"THE BEST OF THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE"

LITTLE NELSON LAKE TILL UNIT HERITAGE SITE

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. This site was identified during the development of the Lake of Bays Official Plan.

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: Finlayson Township, Lake of Bays
Size: 58 hectares
Features: This site is a representation of an expansive area of till primarily found in the Algonquin Highland area of Muskoka. The till deposit is representative of fluted to undulating ground moraine with thick till deposits. The surface is scattered with cobbles and boulders in a forested hardwood landscape. Hummocks of stony, sandy till were generated by the melting out and accumulation of debris on the glacier surface as it moved in a north-south direction, and then were left behind after the ice melted.

CRITERIA FULFILLED:

Landform Representation

OWNERSHIP & DISTURBANCE

Ownership: The entire site is on Crown land.
There is minimal disturbance in the area.

SENSITIVITY

The sensitivity of the site is related to the forest cover that masks the underlying irregular bedrock.

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.

For more detailed information on this area, refer to the Natural Heritage Evaluation of Muskoka, February 1994.