

JEVINS LAKE HERITAGE AREA

BACKGROUND

During the summers of 1990 to 1992 fieldwork was completed to assess candidate areas in Muskoka for their heritage value. A final report was produced in 1994. In total 48 heritage areas and 11 heritage sites were recognized as being significant within Muskoka.

The current District Official Plan policies that pertain to heritage areas were approved in 1991. These policies need to be reviewed and enhanced where appropriate to help deal with land use issues related to the heritage areas. Heritage areas are at the very heart of what makes Muskoka such a unique and vibrant place.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE AREA

Location: Morrison & Muskoka Townships, Gravenhurst

Size: 188 hectares

Features: This site is located southeast of Gravenhurst, adjacent to Highway #11. The long, narrow, lake-filled depression is relatively deep with coniferous swamp forest, floating sphagnum mats, emergent marsh, and low shrub vegetation. Bedrock ridges rise from the lakeshore supporting Pine-Oak barren communities. The potholes northeast of Jevins Lake have been identified as an exceptional geological feature in Muskoka. The site is a Provincially Significant Wetland.

CRITERIA FULFILLED:

Distinctive Landform

Representation

Diversity

Rare Species

OWNERSHIP & DISTURBANCE

Ownership: The majority of the site is privately owned.

There are some signs of disturbance associated with recreational use such as camping, fishing and hiking. Highway #11 crosses the marshlands at the northern end of Jevins Lake.

SENSITIVITY

The sensitivity of the site is related to the function of the wetland, the presence of rare community and species types, and the preservation of the potholes.

NEXT STEPS

Muskoka is reviewing existing land use policies within the District Official Plan as they relate to heritage areas. Landowner, agency and interest group involvement in the process will help determine appropriate policy for these valuable natural areas, and will help to identify local concerns and issues.