

## KILLARNEY PROVINCIAL PARK ADDITIONS (P331) AND KILLARNEY LAKELANDS AND HEADWATERS PROVINCIAL PARK (P187)

### FACT SHEET

September 2003

#### Background

On July 16, 1999, the Ontario Government released the *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 the *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 Killarney Provincial Park Additions (P331) and Killarney Lakelands and Headwaters Provincial Park (P187) are part of this significant expansion of Ontario's protected areas system. These two proposed sites are adjacent to Killarney Provincial Park and are ecologically interconnected by natural heritage values and thus have been identified together in this fact sheet.

#### Size and Location

##### Killarney Provincial Park Additions (P331)

The proposed Killarney Provincial Park Additions are adjacent to the existing Killarney Provincial Park. There are two parts to the addition, one touches the existing park's northern boundary in Dieppe and Hansen townships and the other connects with its eastern boundary in Carlyle Township. The proposed park additions are approximately 1,389 ha in size, plus approximately 51 ha of forest reserve. The proposed Killarney Provincial Park Additions are 53.5 km southwest of the City of Greater Sudbury, 83 km by road, and 18 km north – northeast of the town of Killarney. The southern part of the additions is accessible by Highway 637 off of Highway 69 while the northern portion can be reached from canoe routes from Bear Lake.

##### Killarney Lakelands and Headwaters Provincial Park (P187)

The proposed Killarney Lakelands and Headwaters Provincial Park is located adjacent to the existing Killarney Provincial Park, wrapping around it's northern and eastern boundaries in the townships of Curtin, Roosevelt, Truman, Dieppe, Hansen, Caen, Bevin, Goschen, Sale and Carlyle. The proposed park is approximately 15,374 ha in size (plus approximately 3,163 ha of forest reserve). The proposed Killarney Lakelands and Headwaters Provincial Park is 38 km southwest of the City of Greater Sudbury (82 km by road), and 25 km north – northeast of the town of Killarney. The area is accessible by Highway 637 off of Highway 69, as well as by boat through Lake Panache.

#### Area Highlights

##### Killarney Provincial Park Additions (P331)

These park additions are in eco district 5E-3 and include the Howry Creek Headwaters-East and Sinkhole Bog natural heritage areas. The Howry Creek Headwaters-East contains important free-flowing headwaters of several lakes in Killarney Provincial Park that have canoe routes and campsites. The hilly forested landscape, underlain by gravels and bare bedrock, includes poplar, pine, white birch, white spruce, red maple, balsam fir, black spruce, ironwood and red oak stands. There are older upland forests of hemlock, yellow birch and cedar, as well as wetlands and shoreline habitats. The alkaline aquatic environments of some lakes (8.0 pH) in the northern part of the additions are unique in the headwaters of watersheds draining into Georgian Bay. This area is part of a long-term study site for researchers from Laurentian University studying natural ecological characteristics of aquatic environments. The Sinkhole Bog to the east of Killarney, south of Hwy 637, is a significant wetland complex known for patterned ground features typical of organic terrain that occurs in boreal and more northern ecological zones of the Province.

##### Killarney Lakelands and Headwaters Provincial Park (P187)

This new provincial park includes Howry Creek Headwaters West in eco district 5E-3 and the Killarney-North Central Headwaters, Panache South, Mahzenazing North Headwaters and Sale Township natural heritage areas in eco district 5E-4. The hilly forested landscape, underlain by gravels and bare bedrock, includes poplar, pine, white birch, white spruce, sugar maple, red maple, balsam fir, black spruce, ironwood and red oak stands. There are older upland forests of hemlock, yellow birch and cedar, as well as wetlands and shoreline habitats. This area is part of a long-term study site for researchers from Laurentian University studying natural ecological characteristics of aquatic environments. In addition to protecting important natural features and headwater functions, this proposed park provides exceptional recreational opportunities.

## Land Use Intent

Provincial parks are areas of Crown land set aside by regulation under the Provincial Parks Act. 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.

### Killarney Provincial Park Additions (P331)

The Land Use Strategy establishes the Ministry's intent to manage the additions as a wilderness class park addition. Wilderness class parks are substantial areas, as self-contained as possible, bounded by natural features such as landforms and watersheds, where the forces of nature function freely. Visitors travel by canoe and motorboats on navigable waters or walk in the area. Existing recreation uses will continue (e.g. canoeing, boating, fishing, hunting).

### Killarney Lakelands and Headwaters Provincial Park (P187)

The Land Use Strategy establishes the Ministry's intent to manage this provincial park as a natural environment class park. Natural environment parks incorporate outstanding recreational landscapes with representative natural and historical features to provide high quality recreational and educational experiences. Natural environment parks often contain developed recreation facilities, but their rich and varied environments are the main reason for their establishment. Activities permitted in this classification of park range from backcountry travel and interior camping, such as in larger parks (i.e. Algonquin and Lake Superior), to hunting, fishing, boating, hiking, picnicking, biking, swimming, and snowmobiling on authorized trails.

Continued use of the existing winter road in the new provincial park area east of the current Killarney Provincial Park, will be permitted by the forest industry, to access Crown lands east of the park.

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 these sites will be managed as "forest reserves" and not included as part of the regulated park area. The policies governing forest reserves in newly created provincial parks are that mining activities will be permitted. Should the mining claims be retired in the future through normal processes, the claim area will be added to the park.

Where there are existing Aboriginal and treaty rights, the establishment of these provincial parks does not extinguish these rights.

## Next Steps

The *OLL Land Use Strategy* established the Ministry's intent to add these Crown land areas to Ontario's protected areas system, following the extensive public consultation associated with the *Ontario's Living Legacy* and *Lands for Life* land use planning initiatives between 1997 and 1999. Prior to the finalization of the boundary of this provincial park proposed 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 provincial parks, Ontario Parks will prepare a management plan to describe the long-term management of these protected areas. As such, planning will describe the known values and uses of the area, and provide detailed policies for managing these new protected areas adjacent to the existing Killarney Provincial Park.

Planning, management and permitted uses within these provincial parks will be consistent with the commitments in *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* (1999) and Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies (1992).

## For More Information

For further information on the proposed Killarney Provincial Park Additions and Killarney Lakelands and Headwaters Provincial Park, 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](http://www.ontarioslivinglegacy.com) for information about *Ontario's Living Legacy*.

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Modified 7-8-2003

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**Proposed Boundary  
Public Consultation Map  
P331 - Killarney Provincial  
Park Addition  
(Wilderness Class)**

**P187 - Killarney Lakelands and  
Headwaters Provincial Park  
(Natural Environment Class)**

-  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.

Published April 2003

Basedata Source:  
MNR DISTRICT NRVIS Database, 2000

Scale 1:120000

