

**Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park
Major Amendment of the 1990 Management Plan, January 1998**

The Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park
Management Plan was written in 1990.

Please consult the original plan for a complete
copy of the text and maps.

Sections from the original Management Plan that
have been amended are shown in the attached.
**Changes to the text policies of the original plan
are bolded in the attached.**

January 1998

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Consideration of the Ministry of Natural Resources Statement of Environmental Values under the Environmental Bill of Rights.

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is responsible for managing Ontario's natural resources in accordance with the statutes it administers. As the Province's lead conservation agency, the Ministry of Natural Resources is the steward of provincial parks, natural heritage areas, forests, fisheries, wildlife, mineral aggregates, fuel minerals, and Crown lands and waters which make up 87 % of Ontario.

The Ministry of Natural Resources is responsible for ecological sustainability, as endorsed by the World Commission on the Environment and Development. Within MNR, policy and program development, and land use resource management planning are based on this.

In 1994, the Ministry of Natural Resources finalized its Statement of Environmental Values (SEV) under the Environmental Bill of Rights. The Statement of Environmental Values is a document which describes how the purposes of the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) are to be considered whenever decisions that might significantly affect the environment are made in the Ministry.

The Ministry's SEV is based on sustaining the provinces ecosystems. The Ministry has taken this approach in its SEV because sustainable development is compatible with the purposes of the Environmental Bill of Rights.

During the development of this park management plan amendment, the Ministry has considered both its goal of sustainable development and its Statement of Environmental Values. This Management Plan Amendment for Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park is intended to further the objectives of managing our resources on a sustainable basis.

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2.0 Management Planning

The Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park Management Plan and amendments provide policies that will guide the orderly development and effective management of the park over the next 20 years.

Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park began operating with camping in 1960. It was formally opened in 1962 and finally established in legislation in 1967.

Background information on management planning for Samuel de Champlain was compiled in 1984. A preliminary management plan was released for public review and comment in June of 1986. The final park management plan was approved in 1990.

In 1996 a local committee in the Mattawa area, with the involvement of the park superintendent, proposed the establishment of an ecology learning centre in Samuel de Champlain. This idea was not envisaged in the 1990 management plan. As such public consultation occurred to review the idea. After considering public comment the plan was amended to include development of a learning centre in Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park.

3.0 Classification	* these sections
4.0 Goal	* <u>remain the same</u>
5.0 Objectives	* <u>with no changes</u>
5.1 Protection	* <u>from the original plan</u>

5.2 Recreation

The recreation objectives for Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park are:

"to provide day use opportunities in areas of outstanding recreational potential associated with natural environments"; and,

"to provide facility-based camping opportunities in natural environments and in associated areas of outstanding recreational potential."

Day use and car camping are centred on Moore Lake (Figure 3). - the balance of this paragraph and the next remain the same as in the original plan.

The north half of Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park has the potential to contribute to the provincial park backcountry travel and camping opportunities. Trail side camping and simple hike-in cabins will be considered for the north half of the park. An evaluation will be carried out to determine the suitability and numbers of campsites and cabins that could be provided.

5.3 Heritage Appreciation

The heritage appreciation objectives for Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park are:

"to provide opportunities for unstructured exploration and appreciation of the natural heritage of the park"; and,

"to provide opportunities for exploration and appreciation of natural and cultural heritage through interpretation and education".

The cultural heritage of the Mattawa River valley is a major theme of the park. Opportunities for both individual (self-guided) and structured (organized) interpretation are available. A Voyageur Museum, which houses an authentic 12 metre replica of a freight canoe along with interpretive displays from the 1600's to 1800's, is an excellent means to foster appreciation of our Native peoples and fur trade heritage. Information concerning significant earth and life science features, historical resources, and other park values will also be provided through the park Heritage programs in the form of leaflets, signs, exhibits, guided hikes, audio-visual presentations and other learning sessions.

The park will encourage both unstructured and structured exploration and appreciation of the natural and cultural heritage of the Mattawa and Amable du Fond River valleys to the extent compatible with the protection of these resources.

The proposal to establish the Canadian Ecology Centre (CEC) as described in the Mattawa and Area Forestry Committee documentation is supported in this plan. An agreement between Ontario Parks and the Committee will outline how the programs of the Centre will complement park operations and heritage appreciation activities of Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park. The CEC will

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act as a four season destination that is readily accessible by land and water. As such the proposed CEC will serve as a gateway to educate visitors to the Centre concerning forest and river sustainability in the Mattawa River valley.

The proposed CEC can serve as a destination where people of various interests gather together with one mission; working together for the protection and the cultivation of the remarkable natural and cultural heritage of the Mattawa River valley to benefit present and future generations.

5.4 Tourism

The tourism objective for Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park is:

"to provide Ontario residents and out-of-province visitors with opportunities to discover and experience the distinctive Mattawa River valley."

Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park will provide day use camping opportunities to travellers in Ontario and destination camping opportunities to travellers attracted from large distances. The tourism thrust of the park will be to support the continued viability of the local tourist industry. The voyageur theme will be an important component of this thrust.

The proposed learning centre, the Canadian Ecology Centre, could be developed in the park. This cooperative initiative will complement other regional and provincial ecotourism initiatives. Development and management of the Centre will not disturb significant features in the park.

The proposed Canadian Ecology Centre will provide a new tourism opportunity for Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park and area. This learning centre will attract people for conference and vacation accommodation in the park.

6.0 Zoning

Four zones have been designated to guide the management of Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park: nature reserve, natural environment, development, and an historical zone (Figure 4).

6.1 Nature Reserve Zones (32ha) - unchanged from the original plan

6.2 Natural Environment Zones (2 108 ha) the initial paragraph is unchanged from the original plan

This zone designation encompasses the remaining significant areas and is intended to provide protection and management activities to support low-intensity recreation. Development will be limited to backcountry campsites, portages, trails, signs, minimal interpretive facilities, and other ancillary facilities. Simple, remote, hike-in cabins may be developed on the north side of the Mattawa River within the natural environment zone. A pedestrian bridge is proposed to cross the Mattawa River to enable park visitors to walk to trails on the north side (Figure 4).

6.3 Development Zone (310 ha) the initial paragraph is unchanged from the original plan

This zone provides the main access to Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park with facilities and services for a range of day use, and car camping activities. Two campgrounds, a day use area, group camping areas, amphitheater, historical displays, and other interpretive facilities, as well as water recreation facilities are located here. Maintenance and administration utilities, and other facilities are also located within this zone. The main infrastructure for the proposed CEC will be located in the development zone. The actual location of the CEC infrastructure in Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park will be determined on the basis of an assessment of potential impacts on the park's natural, cultural and technical environments recognizing site planning and operation needs.

Three significant natural areas also occur within the zone (Figure 2). A delta feature at the confluence of Pautois Creek and Amable du Fond River, part of a deer yard, and a bog area south and west of Long Lake are sensitive areas, which will be managed for protection and interpretation where appropriate.

Historical Zone - the description is unchanged from the original plan

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7.0

7.1 Resource Management Policies

the initial paragraph is unchanged from the original plan

7.1 Vegetation

Vegetation in the park will be managed to fulfill protection and recreation objectives. - the first paragraph remains the same as the original plan.

Campsites will continue to be monitored for over-mature or unhealthy trees (hazard trees), and replacement planting will be carried out.

Generally, trees will be removed either if there is a threat to public safety and property or where it is necessary to meet the park's protection and recreation objectives. In the development zone, trees may be removed for development management purposes. Clearing of some trees and forest vegetation will be necessary to build the proposed CEC infrastructure. Should this project proceed, trees that are removed for the construction of the CEC in the development zone, may be used for development, education and operation purposes. Every precaution will be taken to site remote simple cabins in the natural environment zone such that vegetation disturbance is minimized.

Vegetation control will be permitted where necessary for public utilities and rights-of-way. - the remaining paragraphs in this section and 7.2, 7.3, 7.4 and 7.5 remain the same as in the original plan.

8.0 Operations Policies

An Operations Strategy will be prepared to provide staff with the necessary operational information to carry out day-to-day park operations. The Strategy will address budgeting, staffing, maintenance schedules, enforcement, and emergency services for park and CEC operations. The provisions of the Strategy will be consistent with the approved Ontario Provincial Park Operating Standards and will be reviewed annually and updated as required.

Ontario Parks and Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park specifically is a co-proponent of the CEC in cooperation with the Mattawa and Area Forestry Committee.

The proposed CEC, if funded, will be operated through a Joint Operations Agreement which will detail cooperative operations policies: operations and maintenance; staffing; education planning; curriculum and programming.

8.1 Heritage Education

Heritage Education will be managed in accordance with the park management plan and amendments. The Visitor Services direction statement (1991) will be reviewed and updated. Discussions with CEC representatives will identify heritage education relationships with the park and will result in the development of a Joint Education Plan. This will include guidelines for heritage education approaches for both park programs and the CEC. The intent would be to develop the Joint Education Plan to define what park visitors and CEC clients can expect from park/CEC education programs. The Joint Education Plan should be prepared prior to development of program curriculum, detailed architectural and infrastructure drawings and operations planning to give direction to those stages of the CEC project.

Through the Joint Education Plan the CEC will offer year round programs for individuals, industry and public groups to inform them about the Provincial Park System, natural heritage represented in Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park and elsewhere in the site district and the management of the natural forests including timber harvesting practices on adjacent lands. The CEC, through its contributing partners, would develop and deliver education programming and research about all aspects of ecosystems and sustainable management in the Mattawa valley and district.

8.1.1 Information

Information concerning park resources, management, facilities and programs, and nearby points of interest will be available at key points throughout the park such as the park office, gatehouse, the voyageur museum, and the Canadian Ecology Centre.

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8.1.2 Interpretation

A Joint Education Plan will be prepared to ensure ample opportunities for visitors to gain an understanding and awareness of, and an appreciation for, the park's policies, management objectives, and the valley's natural and resources. In addition, there will be programs to manage, promote and use Mattawa River Provincial Park as well as areas outside provincial parks.

The proposed CEC will provide learning opportunities which will complement park interpretive activities. These will be identified in the Joint Education Plan.

8.1.3 Recreation

Recreation activities will be identified in the Joint Education Plan to take visitors into the natural and cultural heritage of the park and area. This may involve providing outings beyond the park boundaries.

8.1.4 Research and

8.1.5 Marketing

- remain the same as in the original plan

8.1.6 Friends of Mattawa River Heritage Park (a new section)

The Friends of Mattawa Heritage River Park, established under a cooperative agreement with MNR in 1992 will continue to support the goal and objectives of Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park. The cooperating agreement with the park is to support information, interpretation and heritage education.

9.0 Development Policies

9.1 Camping Facilities

- the introduction, subheadings and descriptions for Showers, Electrical Campsites and Group Camping remain the same as in the original plan.

Backcountry Facilities

The northern portion of the park will be assessed to determine numbers and specific locations for rustic cabins, backcountry campsites and trail alignment. Pedestrian access from the main development area to the northern part of the park will be facilitated by a pedestrian bridge across

the Mattawa River. The Mattawa River Pedestrian Bridge Survey Plan for Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park (1996) determine a specific site for the pedestrian bridge. The study identified a crossing in the location as shown in the management plan on Figure 4. This places the crossing downstream from the Campaign Rapids. This crossing takes into account all park use needs including those of the proposed CEC.

9.2 Day Use Facilities - as in the original plan

9.3 Canadian Ecology Centre (a new section)

The proposed Canadian Ecology Centre will be located within the park's development zone. The actual location of the CEC infrastructure in Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park will be determined on the basis of an assessment of potential impacts on the park's natural, cultural and technical environments recognizing site planning and operation needs.

The Canadian Ecology Centre will be developed according to approved architectural and site plans. The main facility will include a central large multi-purpose conference space with adjoining smaller meeting rooms. An adjacent exhibition gallery, dining facilities and sitting areas will host various events during its four season operation. Administrative space will be contained in the Centre.

The scope of activities offered at Samuel de Champlain and the Canadian Ecology Centre will attract a variety of visitors including scientists, naturalists, environmentalists, educators, students and forest management interests from around the world.

The Centre will offer residential accommodations in the park. A variety of accommodations will be studied including two large dormitories with a capacity for large groups in the main building and additional cabins to accommodate other visitors. The latter will be sited in the vicinity of the Centre with some possible semi-remote and remote locations elsewhere in the zone or on the north side of the River as simple cabins to accommodate studies in that area.

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9.4 Roads and Access

Depending on the findings of the review of alternative locations for the proposed CEC there will be varying needs concerning existing roads in the park. Site planning will prepare the necessary plans prior to development.

9.5 Other Improvements - as in the original plan

10.0 Implementation - the initial paragraphs are unchanged from the original plan

10.1 Operational and Minor Capital Projects
Picnic area and Campground Development Lists will remain the same as in the original plan. The Administration / Operational Facilities will include the development of three new items related to the proposed CEC:

- a Park and CEC Operations Agreement,
- revisions to the Samuel de Champlain's Operations Strategy; and,
- a Joint Education Plan

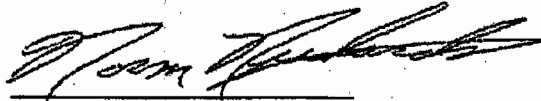
11.0 Plan Implementation
- the project list, annual submissions,

10.2 Major Capital Projects

- combination change house/toilets - Bagwa⁺ Picnic Area,
- hiking trails with backcountry campsites and simple cabins on north side of the River,
- upgrade or replace staff house,
- cold storage building for maintenance area,
- site plans, architectural drawings and as built drawings,
- Canadian Ecology Centre
 - main facility, and;
 - support infrastructure.

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Approval Page



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