

**MATTAWA RIVER
PROVINCIAL PARK ADDITIONS (P148)
FACT SHEET**

October 2002

◆ **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 **Mattawa River Provincial Park Additions** are part of this significant expansion of Ontario's protected areas system.

◆ **SIZE AND LOCATION**

The proposed Mattawa River Additions are located adjacent to Mattawa River Provincial Park which is west of the Ottawa River and is within the geographic townships of Widdifield, Phelps, Orlig, Mattawa, Papineau, Calvin, Bonfield and East Ferris. The additions start at the eastern end of Trout Lake, taking in Camp Island and other portions of Crown land around Four Mile Lake, Trout Lake and all along the Mattawa River Provincial Park. This park addition covers approximately 10,884 ha of Crown land.

The Ministry has refined the proposed boundary in Lot 33, Concession 4, Mattawan Township based on the need to consider access to private property.

◆ **AREA HIGHLIGHTS**

Additions to the Mattawa River include two categories: (A) natural heritage areas put forward for protection and; (B) areas added to enhance recreational uses and provide ecological boundaries for the park. This addition to Mattawa River Provincial Park straddles two site districts 5E-5 and 5E-6.

A - Natural heritage areas:

1. Rice Bay Delta, provincially significant wetlands, which provide important wildlife habitat, particularly for waterfowl. The area includes marsh communities, unusual silver maple swamp forests growing on deep silty clay and sand deposits and smaller wetlands in the upland section.

2. Talon Lake Forest, representative old growth red and white pine growing on hilly, sandy uplands and pockets of flat deposits.

B - Recreational values/ecological boundaries: Large areas (including the Doule Forest) have been added to both sides of this waterway to enhance its natural and recreational values.

The valley is relatively undeveloped and is devoted to water-orientated recreation such as boating, canoeing, fishing, cottaging, resort and residential development. The existing parks in the valley are centred on an ancient canoe route. The area played a significant role in Canadian history as an ancient aboriginal travel way and later as part of the fur trade route crossing Canada. The Mattawa River valley within the provincial parks was designated as a Canadian Heritage River, in 1988.

The Mattawa River Provincial Park Addition is underlain by migmatitic and gneissic rocks of undetermined protolith. It is also underlain by gneissic rocks of metasedimentary origin. There is also a large body of anorthositic and alkalic igneous rocks – predominantly anorthosite, anorthositic gabbro, gabbro, nepheline syenite and alkalic syenite. There are also small bodies of mafic rocks – specifically amphibolite, gabbro, diorite and mafic gneisses. These rock units belong to the Central Gneiss Belt of the Grenville Province and are of Mesoproterozoic age. There is active mineral exploration and mining activity around the park addition. Occurrences of clay, kyanite, vermiculite, mica, brucite and iron have been discovered in the park area.

◆ **LAND USE INTENT**

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

Waterway class parks incorporate outstanding recreational water routes with representative natural features and historical resources to provide high quality recreational and educational experiences for park visitors.

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.

The establishment of this provincial park addition does not extinguish existing Aboriginal and treaty rights.

◆ **NEXT STEPS**

The *OLL Land Use Strategy* established the Ministry's intent to add these Crown lands 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 the proposed boundary from all potentially affected stakeholders between **October 15 to November 15, 2002**. The Ministry is committed to ongoing consultation with First Nations who are potentially affected by OLL decisions.

In the interim, the area has 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 the area as a provincial park addition, Ontario Parks will undertake an amendment to the existing Mattawa River Provincial Park management plan to determine the long-term management of this area.

Planning, management and the uses permitted within this park will be consistent with the commitments of the *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 **Mattawa River Provincial Park Additions**, please contact Sally Renwick, District Planner at the Ministry of Natural Resources, 3301 Trout Lake Road, North Bay, Ontario P1A 4L7, phone (705) 475-5533, fax (705) 475- 5500. You may also visit the Ministry's Internet website at www.ontarioslivinglegacy.com for information about *Ontario's Living Legacy*.

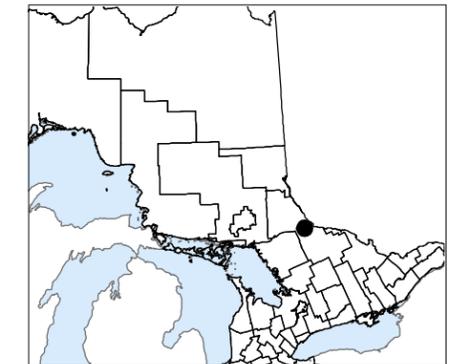
Cette fiche de renseignements est également disponible en français.

Proposed Boundary
Public Consultation Map
Mattawa River
Provincial Park Addition
(Waterway Class)

P148

-  Mattawa River Provincial Park Addition (Waterway Class)
-  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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MNR DISTRICT NRVIS Database, 2000

Scale 1:145 000

