

NEIPAGE LAKE COMPLEX 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: Wood Township, Muskoka Lakes

Size: 525 hectares

Features: This area includes three bog lakes and their immediate watersheds, within a complex of gneissic ridges and low wetland areas. In low-lying areas, peat deposits representing virtually all stages of peat bog development have accumulated.

CRITERIA FULFILLED:

Hydrology

Representation

Diversity

Quality and Disturbance

Rare Species

OWNERSHIP & DISTURBANCE

Ownership: The area is approximately 95% Crown land and within a Conservation Reserve. Several snowmobile trails cross the area.

SENSITIVITY

The sensitivity of the area is related to the bog lakes and natural communities in the area.

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.