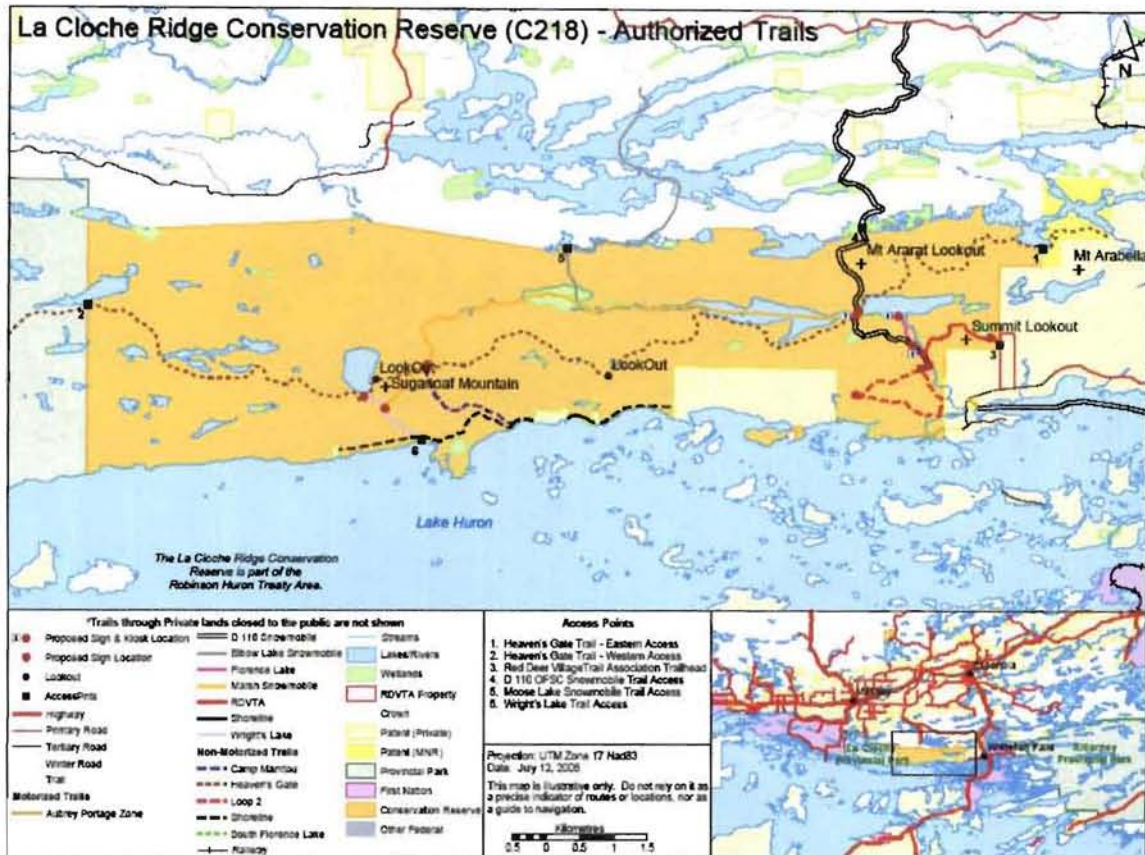
#### **7.14.2 Management Strategies**

MNR will develop MOU's (Memorandums of Understanding) for all authorized trails currently used within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve which must be signed by trail permittees. Trail permittees will be responsible for submitting a bi-annual monitoring report (once every two years) that will form part of the MOU for the trail. The monitoring report will form part of the conditions of the MOU. There will be a requirement for all new and existing trails to conduct simple trail infrastructure and monitoring activities during the appropriate seasons and in locations to be specified in the MOU. The simple trail infrastructure and monitoring requirements will commence in 2006.

### **7.15 Trail Authorization, Maintenance and Signage**

In the past, some trail construction within the LRCR has taken place without MNR permission, and trail maintenance has been conducted without following any standardized procedure or reporting system. This has resulted in the construction of unauthorized structures, improperly maintained trails, improper placement of directional signage and other trail related issues.

For the purposes of this plan, "authorized trails" refer to those trails identified below and identified on the following "Authorized Trails Map, July 2005".



- Red Deer Trail (Motorized multi-use)
- Florence Lake Trail (Motorized multi-use)
- South Florence Lake Trail (Non-motorized)
- Wright's Lake Trail (Non-motorized)
- Heaven's Gate Trail (Hiking only)
- Loop 2 Trail (Non-motorized)
- Shoreline Trail (Non-motorized with exception of portion between properties owned by Camp Manitou)
- Marsh Trail (Motorized snowmobile corridor)
- D 110 OFSC Trail (Snowmobile trail)
- Camp Manitou Trail (Non-motorized)

### 7.15.1 Direction

Use of **designated** trails, as described above, is permitted to continue. Construction of new trails to support any recreational activity may be considered within the conservation reserve. However, trail maintenance will be permitted only by the trail permittee as outlined on the Memorandum of Understanding for the designated trail or trail section. Maintenance must follow the standard maintenance strategies outlined in this document.

**Maintenance:** Cutting of dead trees for maintenance of trails is permitted. Trail repair may be necessary in instances of natural disasters (tornadoes). Trail maintenance may be carried out by MOU holders only for the specified trail and details on how the trail can be maintained will be included in the MOU signed with the trail permittee.

## **Signage**

Interpretive, educational and directional signage as outlined in the *Refined Management Options Document* must be authorized by MNR and may be placed by the OMNR or trail partners (MOU holders) at access points, or other appropriate locations, provided that natural heritage values are not compromised. Messages may describe permitted and non-permitted uses, exotic species education, use of access points, the protection of cultural heritage values, and may inform resource users of their responsibilities as they pertain to the site and its protected values. No commercial signage (advertisements) will be permitted within the conservation reserve. This management plan supports OFSC signage within the reserve as outlined in Ontario Regulation 185/01 (Motorized Snow Vehicles Act).

## 7.16 Trail Stewardship

### **7.16.1 Direction**

A program of trail monitoring using photographs taken in the same locations at regular intervals will be used to monitor trail damage and unauthorized expansions or relocations. This program will be voluntarily completed by those groups who hold stewardship agreements (MOU's) for the various trails.

### **7.16.2 Management Strategies**

Where a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed previously for a section of recreational trail within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve, an updated Memorandum of Understanding will be required to be signed by the trail permittee.

## 8.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Several groups have a vested interest in the La Cloche Ridge Conservation reserve; local First Nation communities, recreational trail users, the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) and Espanola & District Snowmobile Club (EDSC), the Red Deer Village Trail Association (RDVTA), adjacent property owners, and nearby tourism operators. The involvement of these groups will be crucial to implementing the Resource Management Plan for the La Cloche Ridge. The planning team has therefore made the following recommendation:

**One year following implementation of the Final Resource Management Plan for La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve, MNR (through the MNR District Planner or appropriate designate) should initiate the formation of an Implementation Committee which would include local first nations and other area stakeholders who were involved on the initial planning team. The role of the implementation committee would be to provide input during the review process to monitor plan implementation and enforcement efforts and results and to recommend/assist in further implementation efforts.**

The Implementation Plan for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve will include specific projects and activities required to translate the Management Plan's policies into actions. Some projects and activities may be too complex to cover completely as part of this Resource Management Plan and may require additional research and monitoring programs. In this instance, the implementation strategy will cover the following topics:

**Natural Heritage Education**

- Information, interpretation and recreation program elements
- Self-interpreted trails or displays

**Recreation Management**

- Features or activities of special concern (ATV riding)
- Special security or enforcement situations

If the group or organization originally responsible for constructing a trail does not wish to take responsibility for the signing of an MOU, the trail section will be made available to the general public. Preference for the signing of an MOU will be with the group or organization who has been previously involved in the maintenance or care of the trail.

Implementation Schedule

<b>Proponent for Project</b>	<b>Program Area</b>	<b>Strategy or Task</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Is project currently ongoing or underway?</b>	
MNR	Enforcement	ATV Use Restrictions/Associated Signage and Enforcement	High	Partial	
	Lands	MOU's with trail permittees	High	Partial	
	Lands	Monitoring of OFSC activities	High	Ongoing	
	Ontario Rangers through partnership with Ont Parks	Trail marking directional signage*	High	Heaven's Gate Trail partially completed Aug 2005. All other trails should be made a priority for future Ontario Ranger submissions.	
	OLL * or Don Mark MNR Communications	Fire	Trail kiosks and interpretive signage	High	New
			Trail decommissioning	Medium	New
	Fire	Fire management plan	Low	Yes	
	Lands/Fish & Wildlife Specialist	Letters to commercial resource harvesters	High	No	
	Resource Liaison	Development of strategies to protect cultural values (medicinal plants, etc)	Medium	New	
	Resource Liaison	First nation subsistence harvest information sharing	Medium	Unknown	
	Biologist/Fish & Wildlife Specialist	Annual reviews of commercial harvester files	Medium	Unknown	
	Species at Risk Biologist	Species at risk planning	High	No	
BearWise	Nuisance bears	Low	Yes		
Fisheries	Fisheries monitoring, inventory and migration barriers, lake trout rehabilitation	Medium	Lake Trout Rehabilitation Program		
	Fisheries	Fish stocking of lakes within reserve	Medium	Ongoing	
	Aggregates	Aggregate fill-in on Loop 2	Low		
Trail Permittees through MOU	In conjunction with Lands Technical Staff	Trail monitoring	High	New	
Stewardship Partners and/or Local First Nations	In conjunction with MNR Biologists	Study of how motorized recreation affects the deer population	High	New	
		Forest bird monitoring, marsh monitoring, campsite inventory and monitoring, trail monitoring	Medium	New	
	In conjunction with MNR Communications Don Mark	Educational campaign/trail brochure for area and district office for public distribution	High	New	

\* With possible involvement of Stewardship Partners or Trail Permittee

## **8.1 Compliance Monitoring**

District Compliance and Enforcement efforts are directed by a five year strategy and more specifically by Annual Compliance Operating Plans. These plans set priorities and direct compliance efforts within the Sudbury District. Comments/concerns received which relate to compliance and monitoring within the conservation reserve will be forwarded to District staff involved with the development of these plans.

The concerns noted will be assessed against other priorities and resources available within the District. Enforcement efforts will continue in the conservation reserve. However, this management plan may be amended in the event that; current activities (i.e. boat caches) increase to unanticipated levels and if activities not addressed in this plan escalate in popularity.

Compliance efforts will be required by MNR staff and DFO staff to ensure values within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve are protected and to ensure adherence to legislation. Local trail wardens from the Espanola and District Snowmobile Club enforce the OFSC snowmobile trail (D 110) in conjunction with the OPP. A focus on the following legislative tools will be necessary.

- *Public Lands Act*
- *Bill 101, Motorized Snow Vehicles Act*
- *Fisheries Act*
- *Endangered Species Act*

**Roles and Responsibilities:**

### **Enforcement/Compliance Officers**

The role of conservation officers will be to ensure compliance with fishing and hunting regulations, ensure that signage to limit or control the use of motorized vehicles on trails is adhered to, and to ensure that endangered species are protected. This will be done through regular monitoring of the area trail users and monitoring at the more frequently used access points. Checking of gates used to control access will be the responsibility of enforcement and compliance staff in the district.

### **Area Technicians**

Area technicians have a role to play in ensuring that any authorized structures (bridges, infrastructure) within the conservation reserve are managed according to agreements made with groups taking stewardship of these structures. Should stewardship agreements not be adhered to, the District Manager will have the authority to discontinue such stewardship agreements. Area Technicians will also be responsible for bi-annual inspections of the CR trails, to ensure that trail maintenance and upkeep is not negatively affecting the values the CR is intended to protect.

Area Technicians will call in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans if they believe that fisheries in the conservation reserve are being negatively impacted by individuals, clubs and/or stewardship groups.



## 9.0 Plan Reviews and Amendments

MNR has the lead role in implementation of this strategy and is committed to keeping it current and relevant through appropriate monitoring and amendments. Plan implementation will ensure that the Environmental Assessment Act, Environmental Bill of Rights and other pertinent legislation are adhered to at all times.

The Resource Management Plan will be reviewed the first year after plan implementation and every five years thereafter. Reviews will be the responsibility of the Espanola Area Team, and will be co-coordinated by the District Planner. The First Nation communities that were involved in the planning process should be invited to participate in the review process should any amendments to the plan be necessary. Amendments to the plan will follow the document "Procedures for the Amendment of Area-specific Crown Land Use Policy" approved October 14, 2004, developed by Land Use Co-ordination Section, Policy and Planning Co-ordination Branch.

**One year following implementation of the Final Resource Management Plan for La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve, MNR (through the MNR District Planner or appropriate designate) should initiate the formation of an Implementation Committee which would include local first nations and other area stakeholders who were involved on the initial planning team. The role of the implementation committee would be to provide input during the review process to monitor plan implementation and enforcement efforts and results and to recommend/assist in further implementation efforts.**

Amendments may be considered only if the results of the proposed changes contribute positively to the goals and objectives of the management plan and must not alter the overall intent of the RMP. An amendment to the strategy maybe requested at any time and the District Manager will decide whether or not to consider it. Requests for amendments must have a basis in fact, demonstrably relate to the scope of the strategy, and respond to changing resource conditions, new information, changing government policies or public need. The MNR also has the authority to initiate amendments in response to new information or changed conditions.

Amendments will be classified as either minor or major. Minor amendments are those changes that do not have a negative effect on the public, adjacent landowners or the environment and are generally administrative in nature. Minor amendments will be approved by the District Manager and will not normally be subject to public consultation.

Completion of the projects and activities described in this strategy and any ancillary plans are dependent on the availability and allocation of funding in accordance with priorities established by the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Government of Ontario. The MNR will pursue opportunities for partnerships with other agencies and interest groups in the funding and implementation of activities and programs identified and described in this strategy.

Major amendments have a significant social, economic and/or environmental impact. Major amendments will be reviewed by the MNR District Manager and submitted to the Regional Director for approval. Public and First Nation consultation will occur for all

major amendments and notice of all major amendments will be posted on the EBR electronic registry.

Operational and work plans developed to implement the direction of this resource management strategy must be consistent with the objectives and strategies identified herein. Some flexibility in applying plan direction in site-specific operational situations to address biophysical circumstances and include technical expertise is recognized.

Inventory, monitoring, assessment and review are essential to the effective implementation of this plan and are an integral part of the management strategies identified. This includes, for example, inventory and monitoring of fish and wildlife populations, vegetation communities, habitat availability and recreational use and impact. Regular consultation with the Espanola Local Citizen's Committee is critical. All of this information is necessary to ensure that plan objectives are being met and policies remain current and relevant.

## **10.0 Public and First Nation Consultation Summary**

In July 2004, a process was initiated to develop a resource management plan for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. Letters to solicit participation were sent to aboriginal communities, stakeholders and interested parties, to inform them that the planning process was being initiated.

A planning team composed of local community members as well as MNR staff was selected in early October of 2004. Final minutes from the Planning Team meetings have been made available for public review throughout the planning process. A Terms of Reference was prepared to guide the planning process and it was approved by the Regional Director and District Manager. The Planning Team is comprised of the following individuals:

### **10.1 Planning Team**

<b>Lynn Moreau</b>	<b>MNR Crown Land and Protected Areas Planner</b>
<b>Ken Henson</b>	<b>MNR Lands &amp; Waters Technical Specialist</b>
<b>Don Mark (Facilitator)</b>	<b>MNR Communications Specialist</b>
<b>Jim Thomason</b>	<b>Red Deer Village Trail Assoc. and RDV Local Roads Board</b>
<b>Todd Clement</b>	<b>Some Adjacent Private Landowners</b>
<b>Peter Nahwegahbo</b>	<b>Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation</b>
<b>Dennis Lendrum</b>	<b>Espanola District Snowmobile Club</b>
<b>Esther Osche</b>	<b>Whitefish River First Nation</b>
<b>John Perfetto/Gary Wright</b>	<b>Whitefish Falls Sportsman's Club/ Rainbow Country Local Services Board</b>
<b>Paul Wyatt</b>	<b>Espanola Local Citizen's Committee</b>

## **10.2 Meeting Summary**

### **Planning Team Meeting**

#### **Dates**

October 22 2004  
November 15 2004  
December 13 2004  
January 14 2005  
January 21 2005  
January 28 2005  
February 7 2005  
February 28 2005  
March 3 2005  
March 16 2005  
April 18 2005  
May 2 2005  
May 9 2005  
May 17 2005  
June 28 2005  
July 11 2005  
August 25 2005

### **Steering Committee**

#### **Meeting Dates**

February 17, 2005  
March 9, 2005  
May 5, 2005  
July 7, 2005

**10.3 Consultation Opportunities**

Stage during which Consultation took place	Date of Release	Length of Consultation Period	Type of Consultation Opportunity	Time	Number of Attendees	Location	Number of Questionnaires Received
Invitation to Participate	August 30, 2004	Aug 30 <sup>th</sup> to September 30 <sup>th</sup> 2004	Open House for General Public	3 pm to 8 pm	43	Whitefish Falls Community Centre	47
Background Information Document	February 1, 2005	February 1 <sup>st</sup> to March 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2005	Information Centre	Ongoing	8	MNR Area Office, Espanola	6
Issues and Management Options	March 8, 2005	March 8 <sup>th</sup> to April 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	Open House for General Public	5 pm to 9 pm	42	Whitefish Falls Community Centre	53
	March 12, 2005			1 pm to 4 pm	34	Whitefish Falls Community Centre	
Refined Management Options	May 31, 2005	May 31 <sup>st</sup> to June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	Open House for General Public	6 pm to 9 pm	28	Espanola Recreation Complex	61
	June 4, 2005			4 pm to 9 pm	22	Whitefish Falls Community Centre	
Draft Resource Management Plan	July 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	July 25 <sup>th</sup> to August 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	Open House for General Public	6 pm to 9 pm	14	Espanola Recreation Complex	13
	July 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2005			7 pm to 9 pm	39	Red Dog Tavern	
Final Resource Management Plan	Target: November 15, 2005	30 days	Information Centre	Ongoing		Proposed: MNR Area Office, Espanola, Sudbury District Office	N/A
<b>FIRST NATION MEETINGS</b>							
Issues and Management Options	April 4, 2005	30 days	First Nation Council meeting/Oral presentation	2 pm to 4 pm	Approx 12	Sagamok Band Office, Sagamok Anishnawbek	N/A
	June 10, 2005	30 days	Treaty Day Celebration Trade and Craft Show	10 am to 5 pm	Approx 50	Sagamok Community Centre	12
Invitation to Participate	November 8, 2004	30 days	Open House for Community	6 pm to 9 pm	3	Whitefish River First Nation	3

Refined Management Options	June 21, 2005	30 days	Members	2 pm to 4 pm	Approx 25	Whitefish River Community Centre	5
Invitation to Participate	January 21, 2005	30 days	Aboriginal Day Celebration for Whitefish River First Nation	6 pm to 9 pm	12	Aundeck Omni Kaning	N/A
Draft Plan	August 22, 2005	30 days	Open House for Community Members	3 pm	5	Sagamok meeting room	N/A

Two newsletters were developed for the general public and these were released in January 2005 and May 2005. The following documents can be found in the Appendices.

#### 10.4 List of Public Consultation Documents and Media Coverage

The following items are not part of the paper or digital versions of the documents being photocopied for the general public but will be included in the Binder made available at the public Open Houses. If you would like copies of any of the Appendices, please contact the Espanola Area Office of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Appendix	Item Name	Date of Release
A	La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve Fact Sheet	August 2004
B	Mailout Notice-Introduction to Participate	October 2004
C	News Article-Highrader Magazine	Summer 1999
D	La Cloche Ridge Newsletter	May 2005
E	Mailout Ad-Invitation to Participate	August 2004
F	Recreation and Resource Questionnaire	August 2004
G	Mailout-Background Document Review	February 2005
H	Newspaper Ad-Public Review of Draft Background Document	February 2004
I	EBR Posting-Background Document Review	September 2004
J	Newspaper Ad-Public Review of Refined Management Options	May 2005
K	Mailout Ad-Public Review of Issues and Management Options	March 2005
L	Questionnaire-Issues and Management Options	March 2005

<b>M</b>	La Cloche Ridge Newsletter (January issue)	January 2005
<b>N</b>	News Article-Mid North Monitor-Province proposes CR	September 2004
<b>O</b>	News Article-Mid North Monitor-Whitefish Falls meeting draws good attendance	March 2005
<b>P</b>	Mailout Notice-Open House to Review Background Document	February 2005
<b>Q</b>	Mailout Notice-Refined Management Options	May 31, 2005
<b>R</b>	EBR Posting for Background Document	
<b>S</b>	Authorized Trails Map	May 31, 2005
<b>T</b>	Preferred Zoning Option Map	May 31, 2005
<b>U</b>	Trail Strategy Map	May 31, 2005
<b>V</b>	OFSC Map showing Proposed Relocation of Trail	May 31, 2005
<b>W</b>	La Cloche Conservation Reserve-Recommendations Poster	May 31, 2005
<b>X</b>	La Cloche Conservation Reserve-Issues Poster	May 31, 2005
<b>Y</b>	La Cloche Ridge Information Session Fact Sheet-Whitefish River First Nation Aboriginal Day and Questionnaire	March 2005
<b>Z</b>	Questionnaire for Sagamok Anishnawbek Community Members	June 10, 2005
<b>A1</b>	News Article: Mid North Monitor, Wed June 8, 2005-Conservation reserve to ban most commercial activity	June 2005
<b>A 2</b>	News Article: Mid North Monitor-June 1, 2005-Trail's survival depends on support	June 2005
<b>A 3</b>	News Article: Mid North Monitor, Wed June 11, 2005-Snowmobile trail could be in jeopardy	June 2005
<b>A 4</b>	Mailout-Review of Draft Resource Management Plan	July 2005
<b>A 5</b>	News Article: Mid-North Monitor, CR Plan enters last stages	July 2005
<b>A 6</b>	Poster to advertise Draft Plan Review	July 2005
<b>A7</b>	Crown Land Use Policy Atlas Report-La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve	July 2005
<b>A8</b>	Photographs of Open House Information Sessions	Various

### **10.5 Invitation to Participate Stage**

In July 2004, a process was initiated to develop a resource management plan for this remarkable area. Letters to solicit participation were sent to aboriginal communities, stakeholders and interested parties, to inform them that the planning process was being initiated.

Individuals surveyed were asked a series of questions through a written questionnaire to determine what issues were of concern to them, what their vision was for the area and what special areas should be protected within the conservation reserve.

A total of forty-seven questionnaires were received during the initial phase of public consultation. A significant volume of letters and emails were also received.

Individuals with historical information about the area were surveyed individually or phoned to obtain more information. Historical information obtained has been included within the Background Document.

When asked what made the area unique, the public believed that the ruggedness, pristine qualities, quartzite hills, variety of plants and beauty of the area were all important features that should be protected. The public opinion covered the following main points maintenance of status quo, permitted uses, access, promotion and tourism, trail Maintenance, improvement and enforcement, insurance, liability and funding issues

#### **1. Maintain the status quo**

The public expressed a concern to keep things the same as they are now, including maintaining the traditional uses of the area and honouring prior commitments made with MNR. All individuals surveyed expressed an interest in protecting and preserving the area and its wildlife.

**Response:** MNR will make every attempt to honour prior commitments with interest groups/organizations. Prior commitments include Memorandums of Understanding with the partners. Protection and preservation of the area's wildlife will be one of the topics addressed in the development of the management plan. Where the OLL Land Use Strategy indicates that a specific use of the area is permitted, more detailed planning may determine that it is appropriate to apply some temporal or geographic limitation to the activity to protect CR values.

#### **2. Permitted uses**

The public had some concern over permitted uses within the area, specifically if it allowed forestry and mining. They also expressed concern regarding fire and bear management. One individual stated that wind power should not be permitted within the area. One individual wanted to ensure fish stocking of the area's lakes is continued. There was some concern over wood cutting rights within the area. ATV impacts on the area were a cause of some concern.

**Response:** Forestry, mining and wind power are not permitted within conservation reserves. Fire and bear management will be addressed in the resource management plan. Wood cutting rights and ATV impacts will be identified and discussed in the RMP and options for these activities will be identified.

### 3. Access

The public felt access into the area should be maintained and that the access from Freud Bay through private land should be made accessible. One individual expressed concern that the handicapped should also be able to access the area.

**Response:** Every attempt will be made to ensure that public access to the conservation reserve is maintained and/or improved. Access will not be to the detriment of adjacent landowners and private property rights will be respected, however rights under the Public Lands Act with respect to portages will be maintained.

### 4. Promotion and Tourism

The majority of respondents did not want to see increased promotion of the area or increased visitation/tourism. Some thought that human activity within the area should be limited, while others thought that human use within the area should not be restricted. Overall there was mention that management of the area should be done locally and managed separately from parks. One individual stated that an environmental study should be done to study the impacts of recreation.

**Response:** It is not within the mandate of MNR to promote tourism, but increased visitation to the area is outside of the jurisdiction of MNR and may be affected by external factors such as the potential four-laning of Highway 69. MNR will strive to maintain a balance between allowing for recreational enjoyment of the area and protecting the area's natural values. Local stewardship of the area will be encouraged and the possibility of studying the impacts of recreation on the area will be recommended in the development of the Resource Management Plan (Trails Strategy). A legislative review is currently underway that may affect the management of Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves and the role of Ontario Parks. At the time of the development of this document, it is unknown what effects the legislative review will have on the management of this conservation reserve in the future.

### 5. Trail Maintenance, Improvement and Enforcement

Some concerns were noted included garbage and ATV rutting on the trails. Some said the Heaven's Gate Trail should be upgraded. Trail restoration and maintenance was mentioned for the trails in general, and decreasing the amount of trail corridors was also mentioned. The use of ATV's to conduct maintenance activities was noted.

**Response:** Where the OLL Land Use Strategy indicates that a specific use of the area is permitted, more detailed planning may determine that it is appropriate to apply some temporal or geographic limitation to the activity to protect CR values. This may be the case with ATV use occurring within the CR. Trail restoration and maintenance will be addressed in the Draft Resource Management Plan as will ATV use.

### 6. Insurance, Liability and Funding Issues



Respondents expressed a concern with a lack of funding, insurance and liability issues related to trail usage and infrastructure requirements. This was specific to the sector that uses motorized vehicles.

Response: Exploration of these issues may be considered in the future to gain an understanding of the challenges associated with the conservation reserve. MNR will strive to liaise with various interest groups and other government agencies.

Detailed results of the recreation and resource questionnaire were provided to members of the mailing list via a newsletter produced in January of 2005.

### 10.6 Issues and Management Options Stage

Number of Questionnaires Received: 52:

The following summary shows people's responses to the Options Choices Questionnaire.

ACCESS OPTIONS			
	YES	NO	UNSURE
A) One access	13	29	2
B) Upgrade Red Deer	11	32	4
C) RDVTA Acquisition	11	29	4
D) Access at relocated portage	12	32	5
E) Relocate portage	11	30	6
F) Easement	21	19	3
G) Lease for Access	17	22	4
I) Transfer/Trade	2	33	7
J) MNR to Buy Access	10	0	
SNOWMOBILE TRAIL			
A) Existing portage via Loop 2	7	32	4
B) RDVTA trail	5	40	4
C) Relocated portage	2	37	7
D) East Lot 1 Con 1	16	25	6
E) New side trails to Lot 1 Con1	13	25	7
DISPOSITION			
A) Status quo	14	18	5
B) Eliminate ATV's	16	28	1
C) Change Florence Lk trail	10	26	4
D) Loop 2 ATV's allowed	16	24	
LOOP 2			
A) Non-motorized	27	12	3
B) Fully motorized & bridge	12	35	2
C) No ATV's	6	33	
D) Snowmobiles (portage)	19	18	5
CROWN LAND DISPOSITION			

Commercial			
tourism/ecotourism	11	33	6
Resorts/lodges	0	41	1
Outfitting	5	35	4
Other commercial	0	43	0

**CAMPING**

Alexander	21	15	4
Florence	17	20	3
Wright's	23	12	4
Lake Huron	12	4	2
Horseshoe Lake	32	22	10
Wright's Chimney	16	12	9

TRAIL KIOSK	30	9	5
INFRASTRUCTURE	24	13	6

**WATERS OF LAKES**

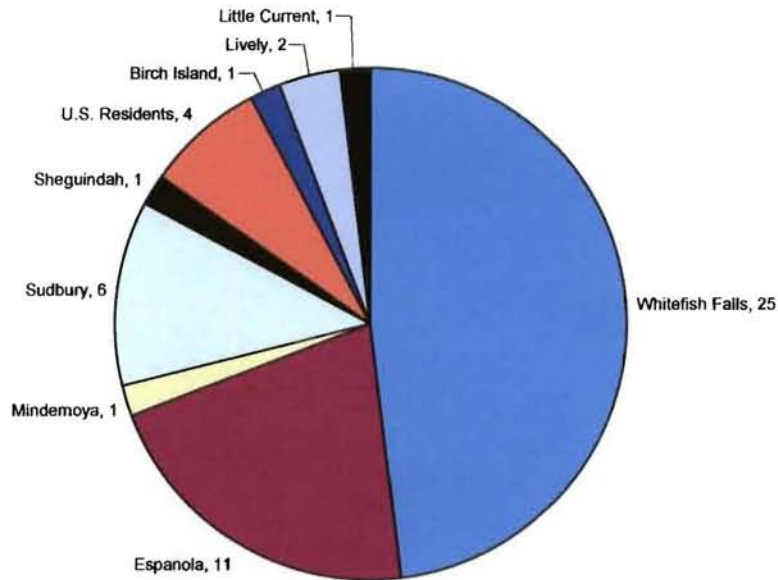
A) No withdrawals or dams	42	3	0
B) HP restrictions/boat caches	21	17	1
C) No motorized watercraft	30	10	4

**NEW TRAIL DEVELOPMENTS**

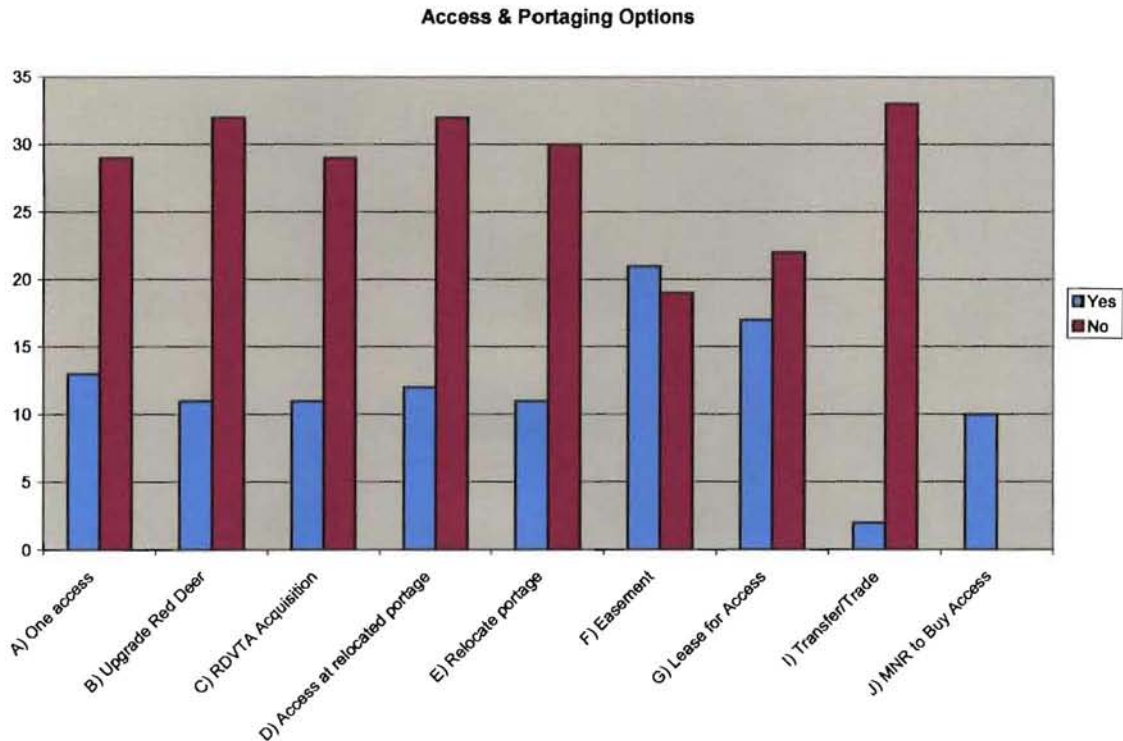
A) No new trails	11	28	2
B) New trails allowed	22	15	4
C) New trails in some zones	23	14	5

The following summary shows the breakdown by geographic area of questionnaire respondents:

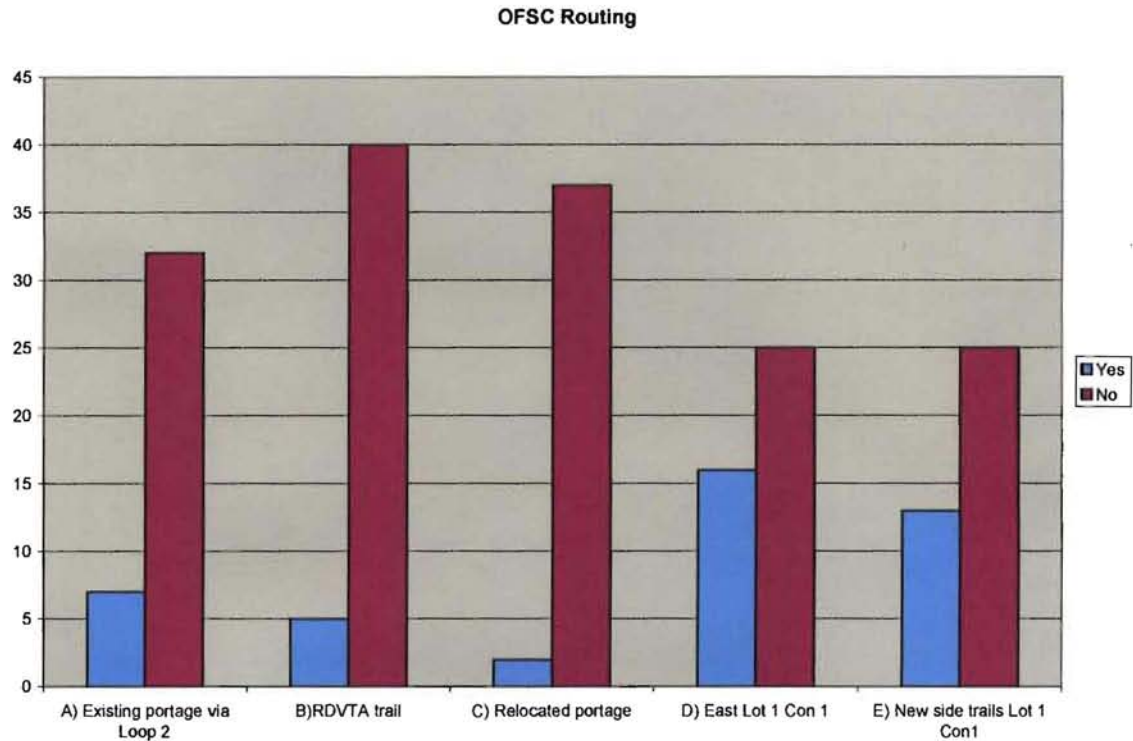
Figure 1: Breakdown by geographic area of "Options Choices" questionnaire respondents



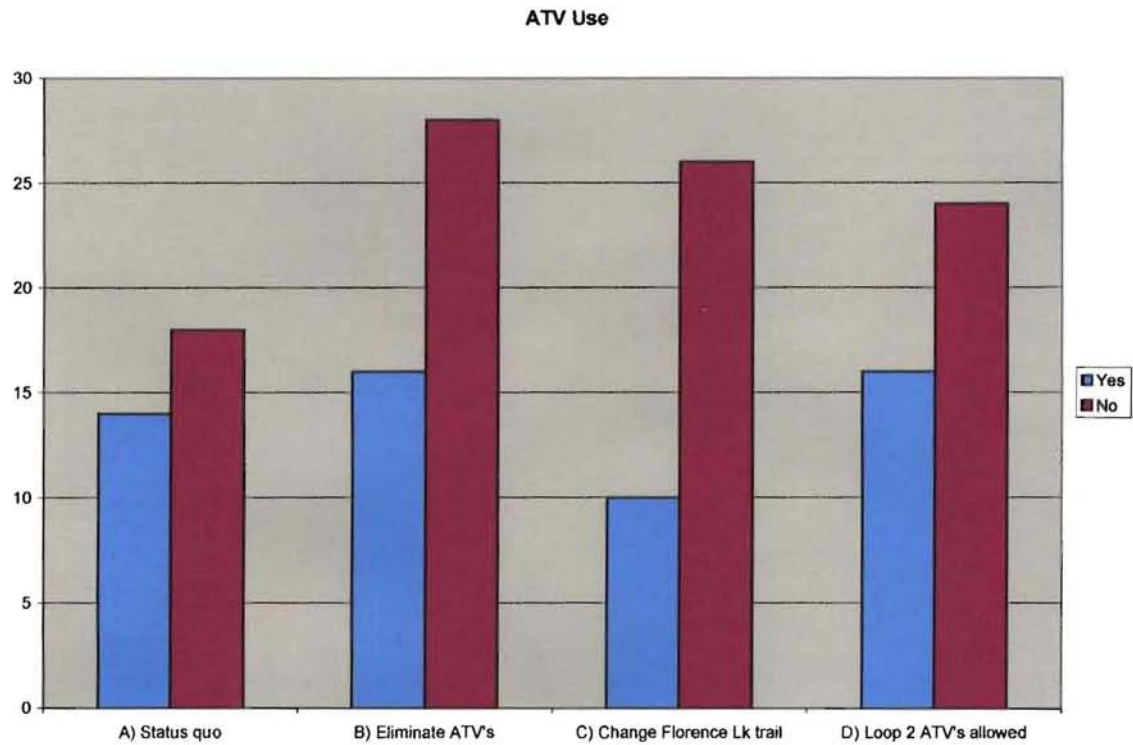
- At the Issues and Management Options stage, a number of access and portaging options were proposed to the public for further consideration. These included the following options: Maintaining one access point on Bay of Islands Drive, upgrading the main crown land trail from Bay of Islands Drive, asking the RDVTA for donation or acquisition of their property for crown access, asking for private property access through purchase, easement or lease, relocating and clearly identifying the portage location, and an exchange of the RDVTA and private property. The table below illustrates the public responses to the "Options Choices Questionnaire".



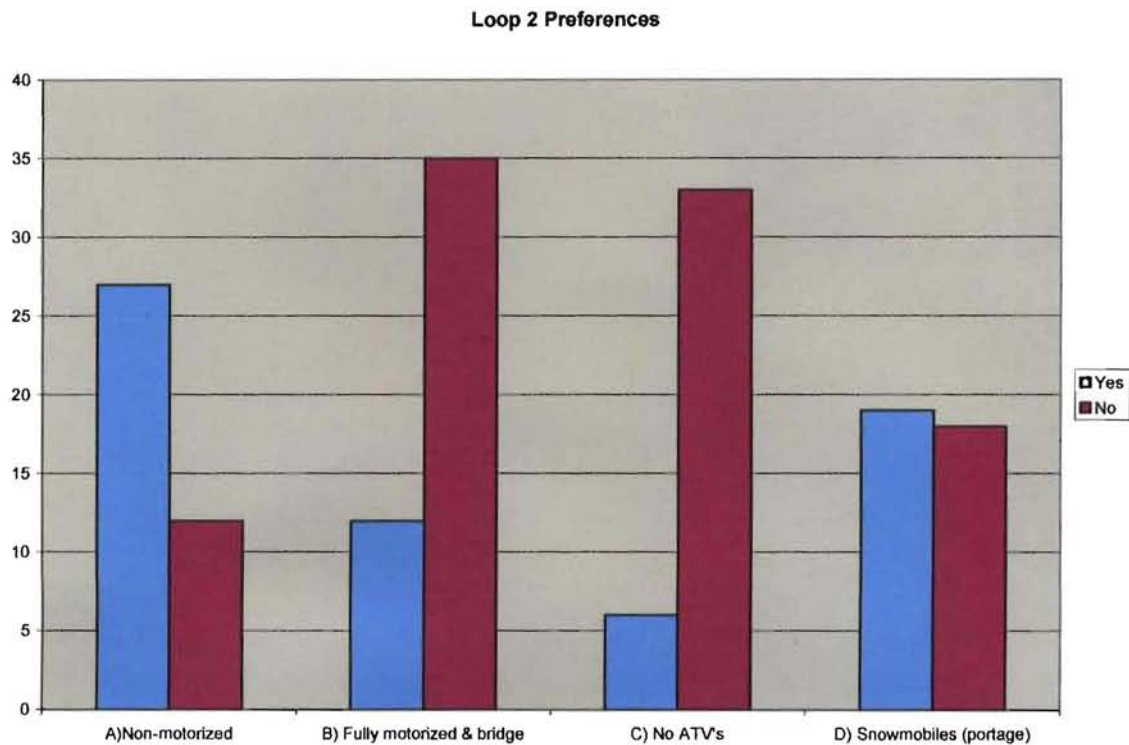
- Few access options examined for Bay of Islands Drive were supported by the public with the exception of the easement option and the lease/MNR purchase option. Several individuals supported the option of MNR purchasing an access point along Bay of Islands Drive. Other suggestions for access included MNR expropriation of all or portions of private property, as well as a proposal for MNR to acquire the Green Gate Trail (Old Florence Lake Trail) as a historic route. The option of MNR expropriation of all or a portion of a private property was not included in the management options proposal because it contravenes MNR policy. The option of MNR purchasing a parcel of land to provide access along Bay of Islands Drive is being considered, but since the four private parcels that provide access to the Conservation Reserve are all privately owned, this decision would be based solely on the decision of the local landowners.
- The OFSC use of the portion of Loop 1 (also known as the Red Deer Trail) from the picnic table eastward and the proposal for the OFSC to use the private property owned by the RDVTA for access was strongly opposed by most members of the public, who cited safety concerns. Many individuals surveyed were in support of separating motorized and non-motorized uses within the conservation reserve. The following table illustrates the results to the "Options Choices Questionnaire".



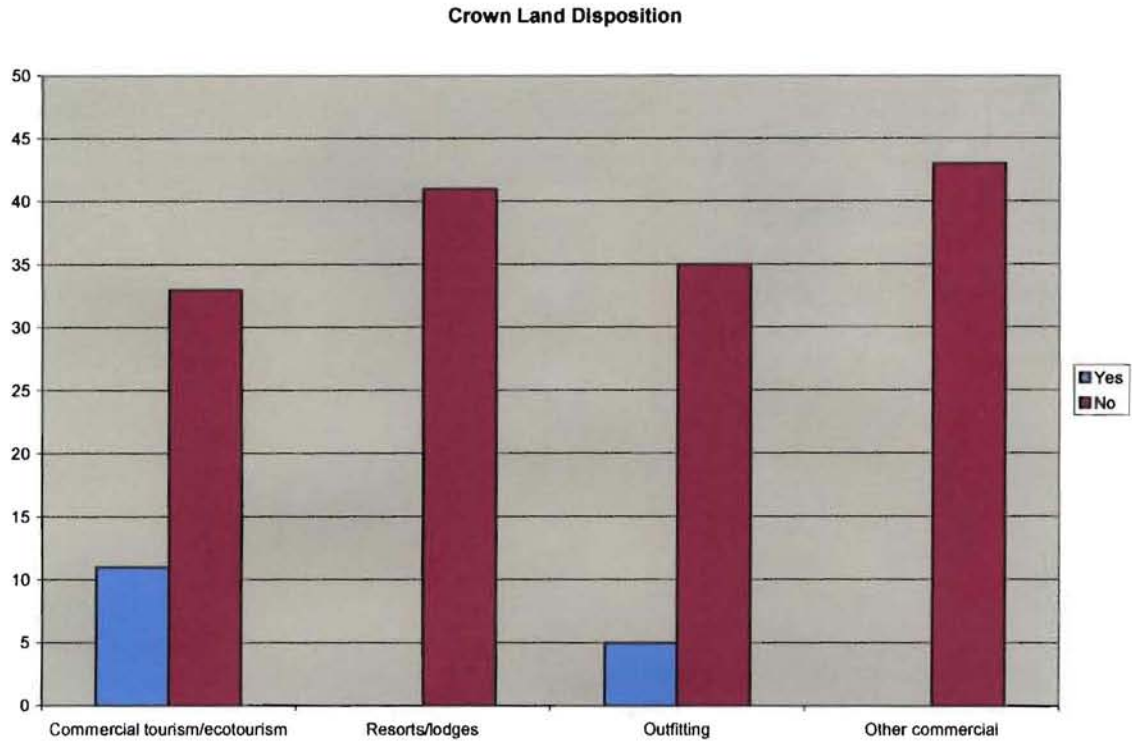
- People were not in support of eliminating ATV use entirely from the conservation reserve, however many supported the idea of motorized uses being eliminated from the Loop 2 area and being confined to the area south of Florence Lake. Many were in support of non-motorized use of the Loop 2 area, with the provision for a bridge.



- When asked if snowmobiling should be permitted on a portion of Loop 2, the public supported and rejected this proposal in almost equal numbers. Most people rejected the option that the Loop 2 area should be fully motorized, many expressing the predominant view that this area should be used primarily for cross-country skiing and hiking.



- The majority of people surveyed disagreed with crown land disposition for commercial tourism or ecotourism, resorts and lodges, outfitting or other commercial enterprises.

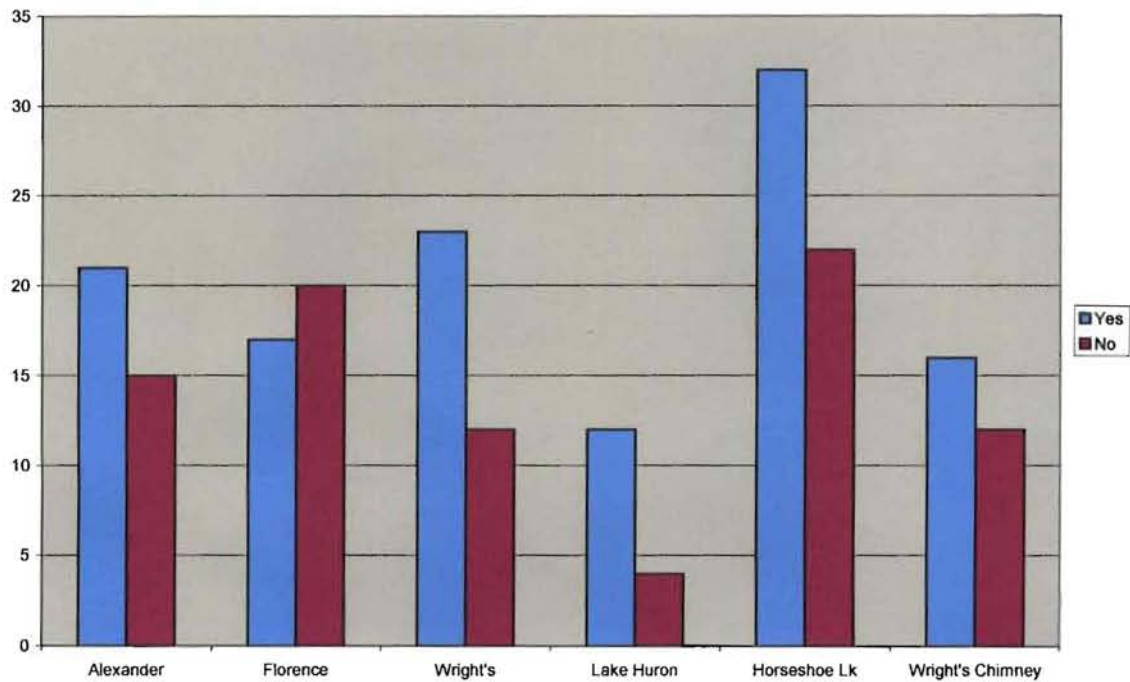


- There was some support for the designation and/or development of campsites at the Alexander Lake, Wright's Lake, Lake Huron, Horseshoe Lake and Wright's Chimney locations. There was also some opposition to designation of campsites at these same locations and more were opposed to camping at Florence Lake



than were for it. Generally, people agreed with the concept of trail kiosks and some limited additional infrastructure, specifically directional signage.

Camping

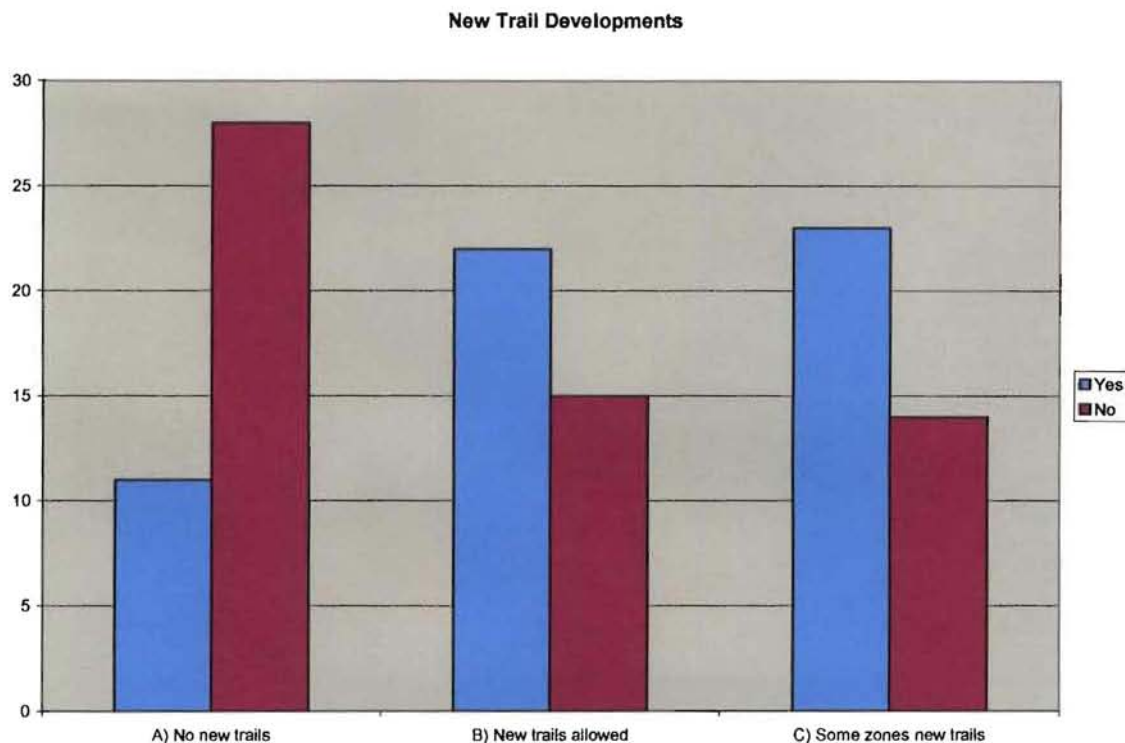


- Most of those surveyed agreed there should be controls on water withdrawals and water control structures (dams) within the CR. There was some support for horsepower restrictions on lakes and some suggested that motorized watercraft should not be permitted.
- Most people supported the option to protect dark skies within the CR.

New Trails

Most surveyed felt that some new trails should be permitted within the conservation reserve. New trail locations suggested by members of the general public included the following:

- West end of Loop 2 to Lake Huron
- A trail by-passing the OFSC snowmobile bridge across Freud Creek to allow access to the Loop 2 area (if the OFSC snowmobile bridge was removed)
- A trail around the northeastern portion of the Timken property to Alexander Lake
- A shoreline trail to Fort La Cloche through the CR



The Espanola and District Snowmobile Club proposed a relocation of 2 km of the lower portion of the OFSC trail from the picnic table junction to the north end of a private property.

#### Other Initiatives

Overall, there was some support for the following initiatives:

- Development of a trail strategy
- Zoning
- Stewardship partnerships with first nations and other interest groups
- Commercial tourism in specific zones
- Development of a trail brochure
- Formation of a standing advisory committee

#### Additional Issues Raised in Public Consultations

- In dialogue with the Ministry of Transportation, two important issues were raised regarding the use of Bay of Islands Drive for parking and snowmobile crossing.

(1) They stated that the cul-de-sac at the end of Bay of Islands Drive should not be used for parking since the purpose of this area is to provide room for motor

vehicles and service vehicles to turn around. The MTO recommended that an off-road parking area be developed.

(2) The other issue discussed was the use of Bay of Islands Drive by snowmobiles. The MTO stipulated that all crossings should be at a 90 degree angle to the road and that no snowmobile travel should take place on the maintained surface of the road. MTO states "the rough nature of the terrain beyond the back of the ditch includes rock outcroppings on the road right-of-way which are forcing snow machines to use the roadway to move to and from crossings which is a safety issue and could lead as well to legal issues."

- Concern was expressed over potential increase in traffic and possible increased maintenance requirements for the surface-treated Red Deer Village Road.
- A stakeholder expressed concerns regarding the proposed zoning designations, specifically with respect to the usage of motorized boats, canoes, and ATV's for bear hunting purposes. The individual was concerned about the methods non-resident hunters might use to access the area since the RDVTA access is only permitted for recreational use and questioned whether access via float plane would be permissible for the various smaller lakes within the reserve. The demographic of his clientele and nature provided requires increased reliance on ATV's for hunting. The individual was concerned that the Access Zone proposed (Area A in Scenario A) would eliminate the ability to offer hunting in this area. The individual also inquired as to the use of a 2-wheeled dirt bike which he currently uses to place bear baits. The use was incorporated into the plan.
- In dialogue with a stakeholder a desire was expressed to maintain the trail running eastward from a private parcel to the western edge of another private parcel because of use for nature hikes. They also wish to maintain the shoreline trail from the western edge of Camp Manitou to Flat Point/Wright's Lake. They use this trail as a hiking and nature walk circuit for campers and to provide walking access to the west side of Flat Point and Wright's landing further west along the shoreline.
- In dialogue with individuals from the La Cloche Trails Association, they indicated an interest in stewardship of portions of the Heaven's Gate Trail as well as other non-motorized trails within the conservation reserve. A detailed proposal has not yet been received.
- The Bay of Islands Community Association and a local tourist operator expressed the desire for a dock facility in Freud Bay, adjacent to the existing parcel owned by the Crown on the south side of Bay of Islands Drive. This would allow for boaters to dock and access Bay of Islands Drive. However, there is currently no crown access to the conservation reserve at this location. This issue was new to the Planning Team. Since the crown parcel is not part of the conservation reserve, this recommendation will not be considered by the Planning Team as part of the CR planning process but will be forwarded to the Espanola Area Supervisor.

- The Planning Team considered that the public may have had difficulty interpreting the Issues and Management Options questionnaire especially in regard to access options. For this reason, the questionnaire has been modified for the Refined Management Options Open House.
- The planning team expressed concern that access in the vicinity of Bay of Islands Drive could in the future enhance the likelihood of increased vandalism, theft, parking and traffic concerns along Bay of Islands Drive. However, these concerns may be alleviated by considering upgrading of access from the north through the Fox Lake Road (D 110 #4) access point and/or through an additional crown land access which could be constructed to access the eastern portion of the Heaven's Gate Trail (Horseshoe Lake potential trail access on Trail Strategy Map). The planning team also considered the option of permitting access at Bay of Islands Drive without allowing for parking. However it was felt that this would lead to the residents of Red Deer Village having more opportunity to access the area than those from outside the area. However, this option could provide an opportunity for a tourism operator to provide a drop-off or shuttle service. The planning team determined that access from the north could require huge upgrades such as culverts, bridges and possible road upgrades. It is unlikely that funding would be available for such an enterprise.

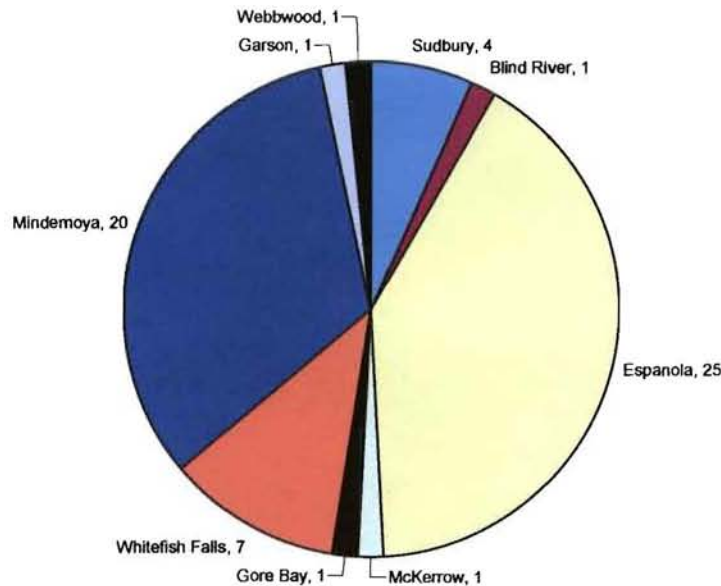
### 10.7 Refined Management Options Stage

Number of questionnaires received: 61

The following summary shows people's responses to the "Options Choices" questionnaire.

Question		YES	NO	Not concerned
1	MNR to obtain part of Lot 1, Con 1	11	43	5
2	MNR to obtain RDVTA	25	30	5
3	Upgrade Fox Lake Rd	47	8	3
4	Horseshoe Lake Rd new access	54	3	3
5	OFSC D 110 relocation	53	5	2
6	Re-routing option preferred 1 or 2	42		3
7	Other new trails in CR	18	37	
8A	ATV's in Zone A only	14	33	4
8B	No ATV's in CR	34	15	3
9	Agree with zoning?	52	2	1

Figure 2: Breakdown by geographic area of "Refined Management Options" questionnaire respondents



- When broken down by geographic area, a predominant number of snowmobilers attended the Refined Management Options Open Houses, with the Whitefish Falls/Bay of Islands Drive community making up a smaller portion of the total responses. A large proportion of snowmobilers from Mindemoya submitted questionnaires; this was due to the high profile OFSC issues which had been raised in the local media and publicized.

- At the Refined Management Options stage, the questionnaire was simplified with only 9 questions specifying yes or no answers. Two other general questions were asked pertaining to recommendations which had been made by the planning team. There were four possible options for access. The first was for MNR to pursue crown access in the vicinity of Bay of Islands Drive on part of the private property, possible donation, purchasing, leasing or pursuing an easement. The majority of people did not support this option. There were mixed responses on the second option, which was for MNR to acquire the RDVTA property for access, with 23 for and 29 against the option.
- There was definite support for options 3 and 4, which involved providing crown access at the Fox Lake Road access point and the possibility of creating a new access point over crown land to access the eastern portion of the Heaven's Gate Trail.
- Many individuals who attended the open house were in support of Relocation Options 1 or 2 for the OFSC snowmobile club trail.
- More than twice as many people opposed new trails within the conservation reserve as did those who agreed with the concept of new trail development. This was somewhat surprising considering that at the Issues and Management Options stage of consultation, a majority had voiced support for new trails.
- Two questions were asked to attempt to clarify the public's preference for ATV use within the reserve. It was suggested that ATV use be either confined to Zone A, or eliminated entirely. The first suggestion (confining use to Zone A) was disagreed with by most respondents. The second suggestion (to eliminate ATV use entirely) appeared to be supported by many respondents.
- The majority of respondents supported the final Zoning proposal put forth by the Planning Team, which stipulated three zones; an Access zone in the southeast, a Natural Environment Zone throughout the southern portion of the reserve and a Wilderness Zone north of the Heaven's Gate Trail.

Other input which was received in the form of general comments/concerns included the following points of consideration, as organized by topic:

### **Permitted Uses:**

- A stakeholder stated that the zoning proposal was likely to be opposed since it did not permit snowmobile uses in the Loop 2 area.
- A resident indicated that a trapper's use of ATV's and/or snowmobiles in the northern portions of the reserve could affect the zoning designation for that area. For this reason, a stipulation was included in the plan that some commercial resource harvesters (trappers and baitfish harvesters) could be issued specialized permits to continue their activities in Zone C, the Wilderness Zone.
- Stakeholders voiced their opposition regarding a recommendation to prohibit ATV use in Zones B and C. However because the zoning proposal was believed to be in the best interests of protecting the area, since it would enable geographic limitations to be placed on some activities which are currently damaging values, the zoning proposal will remain. The stakeholders also disagreed with a proposal to prohibit the use of gas-powered marine outboards on lakes within the reserve. The planning team had recommended that marine outboards be prohibited within the reserve.

However, since this would have been difficult to enforce, and marine outboard use does not currently present major issues within the reserve, the Steering Committee did not support this Planning Team recommendation.

**General:**

- One member of the public was pleased to see an overall strategy of limiting and controlling human impact on the conservation reserve.
- One member of the public reinforced the importance of minimizing impact to the area, saying that tourism is important but must be managed. They also mentioned that enforcement can be a problem, and that snowmobiles have less impact in the winter season as long as they are used when there is proper snow cover.
- One member of the public was against the abandonment of the trail from the north shore of Lake Huron to Wright's Lake.

**Access:**

- The Board of RDVTA endorsed the Local Roads board decision not to allow public parking off Bay of Islands Drive. They voiced their adamant opposition of the EDSC's proposal for relocation of the D-110 trail. The Board was also displeased regarding the questionnaire used at the Refined Management Options open house; they commented that a specific location for a crown access point on private property should have been identified in relation to the access question.
- Some individuals from the Whitefish Falls area had concerns regarding increased noise, parked cars and possibly other problems associated with public access or a parking lot at the Bay of Islands Drive location.
- Ontario Parks cannot promote public access via the Heaven's Gate Trail from the west because the road to Fort la Cloche is administered by Sagamok Anishnawbek Reserve.
- One individual mentioned that the Camp Manitou trail should be continued to the East through private land to Loop 2 and beyond. The same individual did not agree with decommissioning of the trail at the west end of Loop 2. This individual felt that these routes were historic and should be maintained.
- One individual did not want to see aquaculture permitted and felt that a parking area at the end of Bay of Islands Drive would be a suitable accompaniment to creating a Conservation Reserve.

**Portage Relocation:**

- One individual was strongly opposed to the relocation of the portage.
- One individual mentioned that the southern portage should remain at its present location and should serve as access for hiking, biking and cross country skiing, in addition to the RDVTA trail.

**OFSC Relocation:**

- One individual commented that the OFSC should not be allowed to relocate their trail within the conservation reserve and that the OFSC should approach the local landowners.
- One member of the public mentioned that the old rail bed from Espanola to Whitefish Falls should be evaluated as an alternate location for the OFSC trail relocation outside of the conservation reserve.
- One member of the public proposed an alternate route for the OFSC trail south of Florence Lake.
- Snowmobilers stated their desire for a safe trail to link with the Lake Huron snowmobile trail.
- One individual stated that the OFSC bridge at Alexander Creek should be permitted to remain since replacing it with a permanent bridge could have some negative environmental impacts.
- Several members of the public commented on the initial cost of constructing the OFSC trail.
- Many members of the public supported option 1 or 2 for the OFSC trail relocation.
- One person mentioned that a better alternative for the relocation of the EDSC trail is the green gate road.
- One member of the public stated that if Loop 1 is made part of the OFSC trail that the cost of constructing parallel ski trails should be taken on by the MNR and the EDSC since RDVTA already paid for Loop 1.
- One member of the public suggested looking outside the conservation reserve for the relocation of the OFSC trail.

**New Trails:**

- One member of the public made the point that trails should be limited in number and should be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- One member of the public stated new trails would be ok for access and for a day hike trip loop.
- One member of the public stated that a trail should be constructed around a private property to connect to form a looping trail to Alexander Lake.

**Loop 2:**

- Maintenance and grooming of cross-country ski trails within the Loop 2 area was one issue raised at the planning team level. The desire to groom cross-country ski trails in winter may make use of a snowmobile necessary in Loop 2 on an occasional basis. Some members of the planning team have stressed that ATV access is necessary once per year to conduct maintenance activities, while other planning team members think that if Loop 2 is non-motorized, this will eliminate the need for heavy-duty maintenance.
- One individual mentioned the lack of direct access to the Loop 2 area for skiing and the site of the present "southern portage" was mentioned as an alternative.

**10.8 Draft Plan Review**

Total number of questionnaires/public comments received: 11



Comments from the public and other stakeholders are listed under the following categories:

### **Motorized Uses/Zoning**

- Stakeholders voiced their opposition regarding zoning for conservation reserves in general. Additionally they were opposed to the restriction on motorized uses within the wilderness and natural environment zones within the La Cloche Ridge CR. The stakeholders also expressed a number of concerns related to the planning and execution of the Open House sessions for the Draft Plan, including concerns with the maps, advertising and planning team representation. Because the zoning proposal was believed to be in the best interests of protecting the area, since it would enable geographic limitations to be placed on some activities which are currently damaging CR values, provide protection to other sensitive areas and increase public safety, zoning will remain in the Final Plan.
- Many individuals mentioned they would like to see the area managed for non-motorized use. MNR believes that the zoning strategy implemented for the reserve will provide a balance for motorized and non-motorized recreational users. The wilderness and natural environment portions of the reserve will provide for non-motorized use to be the predominant method of recreation within the reserve.
- Maintain present OFSC trail system and snowmobile corridors to Florence, Alexander, Wright's & Elbow Lakes. The current zoning strategy as outlined in the Draft Plan does allow for continued use of these corridors.
- The Espanola & District Snowmobile Club has expressed concern regarding how enforcement of the RMP rules and regulations will be conducted, and have highlighted the need for a safe provincial D 110 OFSC trail from Fox Lake Road to Froid Bay prior to the 2005/2006 snowmobiling season. They have also expressed concern regarding new trail development and access stating that all user groups should follow the same rules for infrastructure. The OFSC has concerns that where a trail is multi-use, the MOU should reflect the interests of the various groups involved while considering liability issues. MNR enforcement will be conducted by Conservation Officers and Area Team staff from the Espanola MNR. The application for trail relocation for the D 110 trail will be considered following RMP finalization, and will be screened through the *Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves*. Standard requirements for trail infrastructure components such as bridges and culverts will be outlined in the MOU's developed for the individual trail sections.

### **Mapping**

- Some members of the public suggested small changes to the mapping in the Draft Plan including documentation of the alternate portage location, errors in the location of mountain peaks, and additions that needed to be made to the maps to include private land parcels to the east. MNR has incorporated these changes in the Final Plan.

### **Portage Relocation/Access**

- Opposition to the relocation of the portage because of concerns over property values and increase in the possibility of motor vehicle-snowmobile collisions at the cul-de-sac location. The portage relocation was not supported by previous public consultation input.

The location of the alternative Abrey portage west of the southern boundary of private property at the outlet of Frood Creek provides an alternate portage from Freud Bay to Lake Huron which reduces the opportunity for misuse of private property while restricting motorized vehicle access to the natural environment zone of the CR. Impacts to property values are largely unsubstantiated due to the small number of users who use this portage annually. According to the Motorized Snow Vehicles Act, snowmobile travel on roads is permitted and the possibility of motor vehicle-snowmobile collisions exists on all public roads.

- A boat access point should be provided in or near Freud Bay with walking trail access to Florence Lake. The current access is unacceptable and there should be separate trails for motorized and non-motorized use. A boat access point exists on crown land along the south side of Bay of Islands Drive which boaters can use to launch into Freud Bay. The current multi-use access for recreationists through private land owned by the RDVTA provides walking access to Florence Lake. MNR continues to explore the issue of crown access at Bay of Islands Drive.
- One individual was concerned about how he could access the area's lakes with a canoe and expressed concern with the distance involved in portaging a canoe into the reserve through the Red Deer Trail.
- MNR has explored the access issue at Bay of Islands Drive.

### **OFSC Relocation and Recreation**

- Concern over erosion caused by motorized travel south of Alexander Creek on the OFSC trail was expressed by members of the public.
- Many residents expressed concern regarding the environmental impact of relocation of the OFSC trail (tree cutting, fragmentation of the area) and believed that hiking and motorized trails were not compatible activities. MNR will consider the concerns of the general public when considering the OFSC relocation through the *Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves*. MNR will ensure that any impacts to the environment will be properly mitigated if the trail is permitted. Options to separate motorized and non-motorized trails will be considered in the evaluation of the project.
- Camping at public access points was one concern raised. The current direction is that camping will not be restricted at access points unless this becomes a management problem in the future.

- Excessive boat caching was raised. MNR has specified in the Draft Plan that it is permitted unless it becomes a management problem in the future.
- The shoreline trail along the south shore of Florence Lake should be authorized. MNR will seek Memorandums of Understanding for all trails marked on the authorized trails map for the reserve and if a group express interest in taking responsibility for this trail it will need to be monitored and maintained.
- Members noted that trails should be well-marked and properly maintained and it was recommended that signs developed for the conservation reserve be in English, French and Ojibway. MNR will work towards developing partnerships with user groups to develop appropriate interpretive and directional signage for the reserve.

### **Tourism/Nature Appreciation**

- There should be opportunities for the private sector to assist in the interpretation and management of the CR by providing tours to points of interest, local history, etc. MNR is open to exploring partnerships with the private sector to enhance appreciation of the CR.
- MNR has indicated they will work with adjacent First Nation communities to develop and implement management strategies to ensure the protection of traditional locations and cultural values as identified by the communities. The plan will allow for interpretive plaques, signs, tours pending available funding.
- A member of the public stated that a statement regarding private and commercial photography and artist's use of the CR may be required. This is noted in the permitted uses table in Section 11.0.

### **Other Permitted Uses**

- An individual had a concern with the policy which does not allow for any timber harvesting within the conservation reserve. This individual was interested in harvesting firewood for personal use only. MNR will not permit the harvesting of firewood for personal use within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. MNR will likely issue a harvesting permit to the affected individual to harvest wood at one of three wood harvesting blocks designated for such a use within the Espanola Area on Crown land.

### **10.9 First Nation Involvement**

First Nation communities in the area were informed of the invitation to participate in the planning process in the summer of 2004 through contact by letter and telephone. A member from each First Nation community was invited to become involved as part of the planning team. Interested community members were invited to take part in site visits within La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve throughout the planning process to learn more about the planning area and the issues relating to its management. They were also invited to participate in the review of the Draft Background Document and the

Issues and Management Options Document and were invited to all public open houses. The District Resource Liaison arranged several open houses and meetings with First Nation communities within the affected area.

The following issues were raised by individual First Nation communities and organizations in addition to those already documented in the "Issues and Management Options" document.

#### Sagamok Anishnawbek

Individuals from MNR attended a council meeting on April 4, 2005 to present information regarding the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve planning process. MNR held an Open House during "Treaty Day" on June 10, 2005 to obtain further input with the community. The objective was to obtain and share information that contributed to the planning process.

In dialogue with individuals from Sagamok Anishnawbek, a council member expressed concern regarding the traditional harvesting of porcupines for quill arts and the harvesting of birch bark for crafts. Some individuals expressed concerns regarding any limitations on hunting as may be prescribed by zoning designations. The community expressed an interest in wind power development in the areas east of their community, within La Cloche Provincial Park and the western portions of La Cloche Conservation Reserve. However wind power is not permitted in conservation reserves or Provincial Parks according to MNR's Policy and Procedure 4.10.04 "Wind Power Development on Crown Land." This policy came into effect on January 27, 2004.

Sagamok Anishnawbek has indicated their support for the proposal to relocate and define the location of the Abrey portage. The community recommends that the location of the portage be clearly defined in all future mapping of this area by the MNR.

At the Open House held in Sagamok, the following information was gathered from respondents and summarized:

- Sagamok Anishnawbek uses the La Cloche Ridge CR for activities such as subsistence hunting of deer and moose, subsistence and recreational fishing, berry picking, pleasure cruising the north shore, spiritual ceremonies including fasting at the mountains, sightseeing, outdoor cooking, swimming and exploring.
- ATV's are taken from Fort La Cloche into areas to the east and it was suggested that a study be done of the impact and extent of ATV use in the area. It is unlikely that ATV's are accessing into the western boundary of the CR.
- Suggested possible commercial uses include wind farming, ecotourism, blueberry picking and hiking.
- Some community members are for ATV use, some are against it. There are mixed reactions to the questions if new trail development should be permitted, some are for and some are against it (including the OFSC relocation proposal). Those who are for it are mostly for hiking use as long as all users respect the area.
- Community members mention that areas requiring protection include Fort La Cloche (not within the CR), Flat Point, and the entire area.
- Issues of concern to community members include garbage, forest fire protection, forestry issues, land claim issues and economic development

- Species which could possibly be located within the reserve which may require protection include eagles and peregrine falcon. (It is not known if any falcon nesting sites are located within the area).
- Community members who were familiar with the Heaven's Gate Trail apparently know it by a different name and do not have any problems with the general public accessing the trail from Fort la Cloche.

Following the release of the Draft Plan, a meeting was held on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2005 with the Chief and some council members to discuss a number of issues. Issues raised were discussed at a Planning Team meeting held on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005, which two council members from Sagamok attended.

- Sagamok Anishnawbek re-stated their intentions to develop wind power within the Conservation Reserve. Although wind power development is against CR policy, the First Nation indicated they would be prepared to state their interests in writing. MNR informed the First Nation that they have the right to request an amendment to CR policy and that such a request must be in writing.
- Commercial food harvesting, (i.e. blueberry picking) is considered to be part of traditional activities which have taken place by community members in the past. The Draft Plan policy on commercial food harvesting (Section 4.10) was re-worded to reflect this. The permitted uses table currently states that existing food harvesting may be permitted to continue, so this portion of the document will remain unchanged.
- Prescribed burning is an activity that community members have always conducted to assist in the renewal of blueberry crops. The CR policy currently states that prescribed burning may be considered to achieve ecological or resource management objectives. Should First Nations consider prescribed burning necessary within the area, MNR will work with First Nation community members to develop a fire management plan which will address prescribed burning while ensuring public safety and incorporating traditional knowledge.
- Sagamok Anishnawbek is interested in developing an eco-lodge and associated ecotourism component which will utilize the La Cloche Ridge CR. They may require the ability to construct minimal infrastructure (ie. shelter cabins) within the reserve that would be used commercially. Under Facility and Infrastructure Development, the Draft Plan stated that existing uses of facilities now present could continue and that new structures may be considered. It also stated that new facilities for resorts, lodges, outfitting and commercial tourism/ecotourism would not be permitted within CR boundaries. The Draft Plan has been changed to the following: New facilities for resorts and lodges (ie. Main base lodges) will not be permitted within CR boundaries. Small infrastructure developments for commercial tourism/ecotourism activities (i.e. overnight shelters) may be considered through the Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves and will be approved through a work permit. The text under section 5.13, which discusses Facility and Infrastructure development, has been changed accordingly.
- The First Nation wishes to be notified of any aerial spraying as it relates to insect and disease suppression within the CR, should spraying be necessary to control exotic pest species. They also wanted to be kept informed of any pathogens that could affect the safety of fish and game for consumption. All

First Nation communities are normally notified of aerial spraying occurrences in conjunction with other stakeholders when such events take place. First Nation communities will be informed if pathogens affecting the safety of fish and/or game occur.

- Community members from Sagamok Anishnawbek conduct traditional activities which may include activities such as collection of birch bark and ash wood for crafts, maple sugar collection and collection of traditional medicines. These activities could be deemed to be commercial. These activities are considered to be traditional activities by Sagamok Anishnawbek. These types of activities will continue within the conservation reserve. Aboriginal and treaty rights as they related to CR policy are addressed in Section 1.4, First Nation Community Involvement.
- Community members from Sagamok Anishnawbek questioned whether the cutting of dead trees would be permitted within CR lands. It is stated within the Draft Plan under Section 5.14 that personal timber harvesting will not be permitted within the conservation reserve. MNR has stated that no personal timber harvesting will be permitted within the CR lands. Should community members require firewood, three local fuelwood harvesting blocks are available within Sudbury District.
- The Sagamok Chief and some council members recommended that in future planning initiatives, that a first nation community member should be included on the Steering Committee.

#### Whitefish River First Nation

The Whitefish River First Nation continues to be involved in the preparation of the Resource Management Plan for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve (C218) through representation and participation on the planning team.

The Whitefish River First Nation asserts that the lands being discussed in the Resource Management Plan process for C218 may be part of the lands that were reserved to the Ojibwa's of Whitefish River under the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850 and a land claim has been filed in this respect. The Ontario government is in the process of reviewing the land claim, and has stated that designation of the area as a Conservation Reserve is not irreversible and would not preclude consideration of those lands, if appropriate, in future claim negotiations or settlement.

The Whitefish River First Nation has expressed they would not support development or use of the Loop 2 area because this area falls into the land claim catchment area.

The Whitefish River First Nation does support the proposal to map and relocate the Aubrey Portage to facilitate safe travel for the general public.

At an Open House held at Whitefish River First Nation November 8, 2004 a total of 5 questionnaires were completed. Comments on the questionnaires included the following:

- Cutting of trees and brush eliminating habitat for wildlife
- More people and use of new trails and camping areas
- Land should be returned to the first nations
- Medicine plants grow all over the area
- History is important

- Individuals for and against OFSC trail going through
- Ability to exercise harvesting rights relating to hunting and fishing
- Keep first nations in management of the area
- No snowmobiling, more rangers
- Respect the Robinson/Huron treaty of 1850
- Lands should be returned to reserve status

An open house was held at Whitefish River First Nation on June 21, 2005 to share information on the planning process and obtain further information and comments from community members.

#### Aundeck Omni Kaning

An Open House was held at Aundeck Omni Kaning on January 21<sup>st</sup> to provide general information for the area's first nation communities. In addition to Aundeck Omni Kaning, individuals from Whitefish River First Nation also attended. Eight individuals attended and some excellent input was obtained.

Aundeck Omni Kaning indicated that the La Cloche Ridge area has been used traditionally to fish, hunt, gather and use the land in other ways (i.e. Medicine gathering). They have a particular interest in Wright's Lake and have hunted in the area, using existing trails. They have an eco-tourism company that uses the area and this has a minimal impact on the area. They will continue with their traditional uses of this area. They are part of a greater Manitoulin medicinal plant collecting program, but do not want to make MNR aware of the location of the sites so that they will remain protected. If any pictographs or other such cultural/spiritual sites of significance are found within the reserve, they do not want to see such sites promoted for tourism. There was a concern over exploitation of First Nation traditional practices. There was also a concern over exotic species introductions, especially organisms that might be transferred by boat. A concern was raised that enforcement for First Nation community members was not consistent throughout MNR districts. There was a wish that other involved groups should be more aware of aboriginal rights and interests and that a specific consultation plan be developed with Aundeck Omni Kaning if necessary.

Aundeck Omni Kaning supports the positions of Whitefish River First Nation and Sagamok Anishnawbek regarding the portage relocation.

#### Union of Ontario Indians

A letter was received from the Union of Ontario Indians expressing concerns regarding the definition and identification of traditional territory and recommending that MNR develop an agreed upon consultation process with individual Anishnawbek First Nations. The UOI recommended that there should be steering committee representation from each of the First Nation communities whose traditional territories are within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. Issues that the UOI would like to see addressed include supporting First Nation access to economic opportunities, supporting consultation processes, protection of cultural values, protection of aboriginal and treaty rights and recognition of land claim issues. These concerns were addressed in a letter dated May 27, 2005 from MNR to the Union of Ontario Indians.

### 11.0 PERMITTED USES TABLE-LA CLOCHE RIDGE CONSERVATION RESERVE

The following permitted uses table summarizes the management direction for activities within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. More detailed direction and management strategies are described in the Draft Resource Management Plan. Existing describes whether the activity was permitted in the past. New describes whether the activity can take place in the future. The LaCloche Conservation Reserve is located within the 1850 Robinson-Huron Treaty Area. First Nations have expressed interest in and have shared knowledge of the conservation reserve and surrounding area. The creation of the conservation reserve will not prejudice or limit existing Aboriginal and Treaty rights within the site. The use of resources by Aboriginal people with treaty and constitutional rights will continue within the LaCloche Conservation Reserve, with applicable legal consideration for public safety and conservation objectives.

#### INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES

	Existing	New	Direction
Aggregate Extraction	No	No	Aggregate extraction activities will not be permitted within the conservation reserve as per the Conservation Reserves Policy.
Commercial Hydro Development and Hydro Power Generation	No	No	No commercial hydroelectric development or ancillary activities (i.e. flood-ways) will be permitted within the La Cloche Ridge CR in accordance with the Conservation Reserves Policy.
Commercial Timber Harvest	No	No	Commercial forest harvesting is not permitted within conservation reserves as per Conservation Reserves Policy. This management plan will not support any supplementary activities (i.e. camps) associated with this activity.
Sunken Log Retrieval	N/A	No	Timber salvage/sunken log removal/retrieval is not permitted within the La Cloche CR.
Commercial Wind Power	No	No	Wind power development is not permitted in conservation reserves according to MNR's policy and procedure 4.10.04 "Wind Power Development on Crown Land". This policy came into effect on January 27, 2004.
Energy Transmission Lines and Communication Corridors	Yes	No	Utility corridors will not be supported within the conservation reserve unless there are no demonstrated alternatives. Ancillary activities will not be permitted within the site i.e. pumping stations, service yards, etc.
Mineral Exploration and Development	No	No	Mineral exploration or development, or any ancillary activities, will not be permitted within the conservation reserve.
Mining	No	No	Mining will not be permitted within the conservation reserve.
Peat Extraction	No	No	Extraction of peat, soil, aggregate or other similar materials will not be permitted within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.
Transportation Corridors	No	No	New transportation corridors will not be permitted through the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. (rail lines, roads)



	Existing	New	Direction
Resource Access Roads	No	No	New resource access (ie. forestry) roads will not be permitted within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.
<b>COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
Bait fishing	Yes	No	Existing bait fishing activities will be permitted to continue, unless there are significant demonstrated conflicts. New baitfish operations will not be considered.
Aquaculture/Commercial Fishing	No	No	No new commercial fishing operations will be considered in the inland lakes and streams within the La Cloche CR. No aquaculture or associated infrastructure will be permitted within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.
Trapping	Yes	Maybe	Existing trapping will be permitted to continue unless there are significant demonstrated conflicts. Transfers be considered on an individual basis by the MNR Area Office, but should the request be granted, new trappers and transferees will need to abide by new access and zoning restrictions (ATV use only in Zone A, snowmobile use only in Zone A and the snowmobile corridors). As part of the determination of whether new trapping would be permitted, the associated trails that would be required to be used will be considered.
Commercial Tourism	Yes	No	Existing ecotourist operations are permitted to continue, in accordance with Conservation Reserve Policy. However no new infrastructure for tourism or ecotourism uses will be permitted within the conservation reserve.
Campgrounds	N/A	No	This management plan will not support the development of commercial campgrounds within the La Cloche Ridge CR
Bear Hunting by Non-residents (guided)	Yes	No	Existing commercial bear hunting will be permitted to continue within all zones of the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. However, the use of motorized vehicles (ATV's) to retrieve large game will only be permitted within the access zone. No new bear hunting operations will be permitted.
Outfitting (Infrastructure)	Yes	No	Infrastructure associated with outfitting services will not be permitted within the boundaries of the La Cloche Ridge CR. Examples include but are not limited to cabins, docks and tent platforms.
Outpost Camps	N/A	No	New outpost camps or any associated infrastructure will not be permitted within the boundaries of the La Cloche Ridge CR.
Resorts/Lodges	Yes	No	No new resorts or lodges or any associated infrastructure will be permitted within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.

	Existing	New	Direction
Commercial Food Harvesting	Maybe	No	This management plan does not support commercial food harvesting activities within this Conservation Reserve.
Wild Rice Harvesting	Yes	Yes	New operations for personal or commercial use of wild rice (i.e. seeding) may be considered subject to the Class EA for Provincial Parks and CR's.
Ground Hemlock Harvesting	No	No	This plan does not support the harvest of ground hemlock within the conservation reserve boundaries.
<b>LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES</b>			
Crown Land Dispositions	Yes	No	The sale of Crown land is not permitted within the conservation reserve. Structures on Crown Land within the conservation reserve that are authorized and being used for their intended purpose will be permitted to remain, and will be authorized under MOU. Unauthorized structures will be either approved under MOU or removed, at the discretion of the crown.
Fire Suppression	Yes	Yes	The responding agency for forest fires within the CR will be the MNR. Forest fire protection will be carried out in accordance with approved MNR fire management strategies for conservation reserves which state "Forest fire protection will be carried out on a conservation reserve as on surrounding public lands".
Prescribed Burning	Maybe	Maybe	Opportunities for prescribed burning to achieve ecological or resource management objectives may be considered, but would be subject to screening under the Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves. It is unlikely prescribed burning would ever be considered for the La Cloche Ridge CR due to the proximity of private properties adjacent to the conservation reserve lands.
Fisheries Management	Yes	Yes	Sport fishing will be permitted within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. The Ontario fishing regulations will continue to govern fishing in the reserve. Infrastructure required for cage aquaculture will not be considered within the conservation reserve boundaries.
Insect/Disease Suppression	Maybe	Yes	Control of insects and disease will be addressed on a site-specific basis. If necessary measures will be taken to prevent the spread of exotic species of insects within the conservation reserve and to areas adjacent to the conservation reserve.
Featured Species Management	Maybe	Yes	New featured species management will be permitted.
Forest Renewal	N/A	Yes	Forest renewal can be conducted by MNR or through stewardship partnerships where it will be of net benefit to the protected area.

	Existing	New	Direction
Wildlife Population Management	Maybe	Yes	Protection of wildlife and their associated habitats will take precedence over human use and development activities, especially in the case of species at risk. All known sensitive habitat will be protected through restricted use zoning.
Access Point Development	N/A	Yes	The Espanola and District Land Use Guidelines were amended through extensive public consultation in 1996 to include a Limited Access Area designation for the area encompassed by the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. The intent of the Limited Access Area designation was to encourage traditional uses in the designated areas, and prohibit year round public access improvements. Access point management within the boundaries of the conservation reserve will take this pre-existing policy direction into account. Measures will be taken to address any negative environmental impacts resulting from access development/activity. Trails which could improve motorized access within the reserve will be discouraged. (See Management Strategies for further details.)
Water Level Manipulation and Water Removal	No	No	Maintenance of a healthy watershed will be the priority in all water management decisions within the La Cloche Ridge CR. Water level manipulations that could affect the lakes and creeks within the reserve will not be permitted. No water will be removed, dammed or diverted from inland lakes or groundwater sources/aquifers located within the boundaries of the La Cloche Ridge CR for commercial use. Use of electric motors will be encouraged within the conservation reserve.
Waste Disposal Sites	No	No	No waste sites will be permitted within the La Cloche Conservation Reserve. Where the use of motorized vehicles is permitted, such motorized vehicles should not be re-filled with gasoline within 50 m of a water body.
Private Access Roads	None existing within CR	No	New private access roads will not be permitted within the conservation reserve boundaries. Upgrading of trails within the CR used for occasional private access will not be permitted. Letters of authorization from MNR will be issued to Camp Manitou should they require occasional motorized access on the northern section of Loop 2 (within the natural environment zone) for the purposes of transport of machinery or equipment that cannot reasonably be expected to be transported by water.

	Existing	New	Direction
Facility and Infrastructure Development	Yes	Maybe	The use of existing facilities is permitted. New facilities or modifications to existing facilities may be considered but would need to be screened through the Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves. New facilities for resorts and lodges (ie. Main base lodges) will not be permitted within CR boundaries. Small infrastructure developments for commercial tourism/ecotourism activities (i.e. overnight shelters) may be considered through the Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves and will be approved by MNR. No aquaculture facilities will be permitted within the conservation reserve boundaries.
Personal Timber Harvest	No	No	The cutting of trees for non-commercial purposes within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve for large scale and small-scale uses will not be permitted. In the case of the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve, the property owners who do not have road access to their properties have properties of a size that is large enough to allow them to harvest wood for any of their local needs from their own properties. Cutting of trees for trail maintenance will be addressed in Section 7.15.

**SCIENCE/EDUCATION AND HERITAGE APPRECIATION**

Wildlife Viewing	Yes	Yes	Wildlife viewing is permitted.
Collecting	No	No	Collecting is not permitted within the conservation reserve.
Historical Appreciation/Cultural Heritage	Yes	Yes	Ontario archaeological sites and artifacts are protected through provincial legislation under the <i>Cemetery Act</i> , the <i>Ontario Heritage Act</i> and the <i>Planning Act</i> . The alteration, destruction, and/or removal of any archaeological values are prohibited by law and could result in prosecution and significant fines. Archaeological research or studies undertaken will be permitted through this management plan, but subject to the above acts listed, prior to initiation of the study.
Photography and Painting	Yes	Yes	Photography and painting are permitted.
Scientific Research	Yes	Yes	Research inventories and monitoring activities are permitted within the conservation reserve with the permission of the MNR Espanola Area Office.

**RECREATION ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES**

	Existing	New	Direction
ATV Use on Trails	Yes	Zone A only	ATV use will be restricted to use within zone A, the Access Zone. This zone will allow ATV use on the Red Deer Trail and the Florence Lake Trail as far north as the south shore of Florence Lake. Non trail ATV use may be permitted for direct retrieval of large game, within the access zone only. The use of ATV's for maintenance purposes in specialized or emergency circumstances may be considered by MNR staff and if permitted, would be described in the MOU for the individual trail or trail section and would be authorized through a letter of authority.
ATV use off Trails	No	No	Direct retrieval of large game is permitted only within Zone A.
Camping	Yes	Yes	This management plan will continue to permit low impact, wilderness recreational camping within the La Cloche Ridge CR area as a means of experiencing solitude and nature in a protected area.
Food Harvesting (Personal)	Yes	Yes	Existing personal food gathering activities are permitted within the conservation reserve and are supported by this management plan.
Horseback Riding (on trails)	Yes	Yes	
Sport Hunting	Yes	Yes	Sport hunting is permitted within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act and its regulations will continue to govern sport hunting within the reserve. The use of ATV's for the direct retrieval of large game will only be permitted in Zone A.
Mountain Bike Use (on trails)	Yes	Yes	Permitted.
Motorized Boating (commercial, private)	Yes	Yes	Motorized boating is permitted within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. However non-motorized boating or the use of small electric motors is recommended within CR boundaries to promote a peaceful recreational experience for users, to contribute toward the maintenance of excellent water quality within the reserve, and to minimize the potential for the introduction of exotic species within the aquatic environment (i.e. zebra mussel, spiny water flea).
Hiking (Non-motorized recreation)	Yes	Yes	Non-motorized recreational use is a permitted activity within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.
Private Recreation Camps	Yes	No	New private recreation camps will not be permitted in the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.
Rock Climbing	Maybe	Yes	Permitted.

	Existing	New	Direction
Snowmobiling (on trails)	Yes	Access zone and snowmobile corridors only.	Off-trail snowmobile use within the reserve is not permitted.  Existing use of snowmobiles will be permitted to continue on designated trails within the access zone and within the snowmobile travel corridors as detailed on the Zoning Map. No snowmobile access will be permitted within the natural environment and wilderness zones of the reserve.
Boat Caching	Yes	Yes	Construction of new snowmobile trails and/or identification of snowmobile trails as authorized OFSC routes will be permitted within the conservation reserve but only within zone A and the existing snowmobile travel corridor. No other new snowmobile corridors (OFSC or otherwise) will be considered within the reserve. Existing boat caches for commercial, resource harvester and recreational use are permitted to continue unless significant conflicts are demonstrated. Boat caching must follow Crown Land Use policies.
New Trail Development	Yes	Maybe	New trail development proposals that utilize non-motorized means of access within the LRCR will be considered. However, trail development that could enhance motorized access by ATV or snowmobile will not be considered in the wilderness and natural environment zones in order to maintain the remote and pristine character of the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. Any new trails proposed for La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve will be subject to the Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves. (More detail is provided in the Draft Plan).

**Appendices A-Z & A-1 to A-8**

## Appendix A

# LA CLOCHE RIDGE CONSERVATION RESERVE (C218)

## FACT SHEET

May 2005

### Background

On July 16, 1999, the Ontario Government released the Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy to guide the planning and management of Crown lands in central and parts of northern Ontario. A major part of the Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy was a government intent to establish 378 new protected areas. Following public and First Nation consultation in the summer of 2000 on refining the boundary of this protected area, Ontario Regulation 805/94 of the Public Lands Act was amended on October 3, 2001 by Ontario Regulation 384/01 Schedule 110, to formally establish this conservation reserve.

### AREA DESCRIPTION:

This conservation reserve protects a rugged and beautiful ridge system, running east-west and facing south on the North Channel in site district 5E-3. This unique landform features water-washed quartzite bedrock with pockets of sandy glacial ground moraine. Sediment deposits from retreating glacial ice has shaped its irregular rolling landscape. The ridge tops rise dramatically above the North Channel of Georgian Bay. Exposed areas are sparsely covered by wind swept, fire origin white pine, jack pine and red oak. Stands of sugar maple and American Beech occupy the lower slopes close to the North Channel shoreline. A number of small acidified lakes occur within the ridge system. This roadless area is ideal for hunting, fishing, commercial tourism, snowmobile and ATV use. In addition, the Red Deer Association Trail System has many hiking trails. A small craft cruising the highly scenic North Channel, will receive breathtaking views of the site's open forest, quartzite ridges and rugged relief. The area is popular for hunting, fishing, commercial tourism, motorized (ATV, snowmobile) and non-motorized trail (La Cloche Trail) use.

### Size and Location

La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve is located approximately 16 kilometers southwest of Espanola along the north shore of the North Channel of Lake Huron, south of Moose (Evangeline) Lake. The western boundary runs through White's



Lake. The northern boundary runs through Elbow Lake and West Quartzite Lake. The southern boundary is the North Channel of Georgian Bay, and private lands lie to the east. The La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve is located in the geographic Townships of Harrow and McKinnon, in the municipal Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers, and in the First Concession West of Wallace Mine Location and South of La Cloche Mountains, and in the geographic Township of Mongowin, and in the North Channel Island TP 2936, in the Territorial District of Sudbury. The conservation reserve is 4,004 hectares, more or less, designated as Parts 1 and 2 on a plan known as C218 La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve, filed on January 5, 2001, with the Office of the Surveyor General of Ontario in the Ministry of Natural Resources. This conservation reserve borders the east side of La Cloche Provincial Park.

### **Land Use Intent**

Conservation reserves are areas of Crown land set aside by regulation under the Public Lands Act. Conservation reserves complement provincial parks in protecting representative natural areas and special landscapes. Most recreational (e.g. hiking, skiing, tourism related uses, nature appreciation) activities that have traditionally been enjoyed in the area will continue, provided that these uses do not impact on the natural features needing protection. Hunting and fishing is permitted within all new conservation reserves proposed through Ontario's Living Legacy. Commercial timber harvesting, mining, aggregate extraction and commercial hydroelectric development are prohibited in conservation reserves.

### **Next Steps**

The Land Use Strategy established the Ministry's intent to add these Crown lands to Ontario's protected areas system following the extensive public consultation associated with the Ontario's Living Legacy and Lands for Life land use planning initiatives between 1997 and 1999. Prior to the finalization of the boundary of this conservation reserve regulated under the Public Lands Act, the Ministry invited public comment on the proposed boundary from all potentially affected stakeholders and First Nations. In the interim, the area was withdrawn and protected from resource extraction activities such as timber harvesting, hydroelectric development, aggregate extraction and new mineral exploration. The Ministry of Natural Resources is currently finalizing a resource management plan for this area. Planning, management and the uses permitted within this conservation reserve will be consistent with the commitments of the Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy.

Appendix B (English)  
**OPEN HOUSE: PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION  
LA CLOCHE RIDGE CONSERVATION RESERVE (C 218)**

La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve (C 218) was regulated as a conservation reserve on October 20, 2001. A process is now underway to develop management direction for land uses within the area. The goal of this plan will ultimately be to guide Ministry staff in the management of the site by outlining the history, biology and current/future permitted uses within the conservation reserve.

The La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve encompasses 4,004 ha of Crown land along the north shore of the North Channel of Georgian Bay, Lake Huron. It is located approximately 16 kilometres southwest of the Town of Espanola, in the Townships of McKinnon, Harrow and Mongowin.

We are holding an Open House Information Session for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. The purpose of this session is to encourage public review of background information collected regarding the conservation reserve. We are also seeking comments on issues of concern relating to the planning process for this conservation reserve.

This Open House Information Session is open to all. Your opinion is important to us and all written or verbal comments will be collected or recorded. Ministry staff will be on hand to answer your questions and address any concerns relating to this process.

**The Open House will be held on Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup> 2004, from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the Whitefish Falls Community Centre.**

**For further information please contact Lynn Moreau, Crown Land and Protected Areas Planner at (705) 869-5166 or (705) 869-1330.**

Renseignements en français: Diane Gibson au (705) 869-6470.



## Appendix B (French)

### **JOURNÉE PORTES OUVERTES RÉSERVE DE CONSERVATION DE LA CRÊTE LA CLOCHE (C 218)**

Le ministère des Richesses naturelles de l'Ontario (MRN) organisera une journée portes ouvertes pour que le public ait l'occasion d'examiner les renseignements généraux et contextuels qu'il a recueillis au sujet de la réserve de conservation de la crête La Cloche. La réunion vise aussi à recueillir des points de vue en ce qui concerne le plan d'aménagement de la réserve de conservation.

La réserve de conservation de la crête La Cloche (C 218) a été établie par voie de règlement le 20 octobre 2001. Le MRN est en train d'établir les principes directeurs qui gouverneront l'utilisation des terrains dans ce secteur. Le plan sera en fin de compte un guide sur lequel s'appuiera le personnel du MRN pour gérer le site. Y seront décrites l'histoire et la biologie de la réserve de conservation, ainsi que les utilisations qui y sont autorisées actuellement et celles qui y seront autorisées dans l'avenir.

La réserve de conservation de la crête La Cloche est une terre de la Couronne d'une superficie de 4 004 ha, le long de la rive nord du chenal nord de la baie Georgienne (lac Huron). Elle est située à environ 16 kilomètres au sud-ouest d'Esplanada, dans les cantons de McKinnon, de Harrow et de Mongowin.

Cette réunion informative est ouverte à tous. Le MRN attache beaucoup d'importance à vos opinions. Tous les points de vue communiqués verbalement ou par écrit seront recueillis et notés conformément à la *Loi sur les terres publiques*. Le personnel du MRN sera présent à la réunion pour répondre à vos questions et discuter des préoccupations que pourraient susciter ces travaux de planification.

**La journée portes ouvertes aura lieu le lundi 30 août 2004, de 15 h à 20 h, au Centre communautaire de Whitefish Falls.**

**On peut obtenir de plus amples renseignements en s'adressant à Lynn Moreau, responsable de la planification (terres de la Couronne et zones protégées), au (705) 869-5166 ou au (705) 869-1330.**

Les observations et les opinions qui ne constituent pas des renseignements personnels au sens de la *Loi sur l'accès à l'information et la protection de la vie privée* pourront être consultées au sein du ministère des Richesses naturelles et pourraient être incorporées dans des documents de référence et des études que peut examiner le public. Les renseignements personnels ne seront pas divulgués, à moins que les personnes qu'ils concernent aient préalablement consenti à ce qu'ils soient divulgués. Le ministère des Richesses naturelles pourrait toutefois les utiliser pour obtenir les points de vue du public relativement à d'autres projets. Pour de plus amples renseignements à ce sujet, prière de communiquer avec Bruce Richard, au (705) 564-7849.

# Keep Out! That Means You

*Residents fight for the Red Deer Trail*

by Jim Moodie

**R**ed Deer Village, a string of enviable waterfront properties spread out along the North Channel of Lake Huron near Whitefish Falls, would seem an unlikely place to find a bunch of activists passionate about public land. Then again, the people who live here — retired mill workers, outdoorsmen, snowmobile club members — are not exactly the sort of snobbish, insular shoreline dwellers you may be picturing. They're the type to pop over to the neighbour's yard for a beer after a day of fishing. The type for whom communal activity and the country beyond their own individual lot lines, are both highly important.

So when a new landowner in the area put up a barbed wire fence this year, blocking access to two popular trails — one a scenic saunt to nearby Florence Lake and a large tract of Crown Land to the north; the other a handy, possibly even life-saving winter route that allows snowmobilers to run inland off the bay and skirt dry ice conditions — these people were not about to give in without a fight.

Sure, the trails crossed private property, had done so ever since 1884 when the Crown sold off the land where the trails are situated. But and that mean the trails themselves were necessarily private? And did Rob Mazzucca of Kapron, the latest person to purchase this land, really have the right to bar them and block those trails?

Residents of Red Deer Village are determined to find out.

In the meantime, perhaps sensing that this could be a long and potentially fruitless battle, they also came up with an immediate — if private — solution to the unblocking of Florence Lake. They bought their own 10-acre chunk of land, right next to the one owned by Mazzucca.

In remarkable speed, they had the road built and cripped in before the start of the winter season. But



Danny Brunne in front of closed off trail  
Photo: Courtesy of author



chase the \$56,000 lot. On weekends throughout May, large crews could be found sweating away in the buggy woods, hacking and smoothing a trail that, when complete, would act as an end run around the Mazzucca compound.

I came upon one such work-bee myself, when I asked if the trail was open to the public, a fellow named Grant Moffatt not only assured me I could like it to my heart's content — he even gave me some of his bug spray for the journey.

But was buying this adjacent parcel of land even necessary? Danny Brunne, who lives right across from the Mazzucca property, believes there's a good case for keeping the original Florence Lake trail in the public sphere. A semi-retired prospector the fell off a cliff in Labrador, but still works as a rock-hound whenever he can. Most of Brunne's recent digging has been in the area. He's been to the land registry office, on the Internet and through the Ministry of Natural Resources files.

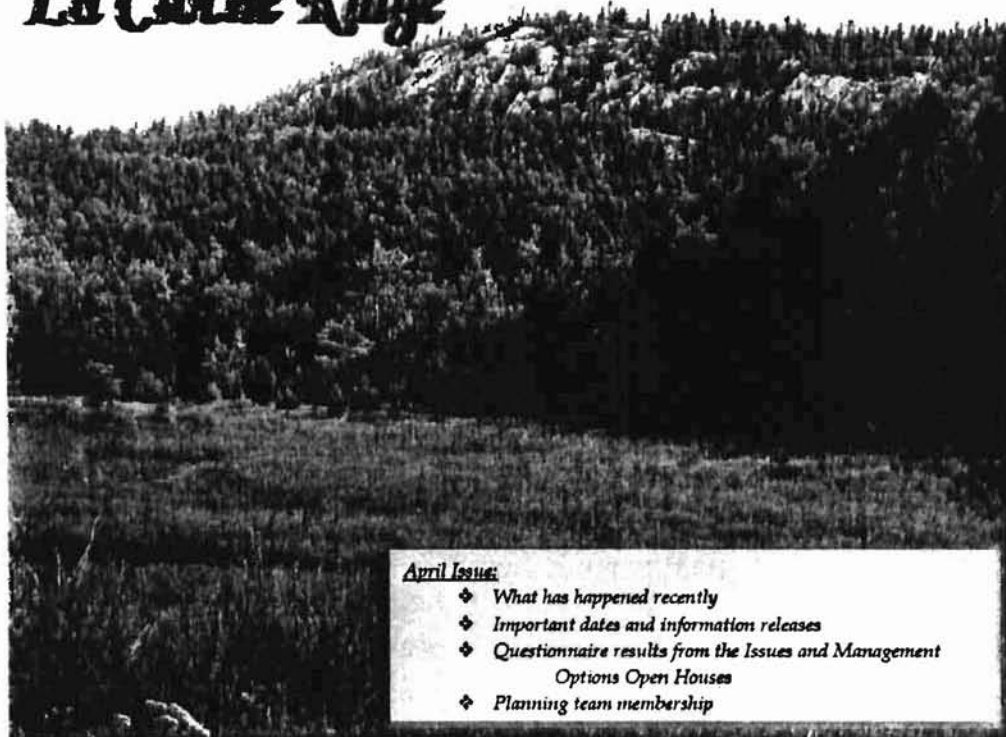
High Grader magazine Summer 1999

## Appendix D

*La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve, May 2005*

- 1 -

# La Cloche Ridge



#### April Issues:

- ◆ *What has happened recently*
- ◆ *Important dates and information releases*
- ◆ *Questionnaire results from the Issues and Management Options Open Houses*
- ◆ *Planning team membership*

*Hello Stakeholders,*

Welcome to the second La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve Newsletter! As we begin the final stages of public involvement in the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve planning process, a sincere thanks to all who have contributed. We had an excellent turn out at the open houses held in March, and had over 50 questionnaires on *Issues and Management Options* returned to our office. Additionally, we have received a number of sincere written submissions from members of the public who have a deep attachment to the lands of the La Cloche Ridge. Planning team members have benefited from the perceptions of many people; recreationalists, first nations, conservationists, fishermen, cottagers, residents, hunters, trappers, government officials and others who graciously took the time for dialogue.

In addition, I would like to thank the Planning Team members who volunteered their time, energy and knowledge at the meetings and Open Houses, and our MNR staff for the dedication, assistance and hard work which they have contributed. During the final 6 months of the planning process, two more opportunities for public consultation will be held. A *Preliminary Management Options* document will be produced this spring for public review and there will be future Open Houses to review the *Draft Resource Management Plan* in July.

**C218 Planning Team**

Lynn Moreau	MNR Crown Land Planner	(705)869-5166	<a href="mailto:lynn.moreau@mnr.gov.on.ca">lynn.moreau@mnr.gov.on.ca</a>
Don Mark	MNR Communications	(705) 564-7360	<a href="mailto:don.mark@mnr.gov.on.ca">don.mark@mnr.gov.on.ca</a>
Ken Henson	MNR Sr. Lands Specialist	(705)869-6501	<a href="mailto:ken.henson@mnr.gov.on.ca">ken.henson@mnr.gov.on.ca</a>
Diane Gibson	MNR Clerical Support	(705)869-6470	<a href="mailto:diane.gibson@mnr.gov.on.ca">diane.gibson@mnr.gov.on.ca</a>
Esther Osche	Whitefish River First Nation		
Peter Nahwegahbo	Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation		
Ray Owl/Robert Assinewe	Sagamok Anishnawbek		
Jim Thomason	Red Deer Village Trail Association and Rainbow Country Local Roads Board		
Todd Clement	Some Adjacent Landowners		
Dennis Lendrum	Espanola and District Snowmobile Club		
Gary Wright	Whitefish Falls Sportsman's Club/Rainbow Country Local Services Board		

## What has Happened Recently?



**January 2005** An Open House was held at Aundeck Omni Kaning to discuss the concerns of First Nation communities in the area regarding planning for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.

**March 2005** Two Open Houses were held in Whitefish Falls to present the "Issues and Management Options" Document to the general public. A questionnaire was released to obtain detailed input from the public. A series of maps were presented to assist the public in understanding the options presented.

**March 2005** The Planning Team held a meeting to discuss the issues raised at the February Open Houses.

**April 2005** Results of the Issues and Management Options Questionnaire were tabulated and the La Cloche Ridge Planning Team met to discuss the results and provide recommendations to the Steering Committee on a wide variety of issues.

### Some Challenges We're Facing

- ◆ Zoning within La Cloche Conservation Reserve
- ◆ OFSC Snowmobile trail relocation proposal
- ◆ Issue of parking on Bay of Islands Drive
- ◆ Access to La Cloche Conservation Reserve

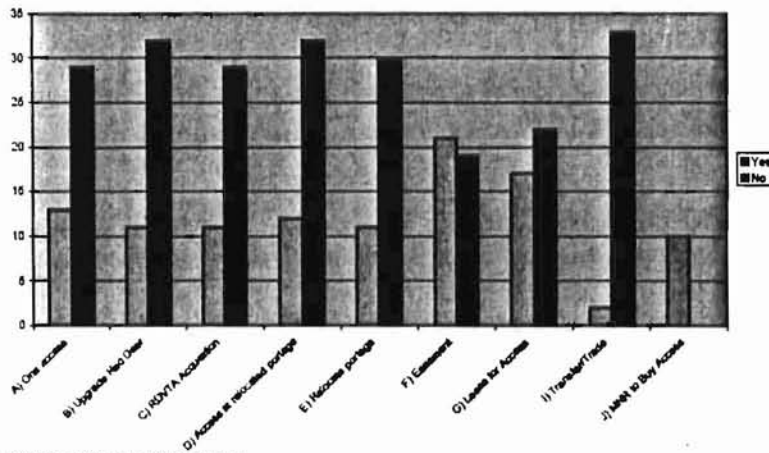
# STAKEHOLDERS INPUT

Over 50 Issues and Management Options Questionnaires were received at the Espanola Area Office. The questionnaire results provided the Planning Team with some direction on a wide variety of options including:

- Access and Portaging concerns
- Use of the OFSC snowmobile trail
- ATV use
- Use of the Loop 2 area
- Camping
- Crown land use

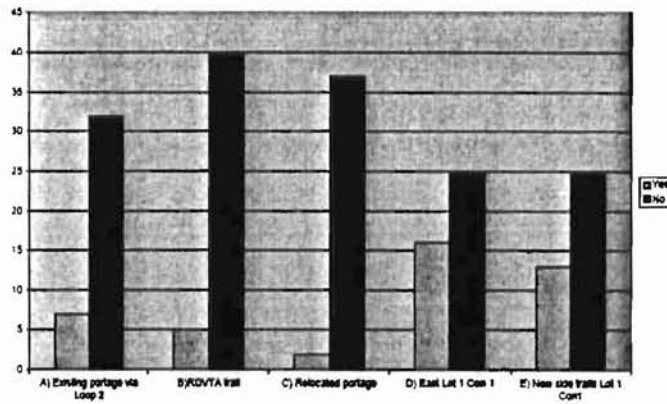
## ACCESS and PORTAGING RESULTS:

Access & Portaging Options



## SNOWMOBILING RESULTS:

OFSC Trail South Portion Re-routing



## **OPEN HOUSE: PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION LA CLOCHE RIDGE CONSERVATION RESERVE (C 218)**

La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve (C 218) was regulated as a conservation reserve on October 20, 2001. A process is now underway to develop management direction for land uses within the area. The goal of this plan will ultimately be to guide Ministry staff in the management of the site by outlining the history, biology and current/future permitted uses within the conservation reserve.

The La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve encompasses 4,004 ha of Crown land along the north shore of the North Channel of Georgian Bay, Lake Huron. It is located approximately 16 kilometres southwest of the Town of Espanola, in the Townships of McKinnon, Harrow and Mongowin.

We are holding an Open House Information Session for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. The purpose of this session is to encourage public review of background information collected regarding the conservation reserve. We are also seeking comments on issues of concern relating to the planning process for this conservation reserve.

This Open House Information Session is open to all. Your opinion is important to us and all written or verbal comments will be collected or recorded. Ministry staff will be on hand to answer your questions and address any concerns relating to this process.

**The Open House will be held on Monday, August 30th 2004, from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the Whitefish Falls Community Centre.**

For further information please contact Lynn Moreau, Crown Land and Protected Areas Planner at (705) 869-5166 or (705) 869-1330.

Renseignements en français: Diane Gibson au (705) 869-6470.





Appendix F

La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve (C218)  
Recreation and Resource Questionnaire

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone : \_\_\_\_\_ Email (optional) : \_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you use access the conservation reserve using any of these trails?

- \_\_\_ Wright's Lake Trail-from Lake Huron near Flat Point by water
  - \_\_\_ Red Deer Village Trail-off Bay of Islands Drive
  - \_\_\_ Heaven's Gate Trail-from Highway 6 or from the west
  - \_\_\_ Trails near Camp Manitou-access by water
  - \_\_\_ Snowmobile Trail from Moose Lake Road
  - \_\_\_ Snowmobile Trail from Fox Lake Road
  - \_\_\_ Snowmobile Trail from Bay of Islands Drive
  - \_\_\_ Other Trails (please identify where these trails are on the map and how you use them)
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

2. By which method do you use the trails mentioned above? Check all that apply?

- \_\_\_ Hiking/Walking
  - \_\_\_ Access by Boat
  - \_\_\_ ATV Use
  - \_\_\_ Snowmobiling
  - \_\_\_ Horseback Riding
  - \_\_\_ Mountain Biking
  - \_\_\_ Cross-Country skiing
  - \_\_\_ Hunting (Non-motorized)
  - \_\_\_ Hunting (Motorized with ATV)
  - \_\_\_ Dog sledding
  - \_\_\_ Snowshoeing
  - \_\_\_ Other (Please describe)
- \_\_\_\_\_

3. Are you familiar with any existing WATER-BASED trails, routes or access points within the boundaries of the conservation reserve? Explain which trails, routes you have used personally and mark them on the attached map.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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4. What lakes/ivers have you used for your activities ?

- Florence Lake
  - Alexander Lake
  - Wright's Lake
  - White's Lake
  - Elbow Lake
  - West Quartzite Lake
  - North Channel
  - Other (Please explain)
-

5. Have you used (or do you have knowledge of someone else using) this area for any of the recreational activities listed below? (Check all that apply).

Air Sports

- Kite-flying
- Bunji jumping
- Hang gliding
- Other

Water Sports

- Boating
- Canoeing
- Kayaking
- Inner tubing
- Rafting
- Snorkeling
- Swimming/Bathing
- Water skiing
- Wind surfing
- Jet skiing

Snow Sports

- Cross-country skiing
- Dog sledding
- Downhill skiing
- Snow boarding
- Snow shoeing
- Snowmobiling
- Tobogganing
- Other (Please specify)

Camping

- Beach activities
- Picnicking
- Overnight camping summer
- Overnight camping winter

Exploring

- Backpacking
- Driving (for pleasure)
- Flying (helicopter/plane)
- Orienteering
- Trail bike riding
- Portaging

Exploring

- Caving
- Bushwacking

Fishing

- Ice fishing
- Bottom fishing/jigging
- Trolling
- Fly-fishing

Collecting

- Collection of medicinal plants
- Beach combing
- Berry picking
- Mushroom picking
- Mineral panning

Hunting/Trapping

- Large game mammal
- Small game mammal
- Waterfowl
- Upland birds
- Trapping
- (Other please specify)

Nature activities

- Birdwatching
- Drawing/painting
- Interpretation
- Nature study
- Photography
- Solitude
- Relaxation/contemplation
- Other (please specify)

Climbing

- Ice climbing
- Mountaineering

6. What wildlife have you encountered within the boundaries of the conservation reserve?

7. Do you know of any special areas or features that should be protected within the conservation reserve?

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8. Do you know of any historical or traditional uses of the area? Please indicate the location of any such activities on the attached map.

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8. What, in your opinion, is the most significant feature of the site?

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9. Do you have any knowledge of any commercial or ecotourism uses occurring within the site?

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10. What is your ideal vision for the management of this site?

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11. Do you have any additional comments?

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Additional information (such as photographs or letters) may be attached to this form; however, please note that any photos/documents sent will not be returned unless specifically requested. All information provided is collected under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (1987) and personal information will remain confidential unless prior consent is obtained.

Questions concerning this questionnaire should be directed to the individuals named below. Please submit this questionnaire no later than **November 15, 2004** to the MNR office or to Mr. Dennis Lendrum.

Mr. Dennis Lendrum  
President, Espanola Snowmobile Club  
(705) 869-0164

Lynn Moreau, Crown Lands Planner  
Ministry of Natural Resources, Espanola Area  
(705) 869-5166  
lynn.moreau@mnr.gov.on.ca

## Appendix G

# *La Cloche Ridge Resource Management Plan C 218 Public Review of Draft Background Document*

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is providing an opportunity for the general public to review the **Draft Background Document** for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. The purpose of this session is to *encourage public review of background information collected regarding the conservation reserve. We are also seeking comments on issues of concern relating to the planning process for this conservation reserve.*

La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve (C 218) was regulated as a conservation reserve on October 20, 2001. A process is now underway to develop a Resource Management Plan for land uses within the area. The goal of this plan will ultimately be to guide Ministry staff and the Planning Team in the management of the site by *outlining the history, ecology, geology and land uses currently occurring within the Conservation Reserve.*

The La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve encompasses 4,004 ha of Crown land along the north shore of the North Channel of Georgian Bay, Lake Huron. It is located approximately 16 kilometres southwest of the Town of Espanola, in the Townships of McKinnon, Harrow and Mongowln.

**The Draft Background Document will be made available for the general public to review at the MNR Office in Espanola between February 1, 2005 and March 3, 2005.**

*Your opinion is important to us and all written or verbal comments will be collected or recorded under the authority of the Public Lands Act.*

**For further information please contact Lynn Moreau, Crown Land and Protected Areas Planner at (705) 869-5166.**

*Comments and opinions which do not constitute personal information as defined by the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, will be shared within the Ministry of Natural Resources, and may be included in study documentation that is made available for public review. Personal information will remain confidential unless prior consent to disclose is obtained. However, this information may be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources to seek public input on other projects. Please contact Don Mark at (705) 564-7823 for more information on this matter.*



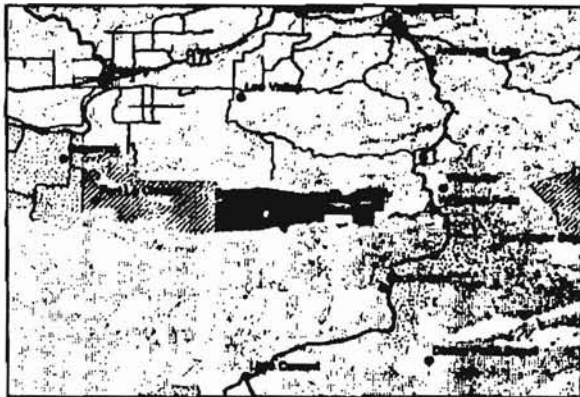
## Information Centre

### Public Review of the Draft Background Document La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve (C 218)

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is providing an opportunity for the general public to review the draft background document for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. The purpose of this session is to encourage public review of background information collected regarding the conservation reserve. We are also seeking comments on issues of concern relating to the planning process for this conservation reserve.

La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve (C 218) was regulated as a conservation reserve on October 20, 2001. A process is now underway to develop a resource management plan for land uses within the area. The goal of this plan will ultimately be to guide ministry staff and the planning team in the management of the site by outlining the history, ecology, geology and land uses currently occurring within the Conservation Reserve.

The La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve encompasses 4,004 ha of Crown land along the north shore of the North Channel of Georgian Bay, Lake Huron. It is located approximately 18 kilometres southwest of the Town of Espanola, in the Townships of McKinnon, Harrow and Mongowin.



The draft background document will be made available for the general public to review at the MNR Office in Espanola between February 1, 2005 and March 3, 2005.

Your opinion is important to us and all written or verbal comments will be collected or recorded under the authority of the *Public Lands Act*.

For further information please contact Lynn Moreau, Crown Land and Protected Areas Planner at 705-869-5166.

Comments and opinions which do not constitute personal information as defined by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (1987)*, will be shared within the Ministry of Natural Resources, and may be included in study documentation that is made available for public review. Personal information will remain confidential unless prior consent to disclose is obtained. However, this information may be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources to seek public input on other projects.

Pour obtenir des renseignements en français, veuillez communiquer avec Don Mark au (705) 584-7380.



Manitowish Expositor - Wed Feb 2/05

## Appendix I

**EBR Registry Number:** PB04E2005

**Type of Posting:** Policy

**Ministry:** Natural Resources

**Status of Posting:** Proposal

**Date Proposal Loaded:** 2004/09/15

**Comment Period:** 45 day(s)

Written submissions may be made between September 15, 2004 and October 30, 2004.

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## NOTICE OF PROPOSAL FOR POLICY

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### Proposal Title:

Resource Management Planning for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve

### Short Description:

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Sudbury District, is developing a resource management plan (RMP) for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve to establish and provide policy direction for its protection and management. The resource management plan will recognize the significance of the conservation reserve as a protected area, promote responsible stewardship of the protected area and surrounding lands, and ensure that recreational activities will be able to continue within the conservation reserve without impacting the area's natural values.

The La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve is located approximately 16 kilometres southwest of Espanola, along the north shore of the North Channel of Lake Huron. The 4,004-hectare reserve protects a rugged ridge system of water-washed white quartzite bedrock with pockets of sandy glacial ground moraine. Exposed bedrock areas are sparsely covered by wind swept, fire origin white pine, red pine, jack pine and red oak. American beech, eastern hemlock, sugar maple, red maple, white birch and yellow birch are also commonly encountered in the conservation reserve. Several old-growth candidate forest stands as well as a variety of orchids and saprophytic flora are also protected by the conservation reserve. White-tailed deer, moose and black bears are common in the area.

The conservation reserve encompasses several cold and warm water lakes, including a number of small acidified lakes. Lakes protected by the site include Elbow Lake, West Quartzite Lake, Wright's Lake, White's Lake, Alexander Lake and Florence Lake. The conservation reserve is nestled between existing provincial parks (La Cloche Provincial Park to the west and Killarney Provincial Park to the southeast) and is an important complement to the protected areas system of northeastern Ontario.

Several groups have a vested interest in the conservation reserve: First Nations, recreational trail users, adjacent property owners, and tourism operators. The area is popular for hunting, fishing and trapping, for recreational camp activities and for both motorized and non-motorized trail use. The development of the resource management plan will recognize and respect Aboriginal and treaty rights as identified under the Canadian Constitution.

A RMP is required to provide a sufficient level of planning to meet the management objectives set out for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. Management objectives which will be addressed during

this planning process include permitted uses on conservation reserve land, trail use and development, public access to the conservation reserve, protection of existing natural, cultural and traditional values within the conservation reserve, and future sustainable management of wildlife and fisheries within the conservation reserve.

The planning, management and the uses permitted within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve will be consistent with the MNR's strategic direction contained in the document "Beyond 2000" and will be consistent with the commitments of the Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy.

### **Purpose of the Proposal:**

To establish and provide policy direction for the protection, planning, and management of the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.

### **Other Relevant Information:**

A Terms of Reference is being prepared to guide the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve RMP planning process. Once approved, the Terms of Reference will be available for public review at the address listed below.

Further information about the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve can be obtained from the Crown Land Use Policy Atlas and can be accessed via the web-link listed below.

### **Other Public Consultation:**

Formal public consultation is planned to occur at three stages during the preparation, review and approval of the planning documents. Direct written notice of the intent to prepare this RMP will include First Nations, resource users, local and provincial interest groups, government agencies, landowners and members of the general public having an interest in the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. Persons not included in this initial mailing list, but who wish to be involved in the planning process, can request to have their names added to the list. Mailings will be sent out at each of the stages listed below and all comments received during the comment periods will be considered during the planning for this conservation reserve. Public notice will also be placed in local media (i.e., newspapers and radio) when each open house and/or public review period is being held.

Opportunities for public involvement include:

Stage I: Invitation to Participate / Public Open House Information Session – August 2004

The Ministry held an information centre regarding resource management planning for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve on Monday, August 30, 2004 at the Whitefish Falls Community Centre. The purpose of this consultation opportunity was to inform the public of the commencement of the RMP process, to solicit background information and to further identify public issues of concern within or related to the conservation reserve.

Stage II: Public review of Background Document/Management Options report – February 2005

Stage III: Public review of Draft Resource Management Plan – March 2005

Stage IV: Public inspection of Approved Resource Management Plan – June 2005



Note: Public Open Houses will be held at Stages I and III, with the possibility of an additional session at Stage II.

**Comments should be directed to the following Contact Person:**

Lynn Moreau, Crown Land & Protected Areas Planner  
Information and Resource Management Section  
MNR Sudbury District Office, 148 Fleming Street  
Espanola, Ontario, P5E 1R8  
PHONE: (705) 869-5166 FAX: (705) 869-4620

**Additional material in support of this notice is available by clicking the following hyperlink(s):**

<http://crownlanduseatlas.mnr.gov.on.ca/htmls/C218.html>

**All comments will be considered as part of the decision-making by the Ministry if they:**

- a. are submitted in writing;**
- b. reference the EBR Registry number; and**
- c. are received by the Contact person within the specified comment period.**

**Please Note: No acknowledgment or individual response will be provided to those who comment. All comments and submissions received will become part of the public record.**

## Open House to Review Refined Management Options La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve (C 218)

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNRF) is providing an opportunity for the general public to review and provide input on the refined management options for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.

La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve (C 218) was regulated as a conservation reserve on October 20, 2001. A planning team made up of members of the public and ministry staff was struck to develop a resource management plan for land uses within the area. The goal of the team is to develop a balanced management plan based on history, ecology, geology and land uses that have occurred within the conservation reserve.

The La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve encompasses 4,004 ha of Crown land along the north shore of the North Channel of Georgian Bay, Lake Huron. It is located approximately 15 kilometres southwest of the Town of Espanola, in the townships of McKinnon, Harrow and Mongowin.

Information sessions are open to anyone who is interested. Your comments on the planning process and refined management options are important. Ministry staff and some planning committee members will be on hand to answer questions.

An OPEN HOUSE will take place on two separate dates.

Espanola Recreation Complex  
Meeting Room

Tuesday, May 31, 2005, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Whitefish Falls Community Centre

Saturday, June 4, 2005

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For further information please contact Lynn Moreau, Crown Land and Protected Areas Planner at 705-888-6188.

Comments and opinions which do not constitute personal information as defined by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, will be shared within the Ministry of Natural Resources, and may be included in study documentation that is made available for public review. Personal information will remain confidential unless prior consent to disclose is obtained. However, this information may be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources to seek public input on other projects. Please contact Don Mark at 705-884-7388 for more information on this matter.

Disponible en français : Michel Chaumont, au (705) 884-7832.



Wed May 25/2005 Mid-North Monitor

## Appendix K

### **La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve (C 218) Open House to Review Issues and Management Options**

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is providing an opportunity for the general public to see first hand the issues and process that lead to plans for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.

La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve (C 218) was regulated as a conservation reserve on October 20, 2001. A Planning Team made up of members of the public and Ministry staff was struck to develop a Resource Management Plan for land uses within the area. The goal of the team is to develop a balanced management plan based on history, ecology, geology and land uses that have occurred within the Conservation Reserve.

The La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve encompasses 4,004 ha of Crown land along the north shore of the North Channel of Georgian Bay, Lake Huron. It is located approximately 16 kilometres southwest of the Town of Espanola, in the Townships of McKinnon, Harrow and Mongowin.

Information sessions are open to anyone who is interested. Your comments on the planning process and management options are important. Ministry staff and some planning committee members will be on hand to answer questions.

**An OPEN HOUSE will take place on two separate dates. Both public events will be held at the Whitefish Falls Community Centre. Please join us on Tuesday March 8<sup>th</sup> from 5pm-9pm, or on Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup> from 1pm-4pm**

**For further information please contact Lynn Moreau, Crown Land and Protected Areas Planner at (705) 869-5166.**

Comments and opinions which do not constitute personal information as defined by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, will be shared within the Ministry of Natural Resources, and may be included in study documentation that is made available for public review. Personal information will remain confidential unless prior consent to disclose is obtained. However, this information may be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources to seek public input on other projects. Please contact Don Mark at (705) 564-7823 for more information on this matter.



## Appendix L

### Options Choices Questionnaire

*Issues and Management Options Open House, Whitefish Falls*

March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005 from 5 pm to 9 pm

March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005 from 1 pm to 4 pm

Name: *(please print)* \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address: *(optional)* \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this questionnaire to the MNR Office in Espanola by April 10, 2005, to Lynn Moreau, or to any Planning Team member.**

Please check the option you prefer. If you prefer neither option, check column 3. View the maps and the document "**Issues & Management Options**" provided to assist you in making your choices.

<b>ACCESS and PORTAGING OPTIONS-Refer to the Access Options Map</b>			
<b>1. These options are for the general public to access the La Cloche Ridge CR crown lands from Bay of Islands Drive in Whitefish Falls, OR to portage from Freud Bay to Lake Huron.</b>	Support (YES)	Do not support (NO)	Unsure
Option A: Maintain <b>ONE</b> access point at Red Deer Village Trail Association Trailhead on Bay of Islands Drive (central part of Red Deer Village). MNR would not be upgrading or providing enhancements to this access point.			
Option B: <b>UPGRADE</b> the trail leading from the access point at Red Deer Village Trail Association Trailhead on Bay of Islands Drive into the Conservation Reserve, creating <b>WINTER ONLY</b> side trails on crown land (and RDVTA property) to minimize conflicts between snowmobiles and skiers and to increase safety for skiers			
Option C: MNR to approach the Red Deer Village Trail Association re: <b>DONATION</b> or <b>ACQUISITION</b> of their privately owned parcel to become part of the Conservation Reserve. MNR to maintain this access point in partnership with the RDVTA as a primary access point to the CR.			
Option D: MNR to approach private landowners on Lot 1 to acquire private land <b>ACCESS</b> corridor at the end of Bay of Islands Drive to become part of the CR. The location would be south of the current portage location (south of Flood Creek). No ATV access would be permitted. No other access points would be permitted. The corridor could become part of the CR.			
Option E: Private landowners of Lot 1 to officially <b>RELOCATE</b> and <b>DESIGNATE</b> portage on private land and MNR to designate portion on crown land. (South of Flood Creek). No access would be provided into the CR but the right to portage from Freud Bay to Lake Huron would remain.			
Option F: MNR to approach private landowners of Lot 1 to acquire an <b>EASEMENT</b> at the current portage location or a relocated portage location for <b>ACCESS</b> into the CR.			
Option G: MNR to approach private landowners of Lot 1 with possibility of a <b>LEASE</b> to buy option at the current portage location or a relocated portage location for <b>ACCESS</b> into the CR.			
Option I: A <b>TRANSFER</b> or <b>TRADE</b> of portions of private property could take place between the RDVTA and the private landowner (with mutual permission) facilitated by MNR. Access for the general public would be allowed through the southern portion of Lot 1. The RDVTA property would become private. Some stipulations could apply.			
<b>Do you have any other ideas for access?</b>			

<p><b>2. The following options relate to the snowmobile trail exit from La Cloche CR to Bay of Islands Drive.</b></p>			
<p>Option A: <b>Should an agreement for MNR purchase or lease on a portion of Lot 1, Con 1 be considered</b>, snowmobiles travel through the existing portage route via Loop 2 onto Bay of Islands Drive, then turn north to exit the area via Freud Bay (the existing MNR land on the south side of the road (580 metres along road). (Trail upgrades such as widening to this trail would be necessary to authorize it as an official OFSC snowmobile route).</p>			
<p>Option B: <b>Should an agreement for MNR acquisition of the RDVTA property be considered, OR if agreement is reached between RDVTA and OFSC</b>, snowmobiles travel through the Red Deer Village Trail then onto Freud Bay via the existing MNR land on the south side of the road (203 metres along road).</p>			
<p>Option C: <b>Should an agreement be reached with landowners of Lot 1, Con 1</b>, snowmobiles (OFSC included) travel through the relocated portage via Loop 2 then north along the road to the existing MNR parcel existing to Freud Bay (323 metres along road).</p>			
<p>Option D: Snowmobiles travel through the conservation reserve on the existing crown land trail which would be upgraded to OFSC standards and would exit the CR through the northeast corner of Lot 1, Concession 1 through private land <b>through agreement with landowners of Lot 1, Con 1</b>. (60 metres of new trail in the CR)</p>			
<p>Option E: Snowmobiles travel through the conservation reserve on new side trails constructed to OFSC standards (adjacent to current Red Deer Village Trail) and exit the CR at the northeast corner of Lot 1, Concession 1 through private land, <b>through agreement with landowners of Lot 1, Con 1</b>. (significantly more than 60 m of new trail in the CR)</p>			
<p><b>Do you have any other ideas for snowmobile access?</b></p>			
<p><b>3. The following options relate to ATV use within the La Cloche CR.</b></p>			
<p>Option A: (Status quo) ATV use will be permitted along the Red Deer Village trail as far north as Florence Lake but will not be permitted in any other areas of the CR. The Florence Lake Trail will be retained as a motorized multi-use trail for ATV access to Florence Lake's southern shoreline.</p>			
<p>Option B: ATV use will be eliminated on all trails within the La Cloche CR.</p>			
<p>Option C: Change the usage of the Florence Lake Trail to a multi-use non-motorized trail. Move ATV usage to the snowmobile trail with ATV use terminating at Florence Lake.</p>			
<p>Option D: Should motorized uses be permitted on portions of Loop 2?</p>			
<p><b>Any other options for ATV use?</b></p>			
<p><b>4. The following options relate to use of the Loop 2 area. In considering these options, skiing and hiking along with other non-motorized uses would remain as a permitted use of this area. (Refer to Bridge Infrastructure Poster)</b></p>			
<p>Option A: Do not allow motorized uses (ATV's or snowmobiles) on any part of the Loop 2 area. Maintain a bridge across Froot Creek at Locations A (Picnic table) and B for non-motorized uses focusing on intensive cross country skiing</p>			

opportunities, hiking and mountain biking on the existing loop trail.			
Option B: Motorized uses would be permitted in the entire Loop 2 area. A bridge suitable for motorized uses at Locations A and B would be maintained through a stewardship partnership.			
Option C: ATV use would not be permitted in the Loop 2 area. Snowmobiling would be permitted in this area.			
Option D: Snowmobiling would be permitted on a portion of Loop 2 to provide access to Lake Huron via the western portion of the existing Freud Bay portage.			
<b>Do you have other options for the Loop 2 area?</b>			
<b>5. Allow crown land disposition within the conservation reserve for private and/or commercial use. Please specify which of these dispositions you would support:</b>			
<b>Commercial tourism or ecotourism</b>			
<b>Resorts/lodges</b>			
<b>Outfitting services</b>			
<b>Other commercial uses</b>			
<b>Are there any other commercial ventures you would like to see considered?</b>			
<b>6. The following options relate to camping and infrastructure developments within the La Cloche CR.</b>			
Option A: Designate (and possibly develop) campsites at appropriate locations within the conservation reserve and restrict camping to these locations. Promote the concept of traceless camping at these locations. Please indicate which sites you would approve/disapprove of:			
South shore of Alexander Lake			
South shore of Florence Lake			
South shore of Wright's Lake			
Lake Huron ((selected sites) for kayakers/canoists			
Horseshoe Lake			
Wright's Chimney			
<b>Are there other locations where designated campsites should be placed?</b>			
Option B: Develop, in partnership with local First Nations/community groups, a trail kiosk located at the eastern entry point to the Heaven's Gate Trail and an additional kiosk at the Alexander Creek crossing (Location D). The kiosk could educate on topics of exotic species introductions, trail ethics, safety, aboriginal history and natural resource values.			
Option C: Investigate and pursue, in partnership with local First Nations or other user groups, the development of additional infrastructure such as better directional signage to direct people through trails and to lookouts, creation of docks, picnic tables, and/or pit privies.			
<b>Do you have any other suggestions for infrastructure developments within La Cloche CR?</b>			

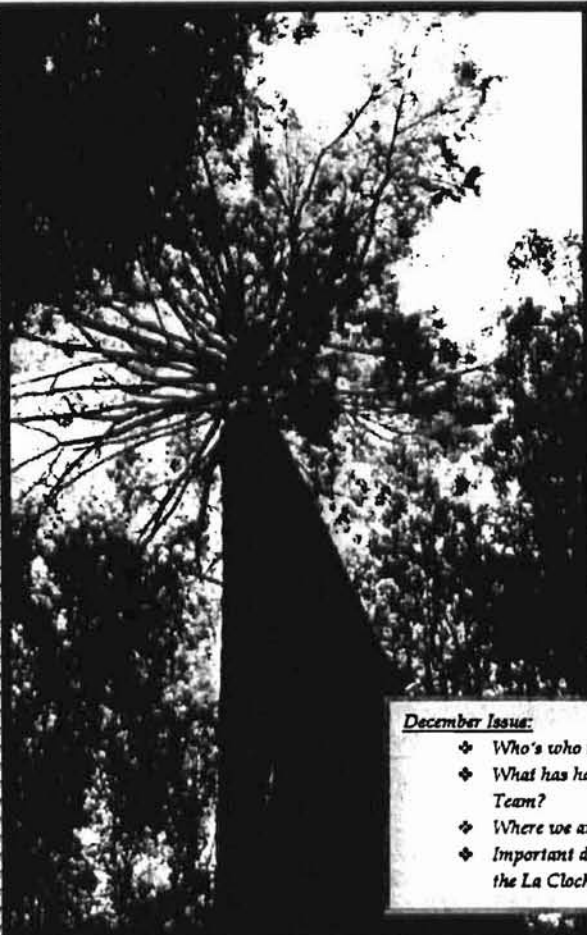
<b>7. Do you agree or disagree with the following recommendations?</b>			
Plan A: A trail strategy should be developed as part of the Resource Management Plan to provide a mechanism for trail standards, maintenance, monitoring, rehabilitation and restoration.			
Plan B: Should zoning be used as a tool to be considered in planning? See the Zoning concept map for the Conservation Reserve.			
Plan C: MNR should explore partnership opportunities with local First Nations or other user groups for stewardship-type agreements for the conservation reserve.			
Plan D: Commercial tourism/ecotourism should only be permitted within specific zones of the CR after a thorough and detailed investigation of tourism operation impacts on natural resource values. It would be subject to the Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves administered through MNR.			
Plan E: MNR should explore partnership opportunities with First Nations and other community organizations to provide and distribute a trail brochure for La Cloche Ridge detailing information on safety, trail ethics, low-trace camping, species at risk, and the impacts of invasive species to be made available at trail kiosks.			
Plan F: MNR should promote the formation of a Standing Advisory Committee made up of area stakeholders who would review future CR development proposals to ensure they are evaluated with regard for environmental, cultural, First Nation and economic concerns.			
<b>Do you have any other general recommendations for La Cloche CR?</b>			
<b>8. The following options are in regard to the waters of the inland lakes and streams such as Florence Lake, Wright's Lake, Alexander Lake and Froid Creek.</b>			
Option A: To ensure the quality and quantity of the CR's water bodies are protected, no water withdrawals (permits to take water) or water level controls (dams) should be permitted within the La Cloche CR.			
Option B: To promote the La Cloche CR as an area where peaceful activities predominate and to ensure continued protection of water quality, personal watercraft and boats will have horsepower restrictions. Existing boat caches will be monitored by MNR on an annual basis to ensure that caches do not become problematic.			
Option C: No motorized watercraft will be permitted within La Cloche CR.			
<b>9. The following options are in regard to the dark skies of the La Cloche CR.</b>			
Option A: The dark skies component of this conservation reserve should be protected by ensuring that any infrastructure developed within the site follow lighting standards developed in conjunction with other dark sky users in the province of Ontario. (see handout)			
<b>10. The following options are in regard to New Trail Developments within La Cloche CR.</b>			
Option A: New Trail Developments should not be considered for any areas of the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.			
Option B: New Trails should be considered for the La Cloche Ridge CR.			
Option C: Proposals for new trail developments should be considered for some zones of the La Cloche Ridge CR, and would be subject to the Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves administered through MNR.			

Comments and opinions which do not constitute personal information as defined by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, will be shared within the Ministry of Natural Resources, and may be included in study documentation that is made available for public review. Personal information will remain confidential unless prior consent to disclose is obtained. However, this information may be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources to seek public input on other projects. Pour obtenir des renseignements en français, veuillez communiquer avec Diane Gibson at (705) 869-6470.

## Appendix M

*La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve C218 Newsletter January 2004*

# La Cloche Ridge



### *Hello Stakeholders,*

Welcome to the first La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve Newsletter! A lot has happened since the meeting we had back in August '04. The members of the C218 Planning Team have met on numerous occasions and are pleased with the progress thus far.

The Planning Team wanted to take the opportunity to invite you to be a part of the planning process. We'd also like to thank you for all of your input up until this point and encourage your continued support!

Small Purple-Fringed Orchid  
*Platanthera purycodes*



#### December Issue:

- ❖ *Who's who in the planning team?*
- ❖ *What has happened so far with the La Cloche Planning Team?*
- ❖ *Where we are headed in the planning process.*
- ❖ *Important dates and information releases involved with the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.*



**C218 Planning Team**

Lynn Moreau	MNR	(705)869-5166	<a href="mailto:lynn.moreau@mnr.gov.on.ca">lynn.moreau@mnr.gov.on.ca</a>
Jody McHardy	MNR	(705)564-7868	<a href="mailto:jody.mchardy@mnr.gov.on.ca">jody.mchardy@mnr.gov.on.ca</a>
Ken Henson	MNR	(705)869-6501	<a href="mailto:ken.henson@mnr.gov.on.ca">ken.henson@mnr.gov.on.ca</a>
Dr. Mike Bouffard	Red Deer Village Trail Assoc.	(705)675-3776	
Todd Clement	Adjacent Landowners	(705)285-0775	<a href="mailto:tclement@hotmail.com">tclement@hotmail.com</a>
Pete Nahwegahbo	Aundeck Omni Kaming First Nation	(705) 368-002	<a href="mailto:Che_Benji@hotmail.com">Che_Benji@hotmail.com</a>
Dennis Lendrum	Espanola District Snowmobile Club	(705)869-0164	<a href="mailto:nawpasno@yahoo.ca">nawpasno@yahoo.ca</a>
Esther Osche	Whitefish River First Nation	(705)285-4334	
John Perfetto	Whitefish Falls Sportsman's Club/	(705)285-4560	<a href="mailto:jperfetto@sympatico.ca">jperfetto@sympatico.ca</a>
Ken Sokoloski	Rainbow Country Local Services Board		
	Espanola Local Citizen's Committee	(705)869-3509	<a href="mailto:Ken.sokoloski@sympatico.ca">Ken.sokoloski@sympatico.ca</a>

# What has Happened so Far?

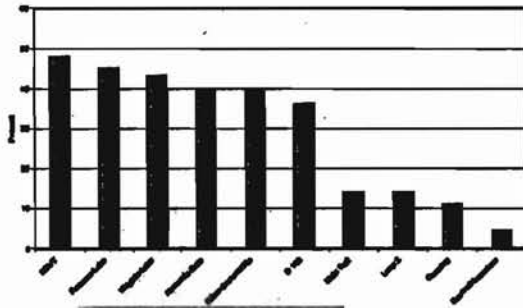
- July, 2004: An Invitation to participate letter was sent to aboriginal communities, stakeholders and interested parties, to inform that planning processes were being initiated.
- Aug. 30, '04: A "Public Information Session" Open house was held in Whitefish Falls.
- Sept. 15, '04: A notice was posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry regarding the initiation of a Resource Management Plan for La Cloche Ridge.
- Sept. '04: Invitation letters were sent to potential planning team members. Team was selected in late September, early October.
- Oct. 22, '04: First La Cloche Ridge Planning meeting, where issues so far were discussed and targets were set.
- Nov. 4, '04: Open House held for Whitefish River First Nation.
- Nov. 15, '04: Second La Cloche Ridge Planning Team meeting. New members introduced, open house discussed, questionnaire results discussed, dates set for site visits to C218.
- Nov. 19, '04: Members of the La Cloche Planning Team went on a hike through "Loop 2" to familiarize new members with the site and to discuss issues regarding this area of C218.
- Nov. 22, '04: Members of the La Cloche Planning Team hiked a section of the OFSC snowmobile trail, again for familiarization and discussion of issues regarding this area of C218.
- Dec. 13, '04: Third La Cloche Ridge Planning Team meeting.



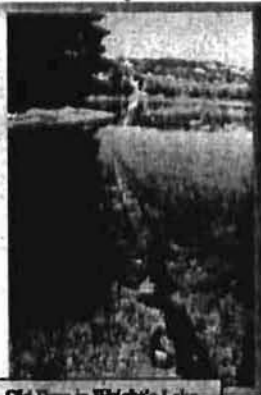
- Some Challenges We're Facing**
- ◆ Availability for enforcement to back up land use decisions
  - ◆ Timelines - making the most appropriate decision within deadlines
  - ◆ Assigning universal names to trails in C218
  - ◆ Usages to authorize and where

# STAKEHOLDERS INPUT

Trails used within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve

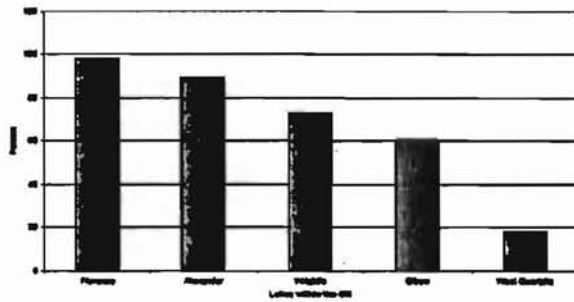


Trail in C218

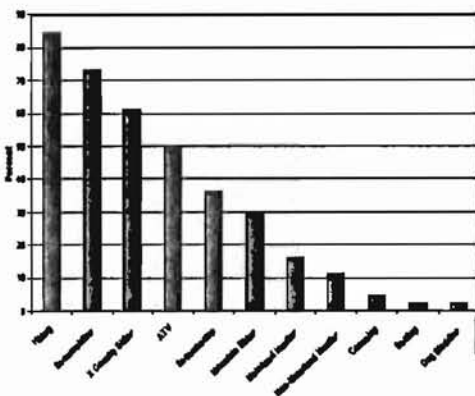


Old Dam in Wright's Lake

Lake usage within La Cloche Conservation Reserve



Recreational activities ranked by popularity within La Cloche Ridge C218



Planning Team Hike in C218



The La Cloche Planning Team has a prioritized task list, they hope to check off each item in a timely manner and thus be able to release a final plan for how C218 will be managed. The Team will consider all comments and input from any of the stakeholders who wish to have their opinions heard. Over December and January, we hope to have all of the issues out on the table and dealt with accordingly.



American Beech  
*Fagus grandifolia*

One of the tasks on our list is to hold another Open House to obtain input on Management Options. Invitations will be sent to all on our mailing list, so if you've received this newsletter you will receive the invite to our next open house! If you know of anyone who hasn't received this letter and know that they'd be interested in being on our mailing list please let us know. Call or email Jody McHardy (see contact info on page 2).

If you're interested in reviewing the Background Document, it is available at the Ministry of Natural Resources Espanola Office for public review between February 1<sup>st</sup> and February X, 2005. Following the review of the Background Document as well as the review of the current issues with C218, the Planning Team will present Issues and Management Options they have for the future management of C218, taking into consideration all of the comments/ideas they've received. The C218 planning team is forecasting a release of the Management Options Document in late February. Upon selection of the most appropriate and realistic management options, a Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) will be written and made available for public review.

Thank you for taking the time to read our opening issue of the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve Newsletter. We are looking forward to the next Open House and hope to see you there.

Yours in Planning,

C218 Planning Team

## Province proposes conservation reserve

Reserve covers 4,004 hectares

by CINDY LAUNDRY  
Staff Writer

The provincial government is looking at turning an area about 1,004 hectares southwest of Espanola into a conservation reserve; restricting the uses in what is being called the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.

Lynn Moreau, crown and protected areas planner, said the function of the exercise is to preserve the natural habitat while promoting recreational activities. "We're at the beginning of the resource management plan."

The LaCloche Ridge Conservation Area is located approximately 16 kilometres southwest of Espanola along the north shore of the North Channel of Lake Huron and south of Moose Lake, Moreau said. The La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve is located in the geographic Townships of Harrow and McKinnon, in the Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers. The

western boundary runs through White's Lake. The northern boundary runs through Elbow Lake and West Quartzite Lake. The southern boundary is the North Channel of Georgian Bay, and private lands lie to the east.

She said "forestry will not be permitted, nor will mining be permitted. Fishing and hunting will still be permitted."

Moreau said that the recreational trails will still be accessible to hikers, cross-country skiers, and snowmobilers, "with the exception of ATVs."

MPP Mike Brown said the previous government made a commitment to recognize there are some areas that might need protection.

What is happening now, especially with the proposed LaCloche Ridge Conservation Area, he said is the regulation of uses. Brown said the process is completing what the previous government has done.

"This is all part of the Living Legacy and Lands for Life process,"

*continued on page 7*

## Conservation reserve proposed by province

*continued from page 1*

he said adding that he is not an expert on the designations. "What is happening in those areas are being regulated and, as you know, there are quite a number of ways of regulating parks and conservation reserves are one of them."

Brown said the use of the land will be corresponding to the uses already established in the area.

"I know there have been some difficulties with snowmobile trails and some other things in that area," Brown said. "I do know we are dealing with a situation that people should take every opportunity to make the ministry of their concerns, that this area will be regulated because the deal was struck some 5-6 years ago at the provincial level with the Living Legacy and the government decided to keep its word."

Brown said "people have not indicated to me on a personal basis that there is concern other than we do know about the snowmobile trails in that area."

Last fall a group of citizens organized in Whitefish Falls to lobby the government measure

the impact of provincial parkland on local communities. The group could see that the parks were killing jobs. Spokesperson for the group Judy Skidmore said "Dan Brunne and I met with Mike Brown, MPP, and requested some assistance in assessing the impact that this process was having on our local communities. Mike did not respond."

The Town of Espanola also passed the resolution last fall that the provincial government should undertake an impact analysis on jobs in the region before parks were expanded. There has been no indication that the government is measuring the impact of the parks on local jobs.

He added that those with prospecting rights, there are stages to follow with the Mining Act. "The government would try to deal with those through the MNDM (ministry of northern development) and the MNR (ministry of natural resources)."

"You never know where there is significant mining because mines are where you find them and they sometimes end up in the oddest spots," Brown said. He added that this reserve

is going through the process and "that's where people need to come out and express their views to the ministry."

An open house was scheduled for Monday, Aug. 30 at the Whitefish Falls Community Centre.

"We do try to deal with, make sure that people are dealt with and treated fairly within the process," Brown said "they're not attempting to expropriate people's claims, for example. It's very complex, it's hard to say 'yes' and 'no'. It depends on so many different things."

He added "many of these can be large economic opportunities when you have parks that people can use, it also has a beneficial affect on the surrounding area. Killarney Park has had huge, positive impacts to communities such as Killarney. It's also had impacts on the western border where we have a number of outfitters that provide opportunities to go into the park."

Brown encourages people to respond during the planning process. "They should be responding if they believe there is an activity in certain areas that needs attention."

# Whitefish Falls meeting draws good attendance

*Trail association vows to fight for safe trail route, portage designation*

JOSEPH QUESNEL  
Staff Writer

After good attendance at a recent public meeting, the Red Deer Village Trail Association (RDVTA) suggests this is evidence that area residents are very concerned about the future of the La Cloche Ridge observation Reserve.

"The meeting went off. We had well over 100 people in attendance. This shows the interest in there about these issues," said Mike Bouffard, president of the group.

On March 19th at the Whitefish Falls Community Centre on issues related to future development within the observation reserve. The group is mainly

concerned about public access to the Crown reserve, among other matters.

"We also updated the community on the open houses put on by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). We also informed them that the Red Deer Village Travel Association presented access proposals which were not part of the MNR's package," said Bouffard.

"They're concerned in this community,

In 1999, the group purchased a parcel of land that was intended to provide access to the Crown reserve. The decision, said Bouffard, was intended as a "tem-

porary measure" to prevent private land owners in the area from preventing public access. When they purchased the land, he continued, the association also signed a covenant with the MNR, establishing the land as a "multi-use trail accessible to the public."

The group's main complaint is that the existing path is "torturous" to travel on and is not really a good public trail. Bouffard stated

the reserve. The members of the group are also concerned about the future of a portage area in the south end of the reserve.

"We were very dis-

appointed over what the Ministry provided," said Bouffard, in reference to proposals the MNR made about the area.

Bouffard maintained that the association would await a report from the MNR's planning committee.

"If we're unhappy with their recommendations, clearly there are legal options we can try to pursue. There are also options involving community action," he said. Bouffard, however, de-

termined to represent the local community, also expressed their concern about the MNR's approach to the issues raised.

"Who really knows what they do with our questionnaires," commented Dan Brunne, a resident of Red Deer Village and also a mem-

ber of the trail association.

At a past MNR open house, members of the public were given a four-page questionnaire that listed access and portage options for the area.

He said that he is concerned that the MNR is treating the conservation reserve like a park, in terms of MNR guidelines. Brunne stated that this approach would limit new developments, such as new hiking trails, being added in the area.

Brunne said members

of the community are concerned about the use of snowmobiles being proposed by the MNR.

"What they're giving us are maybes in the way of motorized vehicle usage. They are telling us that we can use snowmobiles or ATVs, until they pose a

problem. We don't need maybes. What will happen is that one ATV will go into the woods and make a mess and that will reflect on everyone else," he stated.

Brunne saved his most scathing criticism, however, for the issue of portage access on the reserve. Members of the RDVTA want a south portage route about 100 yards from the access trail officially designated as an historic portage. Brunne said that he is awaiting information from the federal government and

the Ministry of Natural Resources and Oceans requesting a ruling on whether or not the land in question should be designated a portage. If it is, he said, the public would have a right to have it unobstructed year-round.

Appendix P  
La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve (C 218)  
Public Review of the Draft Background Document  
Information Centre

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is providing an opportunity for the general public to review the **Draft Background Document** for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. The purpose of this session is to encourage public review of background information collected regarding the conservation reserve. We are also seeking comments on issues of concern relating to the planning process for this conservation reserve.

La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve (C 218) was regulated as a conservation reserve on October 20, 2001. A process is now underway to develop a Resource Management Plan for land uses within the area. The goal of this plan will ultimately be to guide Ministry staff and the Planning Team in the management of the site by outlining the history, ecology, geology and land uses currently occurring within the Conservation Reserve.

The La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve encompasses 4,004 ha of Crown land along the north shore of the North Channel of Georgian Bay, Lake Huron. It is located approximately 16 kilometres southwest of the Town of Espanola, in the Townships of McKinnon, Harrow and Mongowin.

**The Draft Background Document will be made available for the general public to review at the MNR Office in Espanola between February 1, 2005 and March 3, 2005.**

Your opinion is important to us and all written or verbal comments will be collected or recorded under the authority of the Public Lands Act.

**For further information please contact Lynn Moreau, Crown Land and Protected Areas Planner at (705) 869-5166.**

Comments and opinions which do not constitute personal information as defined by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, will be shared within the Ministry of Natural Resources, and may be included in study documentation that is made available for public review. Personal information will remain confidential unless prior consent to disclose is obtained. However, this information may be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources to seek public input on other projects. Pour obtenir des renseignements en français, veuillez communiquer avec Don Mark at (705) 564-7823.



## Appendix Q

### La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve (C 218) Open House to Review Refined Management Options

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is providing an opportunity for the general public to review and provide input on the refined management options for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.

La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve (C 218) was regulated as a conservation reserve on October 20, 2001. A Planning Team made up of members of the public and Ministry staff was struck to develop a Resource Management Plan for land uses within the area. The goal of the team is to develop a balanced management plan based on history, ecology, geology and land uses that have occurred within the Conservation Reserve.

The La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve encompasses 4,004 ha of Crown land along the north shore of the North Channel of Georgian Bay, Lake Huron. It is located approximately 16 kilometres southwest of the Town of Espanola, in the Townships of McKinnon, Harrow and Mongowin.

Information sessions are open to anyone who is interested. Your comments on the planning process and refined management options are important. Ministry staff and some planning committee members will be on hand to answer questions.

**An OPEN HOUSE will take place on two separate dates.**

<b>Espanola Recreation Complex Meeting Room Tuesday May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005 7 pm to 9 pm</b>	<b>Whitefish Falls Community Centre Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005 1 pm to 4 pm</b>
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**For further information please contact Lynn Moreau, Crown Land and Protected Areas Planner at (705) 869-5166.**

Comments and opinions which do not constitute personal information as defined by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, will be shared within the Ministry of Natural Resources, and may be included in study documentation that is made available for public review. Personal information will remain confidential unless prior consent to disclose is obtained. However, this information may be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources to seek public input on other projects. Please contact Don Mark at (705) 564-7823 for more information on this matter.



## Appendix R-EBR Posting Public Review of Background Document

**EBR Registry Number:** PB04E2005

**Type of Posting:** Policy

**Ministry:** Natural Resources

**Status of Posting:** Proposal

**Date Proposal Loaded:**

**Comment Period:** 30 day(s)

Written submissions may be made between February 1, 2005 and March 3, 2005

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### NOTICE OF PROPOSAL FOR POLICY

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This notice was published on September 15, 2004 at the Invitation to Participate stage, with a 45 day review period. It was republished February 1st, 2005, at the Opportunity to Review the Background Document stage, and to provide an additional 30 day comment period.

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#### Proposal Title:

Resource Management Planning for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve

#### Short Description:

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Sudbury District, is developing a resource management plan (RMP) for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve to establish and provide policy direction for its protection and management. The resource management plan will recognize the significance of the conservation reserve as a protected area, promote responsible stewardship of the protected area and surrounding lands, and ensure that recreational activities will be able to continue within the conservation reserve without impacting the area's natural values.

The La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve is located approximately 16 kilometres southwest of Espanola, along the north shore of the North Channel of Lake Huron. The 4,004-hectare reserve protects a rugged ridge system of water-washed white quartzite bedrock with pockets of sandy glacial ground moraine. Exposed bedrock areas are sparsely covered by wind swept, fire origin white pine, red pine, jack pine and red oak. American beech, eastern hemlock, sugar maple, red maple, white birch and yellow birch are also commonly encountered in the conservation reserve. Several old-growth candidate forest stands as well as a variety of orchids and saprophytic flora are also protected by the conservation reserve. White-tailed deer, moose and black bears are common in the area.

The conservation reserve encompasses several cold and warm water lakes, including a number of small acidified lakes. Lakes protected by the site include Elbow Lake, West Quartzite Lake, Wright's Lake, White's Lake, Alexander Lake and Florence Lake. The conservation reserve is nestled between existing provincial parks (La Cloche Provincial Park to the west and Killarney Provincial Park to the southeast) and is an important complement to the protected areas system of northeastern Ontario.

Several groups have a vested interest in the conservation reserve: First Nations, recreational trail users, adjacent property owners, and tourism operators. The area is popular for hunting, fishing and trapping,



for recreational camp activities and for both motorized and non-motorized trail use. The development of the resource management plan will recognize and respect Aboriginal and treaty rights as identified under the Canadian Constitution.

A RMP is required to provide a sufficient level of planning to meet the management objectives set out for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. Management objectives which will be addressed during this planning process include permitted uses on conservation reserve land, trail use and development, public access to the conservation reserve, protection of existing natural, cultural and traditional values within the conservation reserve, and future sustainable management of wildlife and fisheries within the conservation reserve.

The planning, management and the uses permitted within the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve will be consistent with the MNR's strategic direction contained in the document "Beyond 2000" and will be consistent with the commitments of the Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy.

### **Purpose of the Proposal:**

To establish and provide policy direction for the protection, planning, and management of the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.

### **Other Relevant Information:**

A Terms of Reference has been prepared to guide the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve RMP planning process. The Approved Terms of Reference and minutes of meetings held to date are available for public review at the address listed below.

After the "Public Information Session" Open House which was held in Whitefish Falls on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004, the planning team was selected and has held numerous meetings. The meetings included three formal round table discussion meetings and several field trips into the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.

Formal meetings up to this point have taken place at the Espanola Area MNR office. On the October 22, 2004 meeting the planning team was identified, past events were reviewed and schedules were drafted for completion of the Resource Management Plan. Team availability and contact information was gathered in order to be made available to the public. The meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004 brought new members and a discussion of the November 4, 2004 Open House held at Whitefish River First Nation. The Draft Background Document was handed out for review by each planning team member. At the December 13, 2004 meeting, the planning team welcomed two guest speakers; Will Kershaw, Management Planner for Provincial Parks in the Northeast Zone and Chuck Miller, Killarney Provincial Park Superintendent. Mr. Kershaw and Mr. Miller discussed the management plan that is currently in place at Killarney Provincial Park. Also during the third meeting; the draft newsletter was reviewed and edits were made to it as well as the Draft Background Document.

Field trips were taken by members of the planning team in various areas of C218 to collect background information and to get a better idea of particular issues in specific areas. The field trips took place on Aug. 24, Sept. 13 & 27, Oct. 12 & 17, and Nov. 9, 19 & 22.

The Draft Background Document will be available for public review between February 1<sup>st</sup> and March 3, 2004.

A Newsletter for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve has been started and the first issue was released to everyone on the mailing list in late January. The mailing list is an ongoing project; although currently up to date, the list will continue to be open for additions and changes as they arise.

Further information about the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve can be obtained from the Crown Land Use Policy Atlas and can be accessed via the web-link listed below.

## **Other Public Consultation:**

Formal public consultation is planned to occur at four stages during the preparation, review and approval of the planning documents. Direct written notice of the intent to prepare this RMP included First Nations, resource users, local and provincial interest groups, government agencies, landowners and members of the general public having an interest in the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. Persons not included in this initial mailing list, but who wish to be involved in the planning process, can request to have their names added to the list. Mailings will be sent out at each of the stages listed below and all comments received during the comment periods will be considered during the planning for this conservation reserve. Public notice will also be placed in local media (i.e., newspapers and radio) when each open house and/or public review period is being held.

The following is a summary of public consultation that has occurred to date:

Stage I: Invitation to Participate / Public Open House Information Session – August 2004

The following are the remaining opportunities for the public to participate in the planning process:

Stage II: Public review of Background Document (February 1<sup>st</sup> to March 3, 2004) - this is the current opportunity

Stage III: Open House: Public review of Issues and Management Options/Draft Resource Management Plan – March 2005

Stage IV: Public inspection of Approved Resource Management Plan – June 2005

Note: Public Open Houses will be held at Stages I and III, with the possibility of an additional session at Stage II.

## **Comments should be directed to the following Contact Person:**

Lynn Moreau, Crown Land & Protected Areas Planner  
Information and Resource Management Section  
MNR Sudbury District Office, 148 Fleming Street  
Espanola, Ontario, P5E 1R8  
PHONE: (705) 869-5166 FAX: (705) 869-4620

## **Additional material in support of this notice is available by clicking the following hyperlink(s):**

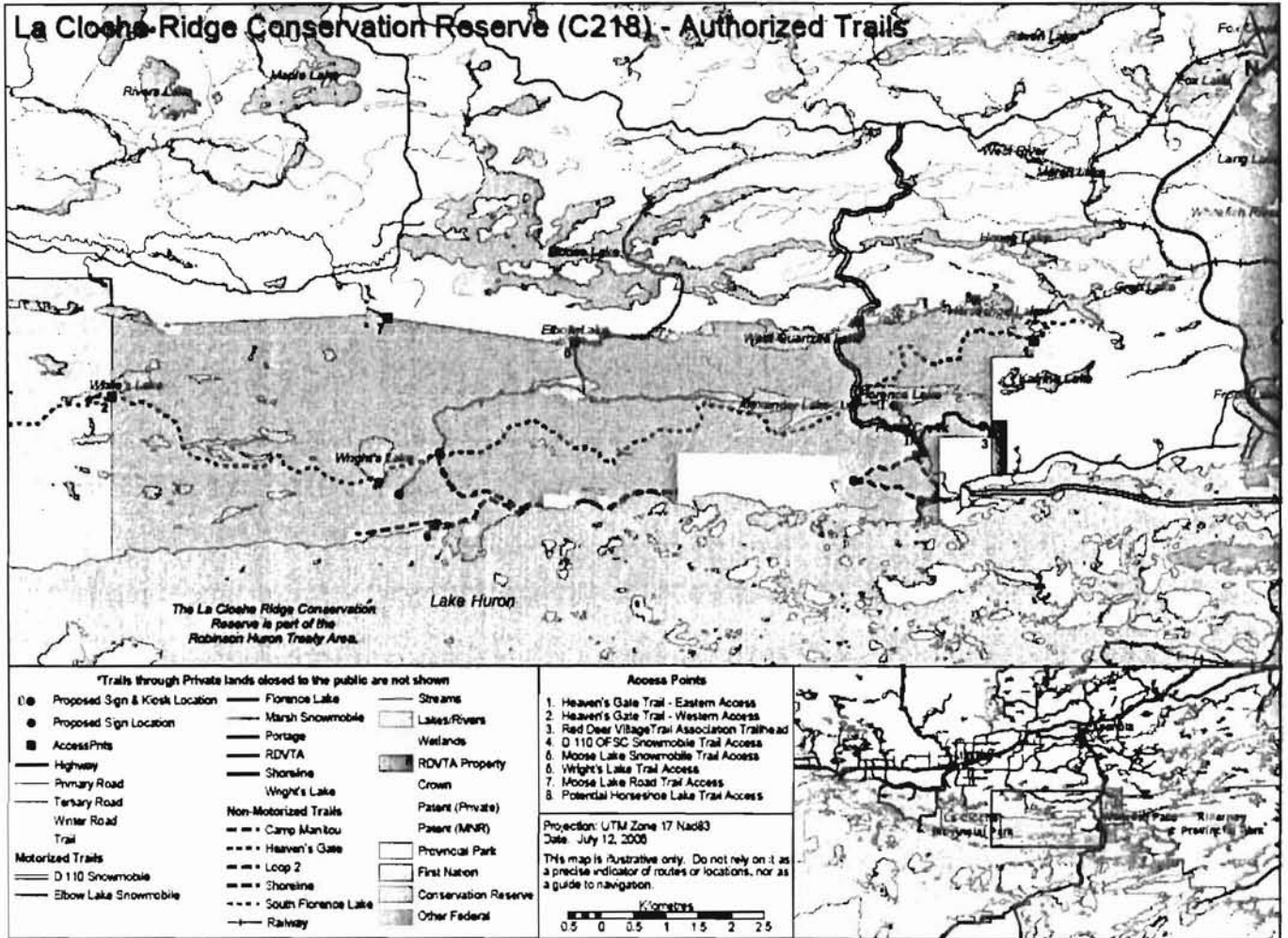
<http://crownlanduseatlas.mnr.gov.on.ca/htmls/C218.html>

**All comments will be considered as part of the decision-making by the Ministry if they:**

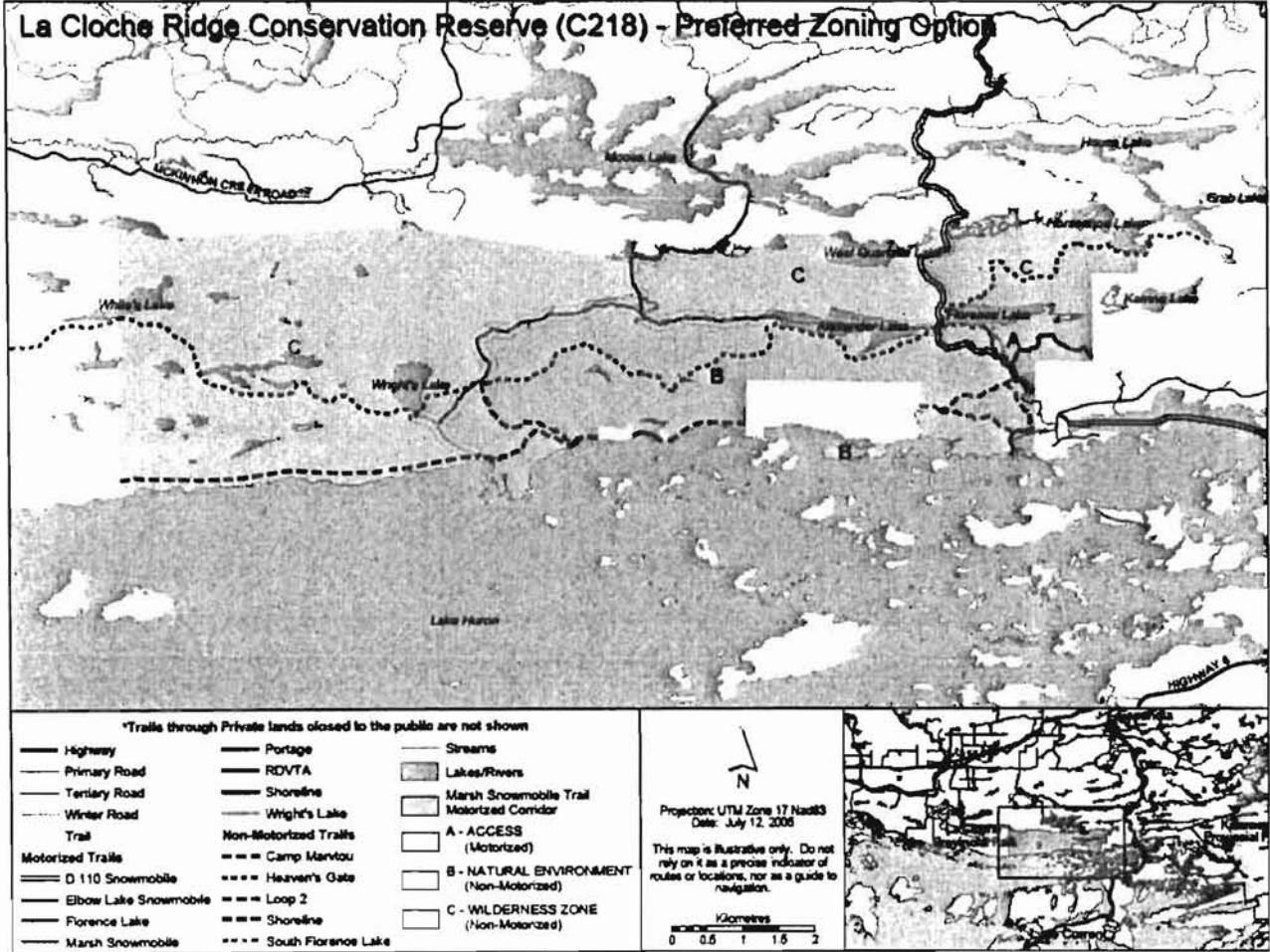
- d. are submitted in writing;**
- e. reference the EBR Registry number; and**
- f. are received by the Contact person within the specified comment period.**

Please Note: No acknowledgment or individual response will be provided to those who comment. All comments and submissions received will become part of the public record.

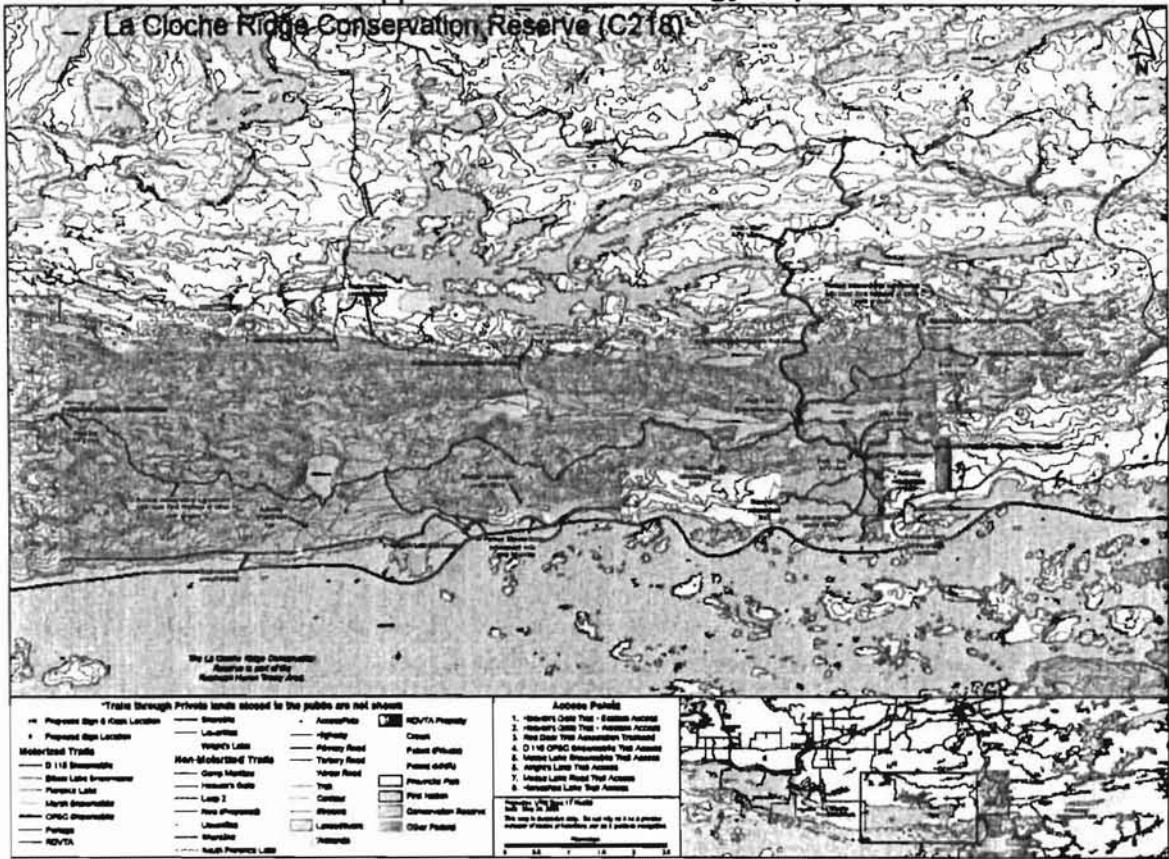
### Appendix S-Authorized Trails Map



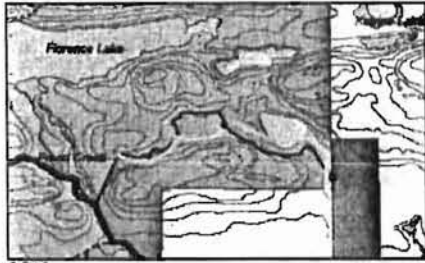
# Appendix T-Preferred Zoning Option Map



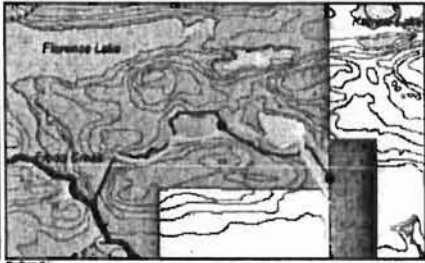
# Appendix U- Trail Strategy Map



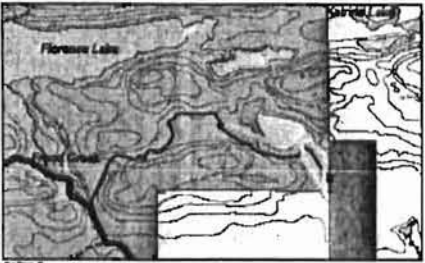
# Appendix X-OFSC Map showing Proposed Relocation of Trail La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve (C218) - D110 Relocation Options



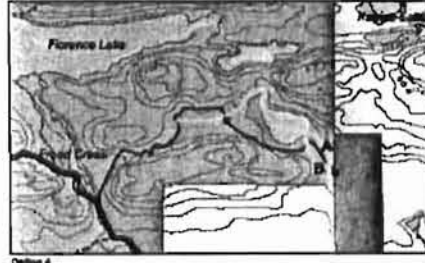
**Option 1**  
Use heavy machinery required. Crosses multi-use trail north to bench. Follows shallow slope of wooded to multi-use trail south of bench and International Avenue, then crosses trail at bench to south side of center access. Sheds and follows multi-use trail for short distance, then crosses south trail relocation, to meet again with multi-use trail for a 200 foot interval to bridge at Pined Creek.



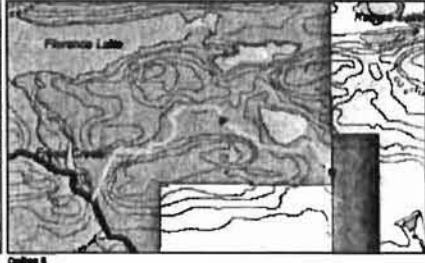
**Option 2**  
Same as option 1 except stays south of multi-use trail until it reaches woods.



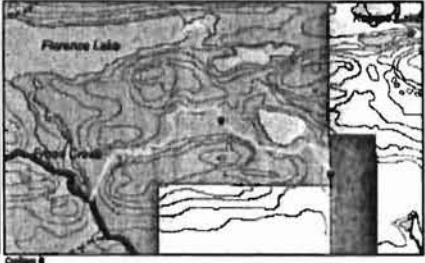
**Option 3**  
Same as option 1 and 2 until bench is reached. From that point west, cross multi-use trail with approach to heavy machinery required.



**Option 4**  
Uses either option A or B to start of bench. Crosses lot to northeast shore, then follows old logging trail to junction with multi-use trail north of bench and International Avenue. Crosses multi-use trail to follow north side of center access. The trail then follows same route as options 1 and 2 until the bridge.



**Option 5**  
Uses multi-use trail all the way to bridge at Pined Creek. No new trail construction.



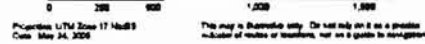
**Option 6**  
Upgrades entire length of multi-use trail by using an occasion. No new trail construction.

**Option 7**  
The MNR has requested that the OFSC investigate a relocation option that corridors residents traveling on lands outside the conservation reserve.



While MNR is considering options for re-location of the OFSC trail as part of the planning process, MNR cannot initiate any Class SA activities for proposed lots or associated trails within the reserve until prior management direction is in place. Once the planning is finished, MNR will consider the OFSC's best permit application for a trail relocation within the reserve. Further public consultations will take place at this time to study the relocation proposed in more detail. Any public comments regarding the proposal can be sent to the Email Office in Edmonton.

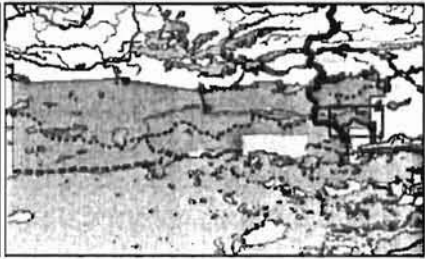
The La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve is part of the Redoubt Haven Treaty Area.



Projections: UTM Zone 17 NAD83  
Date: May 14, 2008  
This map is illustrative only. Do not rely on it as a precise indicator of routes or boundaries, but as a guide to navigation.

**\*Trails through Private Lands closed to the public are not shown**

● Bench	— Mason Shoemakers	■ Wetlands
■ Access Point	— OFSC Shoemakers	■ Lakes/Waters
— Relocation of D110	— Pathway	■ Wetlands
— Shoemakers Trail	— RDVTA	■ RDVTA Property
— Highway	— Shipyards	■ Ownership
— Pipeline Road	— Unsettled	■ Crown
— Turfing Road	— Vineyard Lane	■ Private (Private)
— Winter Road	— Camp Avenue	■ Private (MNR)
— Trail	— Hooper's Gate	■ Private Park
— Contour	— Loop 2	■ FWS Habitat
<b>Motorized Trails</b>	— New (Proposed)	■ Conservation Reserve
— D 110 Shoemakers	— Unsettled	■ Other Habitat
— Stein Lane Shoemakers	— Shipyards	
— Florence Lake	— Seven Phoenix Lane	



## La Cloche Ridge

### Conservation Reserve

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Develop three multi-use zones: wilderness, natural environment and access

Limited new trails based on zoning and evaluation of impact and need

Stewardship for trail maintenance and development

Limited access for atv's and snowmobiles

Non-motorized low-impact wilderness camping

Benches and picnic tables in safe appropriate locations

Improve and utilize existing bridges

No new permanent buildings except for

infrastructure related requirements

No water removal, diversion or damming for commercial purposes

No gas outboards on inland lakes

No new lodge or resort development

Unrestricted shoreline access to the CR

Well defined moorage on Lake Huron

Create a moorage access point

Entry point information kiosk's and improved signs

MOVING TOWARD OUR SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



Ontario

*La Cloche Ridge*

**378 tracts of land in Ontario are designated as protected areas. There are few if any that come close to the natural beauty and diversity of the La Cloche Ridge.**

JUST OVER 4-THOUSAND HECTARES, DOMINATED BY A RUGGED AND BEAUTIFUL RIDGE SYSTEM. BREATHTAKING FOR ANY WHO VENTURE AND EASY TO SEE WHY IT HOLDS A SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR FIRST NATIONS.

As of today there are four un-official land points of entry along with 16 kilometres of shoreline of the north channel of Lake Huron.

Intersected by the **Heavens Gate Trail**, this main path opens the door to several inland lakes, surrounded by unique forests and landforms.

Several multi-use trails can be found within the area and are used on a limited basis for both recreation and hunting.

The area is home to all indigenous wildlife, some of which are species at risk.

*We invite you to fill out a questionnaire and read over the full issues and management options document.*



**Issues:**

- **Access restrictions**
- **Permitted uses-OFSC, atv's, hunting, fishing, camping.**
- **Wildlife-impact on habitat, invasive species**
- **Enforcement-Rights of the crown and First Nations**
- **Planning, stewardship, environmental protection, needs vs. wants, new trails, new development.**
- **Liability insurance, respect for private land owners, prior commitments**





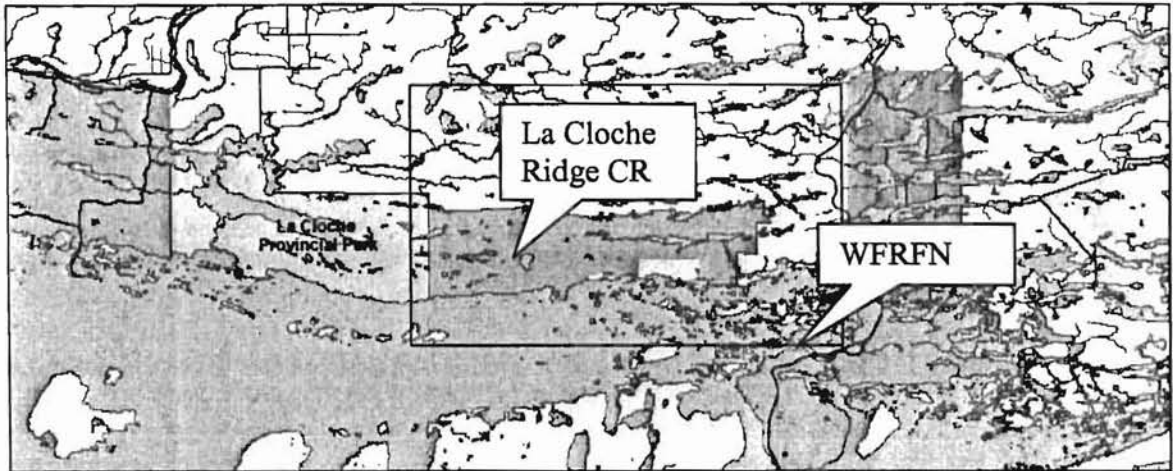
Appendix X-Whitefish River First Nation Aboriginal Day  
La Cloche Ridge Information Session

Tuesday June 21, 2005

Whitefish River First Nation Aboriginal Day

**FACT SHEET**

**Where is La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve?**



- La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve is located west of Whitefish Falls along Lake Huron's North Channel. It is situated east of La Cloche Provincial Park.

**General Information:**

- First Nation communities in the area were informed of the invitation to participate in the planning process for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve in the summer of 2004 through contact by letter and telephone.
- The Whitefish River First Nation continues to be involved in the preparation of the Resource Management Plan for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. **Esther Osche, Lands Manager**, has been designated by the Whitefish River First Nation as a representative on the Planning Team. She has been contributing meaningfully to the planning team meetings since the inception of planning in September of 2004 and has also attended several site visits within the reserve area. If you have additional questions about the process please contact Esther at (705) 285-4335.
- The Whitefish River First Nation asserts that the lands being discussed in the Resource Management Planning process for C 218 are part of the lands that were reserved to the Ojibwa's of Whitefish River under the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850 and a land claim has been filed in this respect.
- The Ontario government is in the process of reviewing the land claim, and has stated that designation of the area as a Conservation Reserve is not irreversible and would not preclude consideration of those lands, if appropriate, in future claim negotiations or settlement.
- The Whitefish River First Nation has expressed they would not support development or use of the Loop 2 area because this area falls into the land claim catchment area. Support has been expressed by the First Nation to map and relocate the Aubrey Portage to facilitate safe travel for the general public.

**Appendix Y-Questionnaire for Whitefish River FN Community Members**

**La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve (C 218)**

**Questionnaire for Whitefish River First Nation Community Members, June 21, 2005**

***Please help us by filling out this questionnaire on the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. Please return to Lynn Moreau at the MNR by July 21, 2005.***

Comments and opinions which do not constitute personal information as defined by the *Freedom Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, will be shared within the Ministry of Natural Resources, and may be included in study documentation that is made available for public review. Personal information

will remain confidential unless prior consent to disclose is obtained. However, this information may be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources to seek public input on other projects.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Would you like to be added to our mailing list? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_**

1. Is there any additional information the planning team should consider before preparing the Draft Resource Management Plan for the La Cloche Ridge area?

2. Do you have any comments regarding the Planning Team's recommendations for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve?

3. Are you aware of any customs, practices and traditions of your community that have occurred within the La Cloche Conservation Reserve? What are these customs and where do they normally take place?

4. Do you know of any specific sites that require protection (medicinal plants, species at risk? If so, where?

5. There is a proposal to construct a new trail in the southeastern part of the conservation reserve for snowmobiling (OFSC). Do you agree with this concept?
6. Do you have any other comments regarding the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve?

Thank you for filling out this questionnaire. Future public consultations for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve are scheduled to take place in July of 2005. We will make your community aware of such opportunities. Chi-meegwetch! Questions concerning the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Area or this questionnaire should be directed to:

Lynn Moreau, Crown Land and Protected Areas Planner  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
149 Fleming Street  
Espanola, ON. P5E 1R8  
(705) 869-5166

**Appendix Z-Questionnaire for Sagamok Anishnawbek Community Members  
La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve (C 218)  
Questionnaire for Sagamok Anishnawbek Community Members, June 10, 2005**

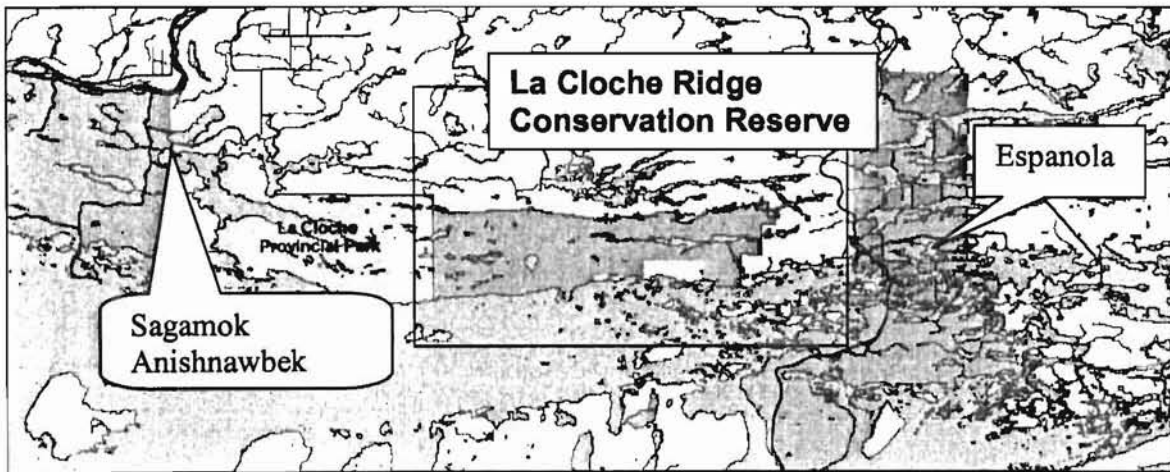
**Please help us by filling out this questionnaire on the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve. Please return to Lynn Moreau at the MNR by July 11, 2005.**

Comments and opinions which do not constitute personal information as defined by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, will be shared within the Ministry of Natural Resources, and may be included in study documentation that is made available for public review. Personal information will remain confidential unless prior consent to disclose is obtained. However, this information may be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources to seek public input on other projects.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Would you like to be added to our mailing list? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_**



**General:**

1. Have you ever been to the area identified as the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve? If so, what have you done there and where have you been?
  
2. Are you aware of any customs, practices and traditions of your community that have occurred within the La Cloche Conservation Reserve?
  
3. Do you know of any specific sites that require protection? If so, where?

**Heaven's Gate Trail (Kitchitwaa Shkwandëem)**

3. Are you familiar with the Heaven's Gate Trail that begins at Fort La Cloche and runs east through La Cloche Provincial Park and La Cloche Ridge Conservation reserve? If so, do you think that residents of Ontario from outside Sagamok should be permitted to access the Heaven's Gate Trail from Sagamok ?

4. Would you be interested in becoming part of a stewardship group to take care of the Heaven's Gate Trail through activities such as trail clearing, marking and maintenance?

### **Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife**

5. The La Cloche area contains a number of lakes including Wright's Lake, Alexander Lake, Florence Lake, White's Lake, Elbow Lake and Horseshoe Lake. Have you ever visited any of these lakes? If so please describe which lakes you have been to and what you did there?
6. Are you aware of any trapping, bear hunting or other hunting taking place within the La Cloche area by community members? Describe.
7. What types of wildlife or bird species have you observed within the La Cloche area? Are there any special plant species or areas you think should be protected?
8. Do you know of any boat caches within the conservation reserve area? If so, where are they located? (Please mark on attached map).
9. Do you or do you know of any community members who use ATV's within this area? How do they access this area with ATV's? Are you for or against ATV use being permitted in the conservation reserve?

### **Commercial Uses**

10. Do you think any commercial uses should occur within the conservation reserve area? Do you or any community members carry out commercial activities in the conservation reserve? If so, for what purpose?

### **Trails**

11. Do you think any new trails should be permitted within the La Cloche conservation reserve area? If so, where?

12. There is a proposal to construct a new trail in the southeastern part of the conservation reserve for snowmobiling (OFSC). Do you agree with this concept?

13. One suggestion to planners was to create a trail, along the Lake Huron shoreline, from Fort La Cloche to Heaven's Gate trail in the Conservation Reserve. Do you agree with this concept?

**Issues**

14. Are there any issues that may be of concern to you regarding the La Cloche Ridge conservation reserve?

15. Would you be interested in being on a volunteer committee (Standing Advisory Committee) that would be responsible for providing recommendations for future management of the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve?

Thank you for filling out this questionnaire. Future public consultations for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve are scheduled to take place in July of 2005. We will make your community aware of such opportunities. Chi-meegwetch! Questions concerning the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Area or this questionnaire should be directed to:

Lynn Moreau, Crown Land and Protected Areas Planner  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
149 Fleming Street  
Espanola, ON. P5E 1R8  
(705) 869-5166

# Conservation reserve to ban most commercial activity

Public input process nears completion

By JOSEPH QUESNEL JR.

Staff Writer

A consensus has emerged among most stakeholders involved in the planning process for the LaCloche Conservation Reserve that most of the area, excluding important corridors, will be off-limits to commercial development and motorized vehicle activity.

The public preference for preservation emerged as the public input process for the conservation reserve entered its last leg, confirmed a local MNR official at an Espanola open house recently.

"Over the past several weeks, we've seen the planning team come together with a unity of purpose that we did not expect. When we first started, we thought we were all on different wavelengths," said Lynn Moreau, a Crown land and protected areas planner with the MNR.

Moreau has been involved with a planning

process to resolve outstanding issues regarding the 4,004-hectare reserve, located about 16 km southwest of Espanola.

At the recent meeting, held at the Espanola Recreation Complex, stakeholders were given a list of refined

management options for the area. The list included recommendations from the planning team, as well as a condensed list of public comments.

According to an MNR publication on the reserve, the majority of respondents to various questionnaires expressed their disagreement with allowing commercial tourism within the reserve.

Moreau said that the next step in the process is the presentation of a final draft management plan. The public, she said, will have an opportunity to view the document and make recommendations for further amendment. The final plan will then be available by August of this year.

Since June of 2004, the MNR has been working with stakeholder groups in producing a resource management plan for the conservation reserve. Several groups, including the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC), the Red Deer Village Trail Association (RDVTA), tourism operators, as well as the LaCloche Trails Association, have been attempting to resolve

issues that relate to the area before it comes

Some of the major recommendations of the planning team, said Moreau, include the development of three multi-use zones, based on level of motorized activity and access. The bulk of the reserve, she said, would remain territory untouched by motorized vehicles. The building of new trails would also be severely limited under the new proposals.

The team also recommended that no new buildings be built on the land, except for "infrastructure related requirements." Water removal or diversion for commercial purposes would also be banned under the recommendations, as would gas outboards on inland lakes and new lodges or any other eco-tourism developments.

The recommendations also call for a designated area for motorized vehicles, particularly snowmobiles and ATVs.

In response to demands from the RDVTA and other Whitefish Falls residents is a commitment to unrestricted shoreline access to the conservation reserve. Located within "Zone A," which is called an "Access Zone," the plan calls for a main access corridor linking the southeast portion of the conservation reserve to the Florence Lake Trail and beyond to Florence Lake.

Despite the large provision for non-motorized usage and bans on commercial activity,

stakeholders were still not pleased with the final results.

"We have motorized vehicles everywhere. Why can we not allow one small section to be designated for non-motorized activities? Vehicles are smelly, they pollute and they contribute to noise pollution," commented Gus McIntosh, president of the local LaCloche Trails Association. The mandate of the group, he said, is to promote non-motorized usage of the area as much as possible

Page 1 of 2

being destroyed within the planning process for the conservation reserve. If something is found that we are not aware of, we'd like it to be treated very carefully. You would take the plan, look at the sites discovered, and try to revise it to steer around any heritage sites."

In particular, Osche said there are reclusive areas within the conservation reserve that are considered sacred territory. According to a document distributed by the MNR at the meeting, Aboriginal people have also expressed concern about sites used for the collection of traditional herbs and medicines.

"We feel pressures for further development in areas that we don't want to see. We don't want development in these areas right now, until we are able to see the big picture."

community agrees with the general thrust of the recommendations, which call for limits on commercial development.

"They want the area to keep its environmental integrity," she said. "We consider it a jewel."

Osche also stressed local Aboriginal peoples have a legal claim to the land.

"The whole area, including the conservation reserve, has always been on traditional Anishnabe territory."

"Under the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850, those lands are reserved for our continued use, whether for hunting, fishing, or trapping."

The protection of Aboriginal heritage sites is also deemed to be quite important in the planning process, she stated.

"We want to protect any heritage interests from

"Multi-use trails do not work," added McIntosh. "You cannot have those skiing and those operating snowmobiles on the same trail."

Representatives from the local OFSC chapter were also present at the meeting in force. Dennis Lendrum is the president of the organization and he said that he is pleased that so many OFSC members came out. The organization is showing their support for the creation and development of a 2 km stretch of trail, linking the local trail system to Whitefish Falls.

Local Aboriginal communities have also been involved in presenting their input into the future of the conservation reserve.

Esther Osche, lands manager for the Whitefish River First Nation, commented that the small reserve



## Trail's survival depends on support

Five minutes of your support will make all the difference in the existence of this Land Base D-110 Trail system to Whitefish Falls, Killarney, Manitoulin Island.

As most of you are aware this recently constructed trail (2000) goes right through the proposed LaCloche Conservation Reserve. This past season a short section of the trail was shut down.

With talking truthfully to the private landowners I was able to negotiate a long term agreement to re-locate the D-110 Trail, giving us a connecting link.

In order to connect from the existing D-110 Trail located within the LaCloche Conservation Reserve, to this section of private land we need to construct a 2km section of trail on Crown Land within the proposed Conservation Reserve.

In the Planning Process of the Conservation Reserve the Planning Team needs Public Input before decisions can be made.

The final rounds of public consultation will be held: May 31, 2005 Espanola Recreation Complex between (7-9 pm); June 4, 2005 Whitefish Falls Community Centre

between (1-4 pm).

It will only take you about 5 minutes to fill out the 11 question questionnaire that the LaCloche Conservation Reserve Team will be reviewing.

It's up to you to be heard. This is the last chance if you want the D-110 Trail.

During the previous public consultations the support and objections were almost equal for the trail. This will be your last chance to show your support or objections to this very important connecting link.

The Espanola and District Snowmobile Club

membership have shown their support by going to their reserve funds to come up with the money to construct this section of trail, since they feel it is very important to the safety of the snowmobilers along with the economic impact that it will have on all communities; Espanola, Nairn, Massey, Whitefish Falls, Killarney, Manitoulin.

The 2 kilometres of trail will be constructed prior to the upcoming season if we can get your support and the MNR issues the work permit in time.

*Dennis Landrum  
Espanola*

# Snowmobile trail could be in jeopardy

Club wants public to voice support for trail link

By JOHNSON KENNEL  
Staff Reporter

The Snowmobile and District Snowmobile Club is concerned that local snowmobile enthusiasts may lose an important trail to Whitefish Falls if they do not speak their minds at a series of upcoming public meetings.

The organization is pushing for the construction of a 2 km section of trail on Crown land within the proposed LaCloche Conservation Reserve. The trail, D-110, links up the existing snowmobile trail system to Whitefish Falls, Killarney and Manitoulin Island.

"About five minutes of support will make all the difference in the existence of this land base," commented Dennis Lendrum, a spokesperson with the organization.

In a recent press release, Lendrum cautioned members of the club about the gravity of the situation:

"As most of you are aware this recently constructed trail goes right through the

proposed LaCloche Conservation Reserve," he began. "This past season a short section of the trail was shut down. With talking truthfully to the private landowners, I was able to negotiate a long term agreement to re-locate the D-110 Trail, giving us a connecting link," he said.

"In order to connect from the existing D-110 Trail located within the LaCloche Conservation Reserve, to this section of private land we need to construct a 2 km section of land on Crown land."

The snowmobile club has already made an agreement with landowners on the south side of the trail, close to Bay of Islands Drive.

The issue of the local snowmobile trail systems is front and centre, said Lendrum, because of ongoing discussions regarding the LaCloche Conservation Reserve. A number of stakeholder groups, including snowmobile owners, are concerned about their ability to maintain trails in the new reserve.

"The MNR has been told support for this trail

is about 50-50," he added. Plans for the proposed conservation reserve are being evaluated by the Ministry of Natural Resources through the work of a planning team. The process has involved a series of public meetings and the issuing of questionnaires. Lendrum cautioned that the future of the trail depends on snowmobile enthusiasts attending meetings in Espanola and Whitefish Falls.

"These are the last two public meetings," he stated.

The first meeting, he stressed, will occur at the Espanola Recreation Complex on May 31 and the second will happen on June 4 at the Whitefish Falls Community Centre. Hearing support from the community, he said, will be crucial in convincing the MNR of the need for the trail.

Lendrum is convinced that there is strong support for the trail from the snowmobiling public. However, he said that the questionnaire as it was originally drafted may have contributed to giving the MNR a false impression of that support. Originally, it was written in such a way as to ask the public if they supported a snowmobile trail, yes or no. According to Lendrum, a change to the wording allows for a "not concerned" option.

"Many of the people were simply checking off no because they weren't snowmobilers," he said. Allowing those not affected to check off the "not concerned" option, he added, would bring out a more truthful reflection of public opinion.

"One of the questions on that questionnaire is whether or not people support the snowmobile trail. I'm hoping to get people out and let their voices be heard," said Lendrum.

"The Snowmobile Club has already put forward over \$100,000 towards building these trails," he added. "Now is the time to speak up."

If the trail is lost, he continued, local communities will suffer because of the lost economic activity that snowmobilers bring to the area. Lost revenue from food and gasoline sales would affect not just those on the trails, but the communities they stop at as well.

Appendix A-4  
La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve (C 218)  
Open House to Review Draft Resource Management Plan

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is providing an opportunity for the general public to review the Draft Resource Management Plan for the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.

La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve (C 218) was regulated as a conservation reserve on October 20, 2001. Planning Team made up of members of the public and Ministry staff was struck to develop a Resource Management Plan for land uses within the area. The goal of the team is to develop a balanced management plan based on history, ecology, geology and land uses that have occurred within the Conservation Reserve.

The La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve encompasses 4,004 ha of Crown land along the north shore of the North Channel of Georgian Bay, Lake Huron. It is located approximately 16 kilometres southwest of the Town of Espanola, in the Townships of McKinnon, Harrow and Mongowin.

Information sessions are open to anyone who is interested. Your comments on the Draft Resource Management Plan are important. Ministry staff and some planning committee members will be on hand to answer questions.

**An OPEN HOUSE will take place on two separate dates.**

**Espanola Recreation Complex  
Meeting Room  
Monday July 25th, 2005  
From 6 pm to 9 pm**

**Red Dog Tavern, Whitefish Falls  
Sunday July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005  
From 7 pm to 9 pm**

**For further information please contact Lynn Moreau, Crown Land and Protected Areas Planner at (705) 869-5166.**

Comments and opinions which do not constitute personal information as defined by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, will be shared within the Ministry of Natural Resources, and may be included in study documentation that is made available for public review. Personal information will remain confidential unless prior consent to disclose is obtained. However, this information may be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources to seek public input on other projects. Please contact Don Mark at (705) 564-7360 for more information on this matter.

*Disponible en français*



# Conservation reserve plan enters last stages

*Public has 30-day period to review and comment on draft plan*

By **JOSEPH QUESNEL JR.**  
Staff Writer

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is entering the last phase in the development of a draft resource management plan for the proposed LaCloche Ridge Conservation Reserve.

The MNR has just finished two public open house sessions in Espanola and Whitefish Falls where the draft plan was presented for comment from the public. Unlike previous meetings, the MNR said that the Espanola meeting was not as well attended as past ones.

At the meetings, the public is given a copy of the draft plan, maps of the reserve and surrounding area, as well as a questionnaire to fill out.

The 4,004 hectare territory is located about 16 kilometers southwest of Espanola and was designated as a conservation reserve back in October of 2001. Since the area

was designated as a protected area, several local community groups have become involved in formulating the management plan for the area. The local chapter of the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC), ATV user groups, and Whitefish River First Nation, are examples of groups interested in the future of the conservation reserve.

Lynn Moreau is a Crown land and protected area planner with the MNR. She said that the main feature of the draft plan will be the division of the protected area into three categories of land use: access, natural environment, and wilderness lands.

Each category varies according to the amount of activity permitted on it. Moreau also stressed that the plan will include corridors designated for snowmobile and ATV use. "We want to allow for recreation that fits in the area," she said.

A contentious issue raised by groups like the Red Deer Village Trails

Association (RDVTA) is the ability of the public to access Crown land. Members of the RDVTA had purchased a piece of land linking the trails to the Crown land. Moreau said that the MNR has been looking into alternate ways to access Crown land, including one point through Fox Lake Road and one through Horseshoe Lake. "That will have to be a trail contracted to an outside party," said Moreau, saying that the MNR would not be responsible for the upkeep of these proposed trails.

Moreau stressed that with the release of the draft plan, the public will now have a 30-day window of opportunity to respond to what is contained in the plan, although she said that she does not expect any major issues at this point.

"I believe we've consider all the public input. Our steering committee has discussed all of the issues raised," she said.



**Draft Management Plan Open House**  
Join the planning team for the official release

Monday July 25th  
6-9 pm at the  
Espanola  
Recreation center



Sunday July 31st  
7 - 9 pm at the  
Red Dog Tavern  
Whitefish Falls



## Appendix A-7

Ministry of Natural Resources



### CROWN LAND USE POLICY ATLAS - POLICY REPORT

C218

La Cloche Ridge

Updated: January 18, 2004

**IDENTIFICATION:**

**ID:** C218  
**Area Name:** La Cloche Ridge  
**Area (ha):** 4,004  
**Designation:** Conservation Reserve (Ontario's Living Legacy)  
**MNR District(s):** Sudbury

**DESCRIPTION:**

This conservation reserve in Site District 5E-3 is dominated by a rugged ridge system, running east/west and facing south on the North Channel. The landform is a water washed quartzite bedrock with pockets of sandy glacial ground moraine. The ridge tops rise dramatically above the North Channel of Georgian Bay. Exposed areas are sparsely covered by open grown, wind swept, fire origin, White Pine with Red Pine, Jack Pine and Red Oak. Stands of Sugar Maple with American Beech occupy lower slopes where soils are deeper, close to the North Channel shoreline. The area contains three lake trout lakes: Alexander, Florence and Wrights lakes. A number of small acidified lakes occur within the ridge system. This roadless area contains a hiking trail linking La Cloche Provincial Park to the east to the Highway 6 corridor. The open forest with views of quartzite ridges and rugged relief make this a highly scenic area as viewed from the small craft cruising the North Channel.

This area is located within the Great Lakes Heritage Coast Signature Site, one of 9 such areas featured in the Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (1999). Signature Sites are identified for their range of natural and recreational values and their potential to contribute to future recreation and tourism.

The area is popular for hunting, fishing, commercial tourism, motorized (ATV, snowmobile) and non-motorized trail (La Cloche Trail) use.

La Cloche Ridge was regulated as a conservation reserve on October 20, 2001.

**LAND USE INTENT:**

The land use intent will be to protect the natural heritage values of this area.

Management of this area is also governed by the general policies contained in the Land Use Strategy (1999).

**MANAGEMENT DIRECTION:**

Those uses and management activities not listed in the following table are governed by existing conservation reserve policy. Over time the management direction will be elaborated in a Statement of Conservation Interest or Resource Management Plan. Any new uses, and commercial activities associated with conservation reserves, will be considered on a case by case basis, and they must pass a test of compatibility to be acceptable. Compatibility is normally determined through a planning process.

ACTIVITY	PERMITTED	GUIDELINES
<b>Commercial Activities</b>		
<b>Aggregate Extraction</b>	No	
<b>Bait Fishing</b>		
<b>Existing:</b>	Yes	Existing use permitted to continue, unless there are significant demonstrated conflicts. New operations can be considered, subject to the "test of compatibility".
<b>New:</b>	Maybe	
<b>Commercial Fishing</b>		
<b>Existing:</b>	Yes	Existing use permitted to continue, unless there are significant demonstrated conflicts. New operations can be considered, subject to the "test of
<b>New:</b>	Maybe	

**CROWN LAND USE POLICY ATLAS - POLICY REPORT**

C218

La Cloche Ridge

Updated: January 16, 2004

		compatibility".
<b>Commercial Fur Harvesting</b>		
<i>Existing:</i>	Yes	Existing use permitted to continue, unless there are significant demonstrated conflicts. Existing trap cabins can continue; new cabins are not permitted. New operations can be considered, subject to the "test of compatibility".
<i>New:</i>	Maybe	
<b>Commercial Hydro Development</b>		
		No
<b>Commercial Timber Harvest</b>		
		No
<b>Commercial Tourism</b>		
<i>Existing:</i>	Yes	Existing authorized facilities can continue, unless there are significant demonstrated conflicts. New tourism facilities can be considered during the planning for an individual reserve.
<i>New:</i>	Maybe	
• <b>Bear Hunting by Non-residents (guided)</b>		
<i>Existing:</i>	Yes	Existing authorized operations permitted to continue. New operations not permitted.
<i>New:</i>	No	
• <b>Outfitting Services</b>		
<i>Existing:</i>	Yes	Existing authorized operations permitted to continue. New operations can be considered during the planning for an individual reserve.
<i>New:</i>	Maybe	
• <b>Outpost Camps</b>		
<i>Existing:</i>	Yes	Existing authorized operations permitted to continue. New operations can be considered during the planning for an individual reserve.
<i>New:</i>	Maybe	
• <b>Resorts/lodges</b>		
<i>Existing:</i>	Yes	Existing authorized facilities permitted to continue. New facilities can be considered during the planning for an individual reserve.
<i>New:</i>	Maybe	
<b>Energy Transmission and Communications Corridors</b>		
<i>Existing:</i>	Yes	These facilities should avoid conservation reserve lands wherever possible.
<i>New:</i>	No	
<b>Food Harvesting (Commercial)</b>		
<i>Existing:</i>	Maybe	
<i>New:</i>	Maybe	
<b>Mineral Exploration and Development</b>		
		No
<b>Peat Extraction</b>		
		No
<b>Wild Rice Harvesting</b>		
<i>Existing:</i>	Yes	
<i>New:</i>	Maybe	
<b>Land and Resource Management Activities</b>		

## CROWN LAND USE POLICY ATLAS - POLICY REPORT

C218

La Cloche Ridge

Updated: January 16, 2004

<b>Crown Land Disposition</b>		
<i>Private Use:</i>	Maybe	Sale of lands is not permitted, except for minor dispositions in support of existing uses (e.g. reconstruction of a septic system). Renewals of existing leases and land use permits are permitted. Requests for transfer of tenure will be considered in the context of the Statement of Conservation Interest or Resource Management Plan. New leases or land use permits permitted for approved activities. Tourism facilities can apply to upgrade tenure from LUP to lease.
<i>Commercial Use:</i>	Maybe	
<b>Fire Suppression</b>	Yes	Fire suppression policies are similar to adjacent Crown lands, unless alternative fire policies have been developed through a planning process.
<b>Fish Habitat Management</b>	Maybe	
<b>Fish Stocking</b>	Maybe	Conservation Reserves policy indicates that "featured species management" may be permitted.
<b>Insect/disease Suppression</b>	Maybe	
<b>Inventory/Monitoring</b>	Yes	
<b>Prescribed Burning</b>	Maybe	
<b>Roads (Resource Access)</b>		
<i>Existing:</i>	Yes	Existing roads can continue to be used. Continued use will include maintenance and may include future upgrading. New roads for resource extraction will not be permitted, with the exception of necessary access to existing forest reserves for mineral exploration and development.
<i>New:</i>	Maybe	
<b>Vegetation Management</b>	Maybe	Conservation Reserves policy indicates that Featured Species Management and Natural Systems Management may be permitted. Vegetation management can be considered in a planning process.
<b>Wildlife Population Management</b>	Maybe	
<b><u>Science, Education and Heritage Appreciation</u></b>		
<b>Collecting</b>	No	
<b>Historical Appreciation</b>	Yes	
<b>Nature Appreciation</b>	Yes	
<b>Photography and Painting</b>	Yes	
<b>Research</b>	Yes	
<b>Wildlife Viewing</b>	Yes	
<b><u>Recreation Activities and Facilities</u></b>		



**CROWN LAND USE POLICY ATLAS - POLICY REPORT**

C218

La Cloche Ridge

Updated: January 18, 2004

<b>All Terrain Vehicle Use</b>		
On Trails:	Yes	Existing use permitted to continue where it does not adversely affect the values being protected. ATV use off trails is not permitted, except for direct retrieval of game.
Off Trails:	No	
<b>Campgrounds</b>	Maybe	
<b>Food Gathering</b>	Yes	
<b>Horseback Riding (trail)</b>	Yes	Existing use on trails permitted.
<b>Hunting</b>	Yes	
<b>Mountain Bike Use</b>	Yes	Existing use on trails permitted.
<b>Motor Boat Use</b>		
Commercial:	Yes	
Private:	Yes	
<b>Non-motorized Recreation Travel</b>	Yes	
<b>Private Recreation Camps (Hunt Camps)</b>		
Existing:	Yes	Existing camps permitted to continue, and may be eligible for enhanced tenure, but not purchase of land.
New:	No	
<b>Rock Climbing</b>	Maybe	
<b>Snowmobiling</b>		
On Trails:	Yes	Except for the direct retrieval of game.
Off Trails:	No	
<b>Sport Fishing</b>	Yes	
<b>Trail Development</b>		
Existing:	Yes	Development of trails for a variety of activities (e.g. hiking, cross-country skiing, cycling, horseback riding, snowmobiling) can be considered as part of planning for an individual reserve.
New:	Maybe	

Note: The policies outlined in this table do not supersede any Aboriginal or treaty rights that may exist, or other legal obligations.

Management of this conservation reserve is carried out within the context of Conservation Reserve policy as amended by the policies for new conservation reserves outlined in the Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy.

In addition to provincial and regional policies, the following local policies will apply to the management of the following [Lake Trout/Tourism] Lakes...

**SOURCE OF DIRECTION:**

- Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (1999)
- Espanola District Land Use Guidelines (1983)
- Conservation Reserves Policy (1997)

**EXPLANATION OF EDITS:**

## Appendix A-8

### Photos of Open House Consultation Sessions



1. Invitation to Participate  
Whitefish Falls Community Centre



## 2. Issues and Management Options Whitefish Falls Community Centre

