

Opeongo River Provincial Park Interim Management Statement

August 14, 1985



Ontario

Ministry of
Natural
Resources

Ministère des
Richesses
naturelles



REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL STATEMENT

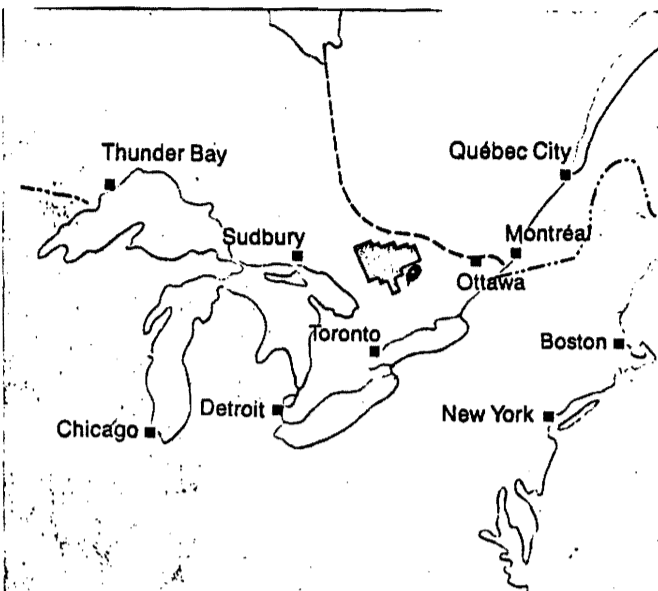
This interim Management Statement will provide interim direction for the Management of Opeongo River Provincial Park until a comprehensive Management Plan is prepared.

This statement will provide the basis for the subsequent preparation of the Park Management Plan.

I am pleased to approve this interim Management Statement for Opeongo River Provincial park.

R. M. Christie
Regional Director
Algonquin Region

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

NAME: OPEONGO RIVER	REGIONAL SETTING MAP Scale 
PROPOSED CLASS: WATERWAY	
M.N.R. DISTRICT: ALGONQUIN PARK	
M.N.R. REGION: ALGONQUIN	
TOTAL AREA(ha): 955 LAND: WATER:	
SITE REGION: 5E	
SITE DISTRICT: 9	
DATE In REGULATION: Mar. 4/85	

TARGETS

1 LIFE SCIENCE REPRESENTATION

site type/landscape unit	species/communities
River Valley Complex: Bare Bedrock, steep slopes	No known significant features associated vegetation communities

2 EARTH SCIENCE REPRESENTATION

geological theme	feature
Outwash, Monzonitic Rocks	Late Wisconsin: Spillway system, outwash sand and gravel

3 CULTURAL RESOURCE REPRESENTATION

theme	theme segment
- Lumbering Further study to determine extent of Resource	- Ottawa Valley Square Timber - Ottawa Valley Lumber

4 RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

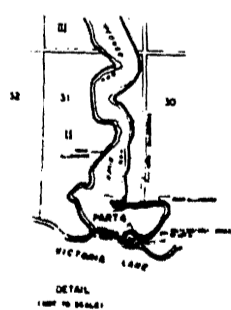
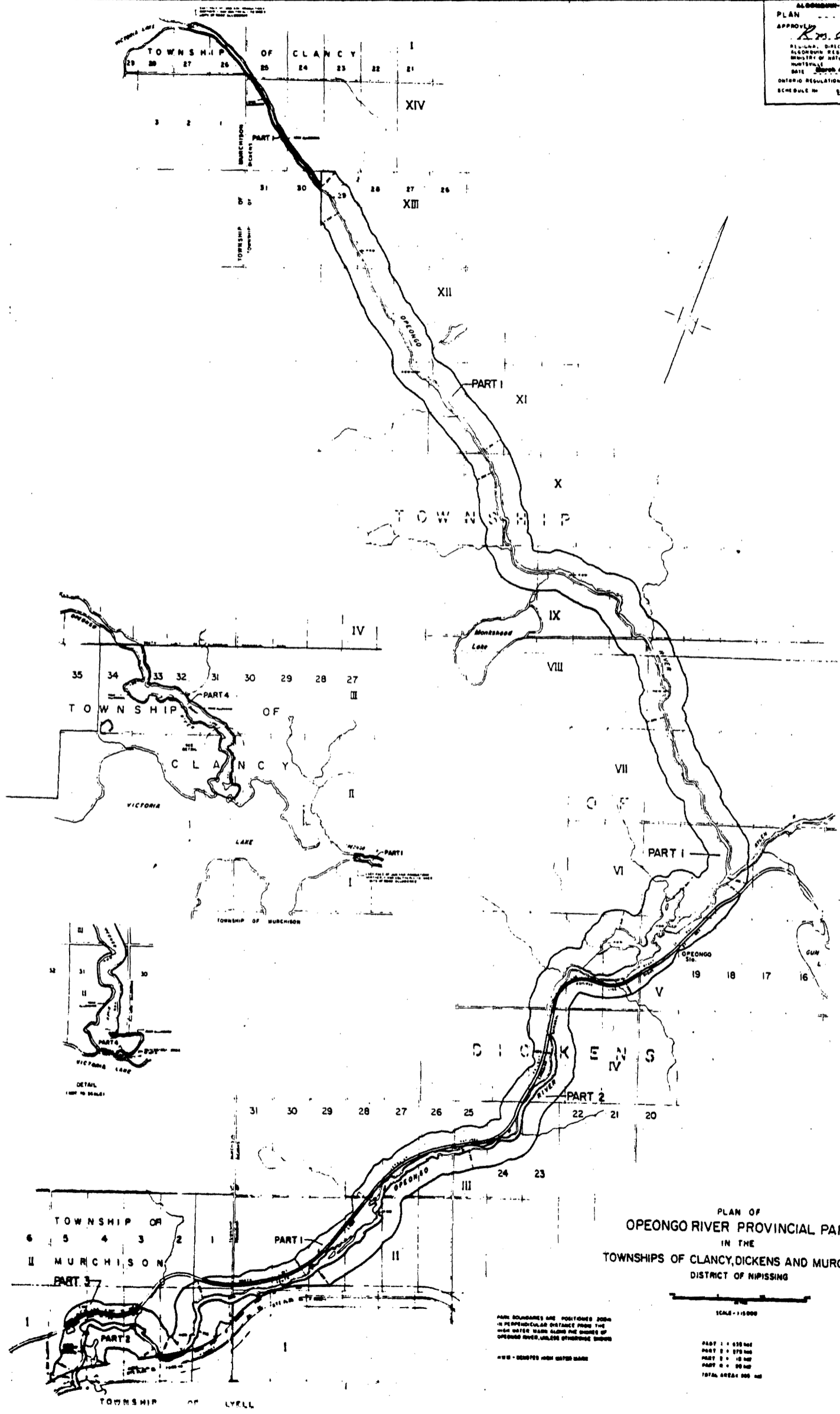
day use	car camping	wilderness/back country
NIL	NIL	1,000

INVENTORIES

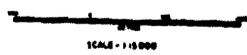
level	type	earth science	life science	cultural	recreational	other
reconnaissance	completion date	1978	1978	N/A		
detailed	completion date		1979	N/A		
required?				YES		

DATE Aug. 14/85

ALONGRIVER PLAN
 OPEONGO RIVER
 APPROVED: *R. W. Clarke*
 R. W. CLARKE, DIRECTOR
 ALONGRIVER REGION
 MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 MONTREAL
 DATE: March 4 1968
 ONTARIO REGULATION NO. 870/68
 SCHEDULE NO. 197



PLAN OF
 OPEONGO RIVER PROVINCIAL PARK
 IN THE
 TOWNSHIPS OF CLANCY, DICKENS AND MURCHISON
 DISTRICT OF NIPISSING



SCALE - 1:15,000
 PART I = 630 ha
 PART II = 870 ha
 PART III = 15 ha
 PART IV = 90 ha
 TOTAL AREA 1605 ha

PARK BOUNDARIES ARE POSITIONED 200m
 TO PERPENDICULAR DISTANCE FROM THE
 HIGH WATER MARK ALONG THE COURSE OF
 OPEONGO RIVER, UNLESS OTHERWISE SHOWN
 *** - BOUNDARIES FROM WATER MARK

OPEONGO RIVER

Land Tenure

Presently there are four hunt camps (L.U.P.s), and one trapping cabin within the park boundary.

Guideline:

Present form of land tenure will remain. No further disposition of Crown land.

Existing and Proposed Development

Presently no developments or improvements exist. Approximately 10 campsites along the shore of Victoria Lake are maintained by the Salvation Army.

Guideline:

Development should primarily deal with:

- provision of low intensity campsites and privies, along the river,
- improvement to and/or development of portages,
- removal of refuse.

*The identification and development of portages should be an immediate priority for user safety.

- Maintenance of any campsites on Victoria Lake should be carried out by Ministry staff.

Recreation Activities

Present activities are limited to small numbers of users undertaking canoeing, kayaking, fishing and camping. Sport hunting occurs from organized camps. Waterway recreation is limited to spring and early summer due to extremely low water levels the remainder of the season.

Guideline:

Existing recreational activities will be allowed to continue.

Regulation to permit hunting once the park area is regulated under the Provincial Parks Act will be implemented.

Commercial Activities

Trapping presently takes place. There is a current Order-in-Council timber licence with Murray Bros. Lumber Co. which runs to 1990 with no renewal clause.

Guideline:

Trapping will be allowed to continue as an interim activity and should be considered as long term activity.

Interim forestry activities will be carried out under the terms of the existing licence. There is a 100 meter no cut zone (MDZ) on each side of the river, and a further 100 meters on each side modified cut (MMA) to the park boundary. Upon expiry in 1990, the area within the park boundary should be removed from any future logging activity.

Natural Resources

Deer yard management occurs at present.

Guideline:

Deer yard management to continue.

Cultural Resources

Numerous remains of logging activity structures (i.e. glance piers) exist along the river.

Guideline:

Existing structures should not be modified.

Client Services

Management of the waterway park requires control of access and provision of information to users.

Guideline:

Access should be controlled through the Shall Lake Access Point of Algonquin Park where the existing facilities will allow the provision of user information and control of the number of users.

Information should be provided on the basic aspects of river use, e.g. access, type and location of facilities such as campsites and portages, water levels, and hazards. A publication and map detailing this type of information should be provided.

Research

Guideline:

Further study is required of the historical resources found along the river.

Marketing

There is a need to identify and promote the specific recreational opportunities available on this waterway park.

Guideline:

The Algonquin Park Canoe Route map should be modified to provide appropriate identification and description of the waterway park.

An interim publication may be required detailing information on the park.

4

Sources/References

Bancroft District Land use Guidelines.

Backgrounder: Land Use Guidelines (1983)

H. Simpson: Life Science Inventory Check-Sheet

Loney Dickson: Life Science Inventory Checklist (1978)

Park Impact Assessment Sheet.

ONTARIO NATURE RESERVES PROGRAM - LIFE SCIENCE INVENTORY CHECK-SHEET

NAME Opeongo River		MAP NAME Round Lake	MAP NUMBER 31F/12	UTM REF. 747508
COUNTY, DISTRICT or REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY Nipissing District		LAT. 45 ° 34 ' N	LONG. 77 ° 54 ' W	ALT. MIN. MAX. 1,050 ft. 1,250 ft.
LOCALITY Victoria Lake to Hwy.60 (20 mi.)		1:50,000 NTS MAP SHOWING AILLA BOUNDARIES 1:250,000		
TOWNSHIP LOTS CONCESSIONS Dickens Murchison				
AREA acres ha				
OWNERSHIP Ministry of Natural Resources				
ADMINISTRATION Ministry of Natural Resources				
FOREST REGION AND DISTRICT		SITE REGION AND DISTRICT 5E-9		
MNR REGION AND DISTRICT ALG. Algonquin		CONSERVATION AUTHORITY		
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS		BASE MAP:		
YEAR		ROLL		FLIGHT LINE NUMBERS

SIGNIFICANT & REPRESENTATIVE FEATURES

- no known significant features
- some representative communities: white pine, sugar maple, poplar, and white birch forests, wet meadows and shoreline habitats.

FUNCTIONAL & MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

DATA SHEETS ATTACHED		SUMMARY SPECIES LISTS		MAJOR INFORMATION SOURCES
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION	<input type="checkbox"/>	PHYSICAL FEATURES MAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	A Brief Life Science Inventory of the Opeongo River, 1978 - A. L. Dickson - MNR unpublished report.
VEGETATION SUMMARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VEGETATION MAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	
EVALUATION SHEET	<input type="checkbox"/>	BIBLIOGRAPHY	<input type="checkbox"/>	
COMMUNITY DESCRS.	<input type="checkbox"/>	PHOTOGRAPHS	<input type="checkbox"/>	
COMMUNITY COMP. LISTS	<input type="checkbox"/>			

EVALUATION AND PRIORITIES

- low life science value

DATE COMPILED	COMPILED H. Simpson
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Name of the Area		OPEONGO RIVER PROPOSAL		Feature	Outwash, Monzonitic Rocks
Map Name	Round Lake West half	Map Number	31F/12	UTM	745500
County	Nipissing District	Township	Dickens	Ownership	Crown and Patented Land Use
Location	Access via Highway 60 to Victoria Lake, take Shall Lake access road into Algonquin Park to north end of reserve.				
Air Photos	Docket	Year	1969	* See below Flight Line	* Roll # Numbers
Significance	Low. Rock types are common.				
Sensitivity	Outwash gravel is being extracted close to the reserve.				

Compiler: C. M. Spek

Field Work: August 14-16, 1978

* Flight Line	* Roll #	* Numbers
4522	40	109-112
4523	61	27-30
4524	53	226-229
4525	59	59-63
4526	29	139-141

Bedrock Geology

According to O.D.M. Map 2197 (1970) and Lumbers (1976) the river is underlain by Middle to Late Precambrian gneisses and quartz monzonite. The river valley is fault controlled by a major northwest trending fault and a minor intersecting northeast fault (Trusler, 1975).

The best bedrock exposure occurs along the upper middle section of the reserve which is also the least accessible area. The river is underlain in part by garnet-bearing monzonitic rocks. Small outcrops were encountered upstream from a cabin at UTM 728531. Minor faulting was evident in the river bed due to low water conditions.

At 719532 an outcrop of augen rich biotite gneiss was visible. Several small areas of deeply weathered gneiss were also visible.

Minor faulting was also evident in the river bed at low water. The bedrock has been broken into rectangular blocks.

About 3/4 of a mile north of the ford at Ayles Creek a small road branches off to the right. Half a mile down the road is a small quarry known as the Five Mile Quarry (Sabina, 1970). This is a pegmatite occurrence. Allanite, pink garnet, chlorite pyroxene and titanite occur here. The quarry is partly overgrown.

Surficial Geology

The present channel of the Opeongo River carried glacial meltwaters during the Late