



Lion's Head

Interim Management Statement

Lion's Head Provincial Nature Reserve

Interim Management Statement



July 14, 1997

APPROVAL STATEMENT

This Interim Management Statement will provide interim direction for the management of Lion's Head Provincial Nature Reserve until such time as a comprehensive Park Management Plan is prepared.

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

I am pleased to approve the **Lion's Head Provincial Nature Reserve Interim Management Statement**.

Additional copies of this document are obtainable from:

Park Superintendent
MacGregor Point Provincial Park
R.R. #1
Port Elgin, Ontario N0H 2C5

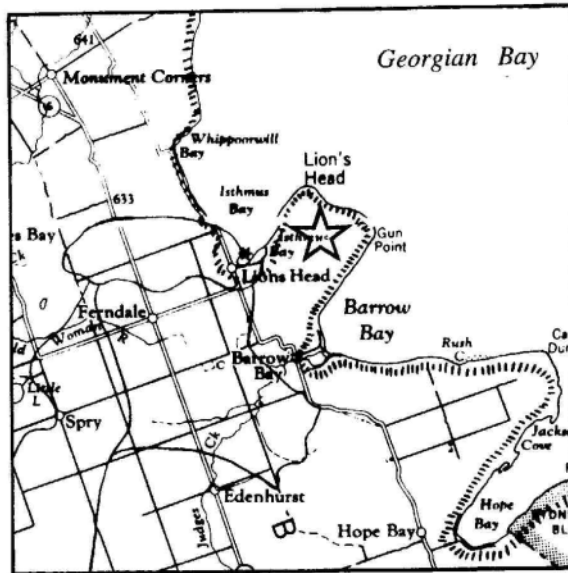


Peter Sturdy, Zone Manager
Southwestern Parks Zone
Ontario Parks

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Regional Setting Map

Name: Lion's Head Provincial Nature Reserve
Classification: Nature Reserve
MNR Parks Zone: Southwestern
MNR Region/District: Southcentral/Midhurst
Total Area: 526 ha. (regulated) 81 ha. (unregulated)
Site District: 6 - 14
Regulation: Ont. Reg. 45/85



TARGETS

1. Life Science Representation (Regional Significance)

Site Type/Landscape Unit	Feature
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Georgian Bay Shore/Escarpment Complex Variable topography with numerous outcrops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mesic forested talus slope upland forest

2. Earth Science Representation (Provincial Significance)

Geological Theme	Feature
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower-Middle Silurian Late Wisconsinan - Holocene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> escarpment, cliff face pot holes, talus slopes, meltwater erosion features

3. Cultural Resources Representation

Theme	Theme Segment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Settlements Forest Industries and Forest Industry Communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Settlement of Bruce Peninsula Georgian Bay Lumbering

TARGETS

(continued)

4. Recreational Opportunities

Day Use	Car Camping	Back Country
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hiking (Bruce Trail) • nature appreciation • rock climbing (non-conforming use) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McKay's Harbour (Bruce Trail) overnight rest area (non-conforming use)

INVENTORIES

Level/Type	Earth Science	Life Science	Cultural	Recreational	Other
Check Sheet	Cowell and Woerns, 1976 Blachut, 1977 Kor, 1992	Jalava, Varga, and Riley, 1997			
Reconnais- sance			(required)	(rock climbing and trail studies required)	
Detailed	Kor, 1992	(required)			

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

I. LAND TENURE

Lion's Head Provincial Nature Reserve is located approximately 26 kilometres north of Wiarton, near the Village of Lion's Head, in the Township of Eastnor, Bruce County. A total of 526 hectares (1,300 acres) of land have been acquired and regulated under the *Provincial Parks Act*. Lots 25 and 26, Concession 9, comprise an additional 81 hectares (200 acres) of Crown lands which will eventually be regulated. Lots 25 and 26, Concession 7, immediately west of the nature reserve, are parcels acquired by the Bruce Trail Association (see Figure 1).

The park is classified as a Nature Reserve under the *Niagara Escarpment Plan*. The applicable land use designations under the Plan are Escarpment Natural Area and Escarpment Protection Area.

Guidelines:

No agricultural land use permits will be issued within the regulated nature reserve.

Should title to the adjacent Bruce Trail properties be conveyed to the province at some future date, these lands may be managed by Ontario Parks and considered as a possible addition to the nature reserve.

II. LAND SECUREMENT AND DISPOSAL

Lands to be secured as additions to the nature reserve presently include Lot 26 and part Lot 30, Concession 8, and all intervening township road allowances. Part Lot 28, Concession 7, may be secured in order to extend the northwest boundary of the nature reserve in an attempt to reduce or eliminate access and parking on the cottagers road.

Guidelines:

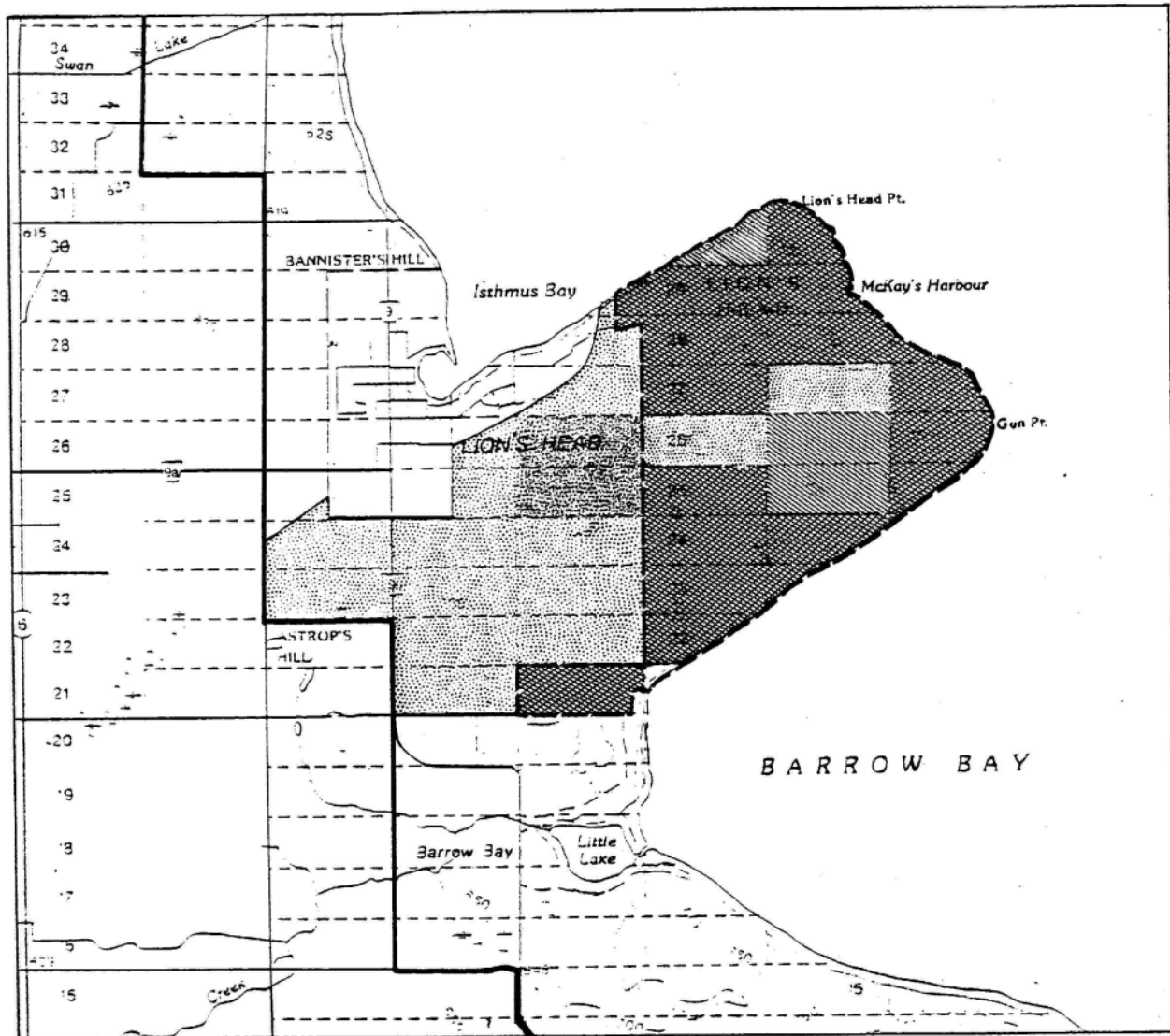
Private lands and township road allowances located within the proposed park boundary may be secured on a willing seller - willing buyer basis, subject to the availability of funding.

Conservation easements may be considered where land acquisition is not feasible.

Acquired Crown lands and conservation easements may, through time, be regulated under the *Provincial Parks Act* as part of the nature reserve (see section IX).

Figure 1







LION'S HEAD PROVINCIAL NATURE RESERVE

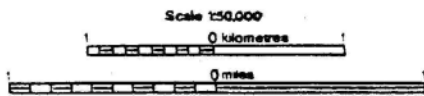


Name : Lion's Head Provincial Nature Reserve
Agency : M.N.R. - Ontario Parks
Municipality : Bruce Co. / Eastnor Twp.
Niagara Escarpment Plan Map No. 8



Legend

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Regulated Nature Reserve |  | Proposed Agreement / Easement |  |
| Acquired Crown Land |  | Niagara Escarpment Plan Boundary |  |
| Bruce Trail Association Land |  | Proposed Park Boundary |  |



III. EXISTING AND PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Existing development consists of a parking lot at the southern end of the nature reserve which is maintained by Ontario Parks. The Bruce Trail, a campsite and a pit toilet located at McKay's Harbour, all maintained by the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club, are the only other facilities which exist at the nature reserve (see Figure 2).

Guidelines:

The Bruce Trail and related facilities will continue to be maintained by the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club. Where deemed necessary by Ontario Parks, the Bruce Trail will be diverted away from sensitive open cliff rim vegetation communities. Other trail relocations may occur to avoid other sensitive natural features or to secure the optimum route for the Bruce Trail (see Figure 2).

A sign, or signs, may be erected at established points along the boundary of the nature reserve stating the park name, a list of permitted activities, and a source to call for additional information or in case of emergencies.

Suitably sited interpretive panels may be installed. The messages will be specifically directed towards rock climbers, hikers and Bruce Trail campers, alerting them to the sensitive features of the nature reserve.

Aside from the erection of signs, interpretive panels, gates and fencing as required, no other development is proposed. Approved development will be contingent upon the availability of funding and unforeseeable changes in priorities or park policies.

IV. RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Hiking, cross-country skiing, and natural heritage appreciation are recreational activities permitted in the nature reserve. Rock climbing is considered a non-conforming activity in a nature reserve, nonetheless, numerous popular climbing sites are located in the park.

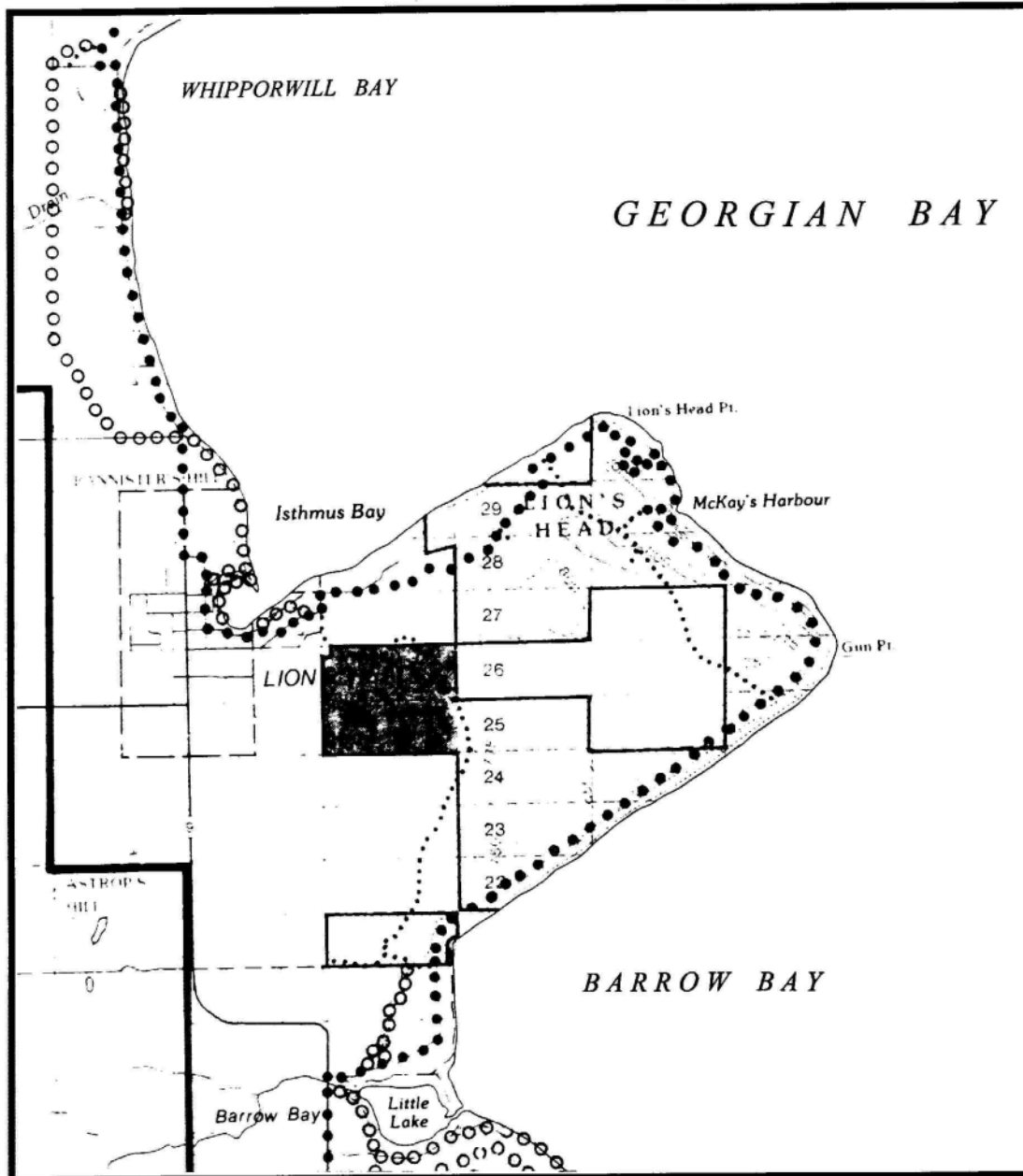
Guidelines:

Campfires are not permitted, including at the overnight rest area along the Bruce Trail.

A trails implementation strategy may eventually be prepared in consultation with the Bruce Trail Association.

A management strategy paper on rock climbing at Lion's Head Provincial Nature Reserve may be prepared in consultation with the Alpine Club of Canada. In the interim, this activity will be monitored but not promoted. Extremely sensitive or severely damaged sites may be closed by posting and appropriate compliance measures.

**Figure 2 BRUCE TRAIL
LION'S HEAD PROVINCIAL NATURE RESERVE**



LEGEND

<p>Bruce Trail (main trail)</p> <p>(side trail)</p> <p>(optimum route)</p> <p>Nature Reserve Boundary</p>	<p>●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●</p> <p>-----</p> <p>o-o</p> <p>_____</p>
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SCALE 1:50,000

V. COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Guideline:

No commercial forest management operations or trapping will be permitted.

VI. NATURAL RESOURCES

Life Science - The Lion's Head area has been recommended as a provincially significant life science area of natural and scientific interest. The Lion's Head Peninsula area sustains five nationally and provincially rare (i.e., Wall-rue, Broad Beech Fern, Hart's Tongue Fern, Roundleaf Ragwort, and Rand's Goldenrod), 18 regionally rare and nine locally significant vascular plant species. The site has a relatively large expanse of White Cedar cliff ecosystem, and supports a relatively high diversity of breeding forest-interior bird species. The nationally and provincially vulnerable Caspian Tern and the provincially vulnerable Black-crowned Night-Heron are breeding bird species recorded on site (Jalava, Varga, and Riley, 1995).

Earth Science - The Lion's Head Provincial Nature Reserve incorporates provincially significant representation of the following elements of the geology along the Niagara Escarpment of the Bruce Peninsula: evidence for catastrophic subglacial meltwater flood events in the form of a great concentration of potholes, an exotic boulder lag, and sculpted bedforms (including stoss-side furrows, cavetto forms and rock drumlins); and important reference sections of the Cabot Head and Dyer Bay Formations of the Silurian stratigraphy of the Niagara Escarpment (Kor, 1992).

Guidelines:

Prior to preparation of a Park Management Plan, a detailed life science study may be completed.

The impacts of rock climbing should be reviewed, studied and prevented.

Portions of the Bruce Trail may be diverted from sensitive open cliff rim vegetation communities.

VII. CULTURAL RESOURCES

1. Pre-history - Archaeological evidence dates the earliest human occupation of Lion's Head to the arrival of the Amerindians nearly 2,500 years ago. The Bruce Peninsula was originally settled by the Odawa of Algonquin background.

2. History - In 1616, Samuel de Champlain visited the Bruce Peninsula. Logging and fishing became the predominant activities in the late 1800's.

Guideline:

Both a pre-history and historical survey are needed to further document the cultural values of the nature reserve. These surveys may be completed prior to preparation of a park management plan.

VIII. NATURAL HERITAGE EDUCATION

Existing facilities consist solely of signs identifying the nature reserve boundary. Separate fact sheets providing basic information about the nature reserve and Lion's Head Earth Science Area of Natural and Scientific Interest are available upon request.

Guidelines:

The fact sheets will be updated and reproduced as required.

Suitably sited interpretive panels may be installed. The messages will be specifically directed towards climbers, hikers and Bruce Trail campers, alerting them to the sensitive features of the nature reserve.

IX. NATIVE INTERESTS

Guideline:

Subject to the status of native land claim negotiations and/or government policy, the status of provincially owned lands associated with the nature reserve will not be changed.

X. MARKETING

Guidelines:

This provincial park will not be promoted aside from general information provided in the fact sheet and as identified in information presented to the public regarding the Niagara Escarpment Parks and Open Space System and the *Bruce Trail Reference*.

A marketing plan will not be required.

XI. RESEARCH

Guidelines:

Appropriate research or inventory projects will be encouraged, particularly in subject areas required to assist in preparation of a Park Management Plan and to assist in identifying and protecting sensitive natural features

or cultural resources in the park.

A detailed life science inventory and evaluation may be prepared for the nature reserve.

The impacts of rock climbing on cliff edge and cliff face vegetation should be closely monitored and studied.

Monitoring and a carrying capacity study if the Bruce Trail overnight rest area may be undertaken.

XII. REFERENCES

Blachut, S. Lion's Head Recreation Area (Special Area), Earth Science Inventory Checklist, in An Evaluation of Earth Science Features in the Parks, Park Reserves and Special Areas of Central and Southwestern Regions. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreational Areas Branch, 1977.

Bracken, M., Barnes, J., and Oates, C. The Escarpment - A Climber's Guide. Borealis Press, Toronto, 1991.

Bruce Trail Association. Bruce Trail Reference, 19th Edition. Hamilton, 1994.

Cowell, D.W., and Woerns, N. Earth Science Candidate Nature Reserves in the Niagara Escarpment Planning Area. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Division of Parks, 1976.

Jalava, J.V., Varga, S., and Riley, J.L. Ecological Survey of the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve (Preliminary). Ontario Heritage Foundation and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 1995.

Kor, P. Earth Science Inventory and Evaluation of the Lion's Head Provincial Nature Reserve and Area of Natural and Scientific Interest. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Southern Region, Aurora, 1992.

Niagara Escarpment Commission. Niagara Escarpment Plan. Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy, Toronto, 1994.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Ontario Provincial Parks Management Planning Manual. Provincial Operations Branch, Peterborough, 1994.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies, 1992 Update. Provincial Parks and Natural Heritage Policy Branch, Toronto, 1992.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Owen Sound District Land Use Guidelines. Owen Sound District, Owen Sound, 1983.