

CHINIGUCHI WATERWAY PROVINCIAL PARK (P174)

WOLF LAKE OLD GROWTH FOREST FOREST RESERVE (F175)

AND KUKAGAMI LAKE FOREST RESERVE (F181)

FACT SHEET

September 2003

Background

On July 16, 1999, the Ontario Government released *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* to guide the planning and management of Crown lands in central and parts of northern Ontario. A major part of *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* was a government intent to establish 378 new protected areas. This commitment marks the biggest expansion of provincial parks and conservation reserves in Ontario's history.

The proposed Chiniguchi Waterway Provincial Park (P174), Wolf Lake Old Growth Forest Forest Reserve (F175) and Kukagami Lake Forest Reserve (F181) are part of this significant expansion of Ontario's protected areas system. These three sites are ecologically interconnected by natural heritage values and thus have been identified together in this fact sheet.

As outlined in the Land Use Strategy, areas in both the Wolf Lake Old Growth Forest Forest Reserve and the Kukagami Lake Forest Reserve not currently under mining tenure will be regulated as part of the proposed Chiniguchi Waterway Provincial Park. As mining tenure in the other portions of these two sites is surrendered by the tenure owners through normal processes, these areas will be added to the provincial park.

Size and Location

Chiniguchi Waterway Provincial Park (P174)

This proposed waterway class provincial park northeast of Wanapitei Lake is located in ecodistrict 4E-4 in the townships of Mackelcan, McCarthy, Kelly and McNish. It extends north from the south end of Maskinonge Lake (where it is situated adjacent to the Sturgeon River Waterway Provincial Park) to Rice Lake, Lower Matagamasi Lake and west to Edna Lake, Karl Lake and Matagamasi Lake (McCarthy Bay). Interior lakes include Donald Lake, Colin Scott Lake and Gold Lake. The size of the proposed park is approximately 7,399 hectares including 336 hectares of Forest Reserve. The Chiniguchi Waterway Provincial Park is connected through Gawasi, Gamagowaong, and Ozhway Lakes to the proposed Sturgeon River Provincial Park Addition (P173). Through Matagamasi Lake, the proposed park connects with the Wolf Lake Old Growth Forest Reserve (F175), providing a contiguous protected area from Wanapitei Lake to the Sturgeon River Provincial Park addition.

Wolf Lake Old Growth Forest Forest Reserve (F175)

The area within the proposed Wolf Lake Old Growth Forest Forest Reserve to be regulated as part of the Chiniguchi Waterway Provincial Park is 2234 hectares in size. The remaining area, approximately 1,924 hectares, will remain as forest reserve as it is still under mining tenure. The site, located in ecodistrict 4E-4 in the townships of McConnell, Mackelcan, and Rathburn, is located approximately 30 kilometers from Capreol. It is adjacent to the proposed Chiniguchi Waterway Provincial Park (P174), and interior lakes include Dewdney Lake, Wolf Lake, Silvester Lake, Jones Lake and Matagamasi Lake.

Kukagami Lake Forest Reserve (F181)

The proposed Kukagami Lake Forest Reserve is located in ecodistricts 5E-4 and 4E-4, in the townships of Kelly, Rathburn, Scadding, and Davis. The area within this proposed forest reserve to be regulated as part of the Chiniguchi Waterway Provincial Park is 3,258 hectares, while 540 hectares will remain as forest reserve as it is still under mining tenure. The site is located approximately 10 kilometres from Wanapitei Lake. Kukagami Lake falls within the boundary of this proposed forest reserve.

Area Highlights

Chiniguchi Waterway Provincial Park (P174)

The proposed Chiniguchi Waterway Provincial Park includes an established provincial canoe route, and provides outstanding year-round recreational opportunities. The canoe route is based on ancient Aboriginal travel-ways following traditional portages and water routes. There are a variety of cultural features including pictographs along the route.

Some of the significant features that will be protected by this park include old growth red and white pine forests, nesting sites and Heronries, and wildlife wintering areas. Warm and cold water lakes provide habitat for many fish species including lake trout, brook trout, large and small mouth bass, muskellunge, northern pike, and walleye.

Early logging practices would have harvested the area using the waterway as a means of transporting the logs. This area however, has long been recognized as a significant recreational area and has therefore been a limited access area for the forestry industry.

The site has a long history of mineral exploration. The area surrounding the Chiniguchi Waterway Provincial Park has recently undergone renewed exploration activity with the discovery of platinum group elements (PGEs). As a result, active mining claims occupy a good portion of the land surrounding the waterway park. Some pre-existing mining claims were captured within the proposed boundary during the OLL process and are designated as forest reserves as per the Land Use Strategy. Should the mining claims be retired in the future through normal processes, the claim area will be added to the park.

Wolf Lake Old Growth Forest Forest Reserve (F175)

The proposed Wolf Lake Old Growth Forest Forest Reserve contains the largest continuous area of red pine "working group" stands older than 140 years in Site Region 4E and Ontario. This may be the largest remaining contiguous old growth red pine dominated forest in North America. Wolf Lake has outstanding recreational values, being situated along the Matagamasi to Chiniguchi Lake canoe route.

Kukagami Lake Forest Reserve (F181)

The proposed Kukagami Lake Forest Reserve contains the former Scadding/Davis natural heritage area, jack pine stands of all age classes over moderately rolling sand and gravel deposits.

Land Use Intent

Provincial parks are areas of Crown land set aside by regulation under the *Provincial Parks Act*. The Land Use Strategy establishes the Ministry's intent to manage Chiniguchi Waterway Provincial Park as a waterway park. Provincial parks protect Ontario's representative natural areas and special landscapes. Most recreational activities (e.g. hiking, skiing, tourism related uses, nature appreciation) and non-industrial activities (e.g. fur harvesting, and bait fishing) that have traditionally been enjoyed in the area will continue, provided that these uses do not impact on the natural features needing protection.

Waterway parks incorporate outstanding recreational water routes with representative natural features and historical resources to provide high quality recreational and educational experiences for park visitors. Most recreational activities (e.g. hiking, hunting, fishing, skiing, tourism related uses and nature appreciation) and non-industrial activities (e.g. fur harvesting, and bait fishing) that have traditionally been in the area will continue, provided that these uses do not impact on the natural features that need protection.

Commercial timber harvesting, mining, aggregate extraction and commercial hydroelectric development are prohibited in provincial parks. New private access roads and new resource access roads are not permitted in provincial parks unless a prior written commitment has been made, with the exception of necessary access to existing mining claims, leases and patents enclosed by the provincial park.

Consistent with *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy*, the pre-existing mining claims in Wolf Lake Old Growth Forest and Kukagami Lake Forest Reserves will continue to be managed as forest reserves and not included as part of the regulated Chiniguchi Waterway Provincial Park. Forest reserve policy differs from provincial park policy as it allows mining activities to be permitted. Should the mining claims within these sites be retired in the future through normal processes, the claim area will be added to Chiniguchi Waterway Provincial Park.

Where there are existing Aboriginal and treaty rights, the establishment of this provincial park, and forest reserves does not extinguish these rights.

Next Steps

Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy established the Ministry's intent to add these Crown land areas to Ontario's protected areas system, following extensive public consultation between 1997 and 1999. Prior to finalizing the boundary of this proposed provincial park for regulation under the *Provincial Parks Act* and consistent with the Ministry's *Environmental Assessment Act* responsibilities, the Ministry is inviting public comment on these proposed boundaries from First Nations and potentially affected stakeholders **between September 10 and October 10, 2003**. The Ministry is committed to ongoing consultation with First Nations who are potentially affected by OLL decisions.

In the interim, these areas have been withdrawn and protected from resource extraction activities such as timber harvesting, hydroelectric development, aggregate extraction and new mineral exploration.

In the future and subject to the intended regulation of these areas as a provincial park, Ontario Parks will prepare an interim management statement to describe the long-term management of these protected areas. This planning document will describe the known values and uses of the area, and provide custodial policies for managing the area until a detailed park management plan is prepared.

Planning, management and permitted uses within these provincial parks will be consistent with the commitments in *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* and Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies (1992).

For More Information

For further information on the proposed Chiniguchi Waterway Provincial Park, Wolf Lake Old Growth Forest Reserve, and Kukagami Lake Forest Reserve, please contact Joanna Samson, OLL Planner, Sudbury District MNR, 3767 Highway 69 South, Suite 5, Sudbury, Ontario P3G 1E7, Tel. (705) 564-7612 Fax (705) 564-7879.

You may also visit the Ministry's Internet website at www.ontarioslivinglegacy.com for information about *Ontario's Living Legacy*.

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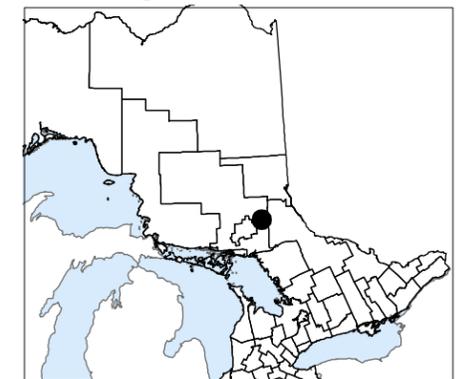
Proposed Boundary Public Consultation Map

(Areas not under mining tenure to be regulated as Provincial Park)

- P174 - Chiniguchi Waterway Provincial Park (Waterway Class)
- F175 - Wolf Lake Old Growth Forest Reserve
- F181 - Kukagami Lake Forest Reserve

-  Proposed Provincial Park
-  Forest Reserves
-  Existing Protected Areas
-  Lakes
-  Streams
-  Lot Lines
-  Townships
-  Roads
-  Utility Lines
-  Railroad Tracks

Locator Map



This map is illustrative only. Do not rely on it as being a precise indicator of routes, locations of features, nor as a guide to navigation.

Only Ontario Crown land is included in this provincial park. Where the boundary appears to overlap private land, Federal land, Indian Reserves, or existing Mining Act tenure, that portion of the site is not being regulated as a part of this provincial park. Consistent with the Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy however, should mining claims or leases within this area be retired in the future through normal processes, these claim or lease areas will be withdrawn and added to the provincial park.

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