

## **MAGNETAWAN RIVER PROVINCIAL PARK (P316) (WATERWAY CLASS) FACT SHEET**

AUGUST, 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 Magnetawan River Provincial Park is part of this significant expansion of Ontario's protected areas system.

### **SIZE AND LOCATION**

The proposed Magnetawan River Provincial Park is approximately 3,398 hectares in size, and it is located in the Territorial District of Parry Sound. It lies within Burton Ward in the Municipality of Whitestone, Harrison Ward in the Township of the Archipelago, and in the unincorporated townships of Wallbridge, Brown, & Harrison. The Magnetawan River Provincial Park is located approximately 50 kilometres north of the Town of Parry Sound, extending downstream of Wahwashkesh Lake. To the east, the park is adjacent to the existing Island Lake Forest and Barrens Conservation Reserve (C106). It is also linked with three sites whose boundaries are under public review at this time: Noganosh Lake Provincial Park (P317) in the north, and Wahwashkesh - Naiscoot Conservation Reserve (C326) and Naiscoot Forest Conservation Reserve (C116) in the south.

There are a number of privately-owned parcels of land adjacent to and within the boundaries; these are not part of the proposed provincial park.

### **AREA HIGHLIGHTS**

This section of the Magnetawan River was rated in the top ten in an early 1980s study to determine potential waterway parks in Ontario. The 87% score is the highest achieved in ecological Site District 5E-7 along with the Pickerel River. According to a Canadian Heritage River System (CHRS) study, the Magnetawan River is ranked as one of the most outstanding rivers in Ontario due to its outstanding natural and human heritage values.

The Magnetawan River is characterized by relatively steep, rocky shorelines and deep main channels. Narrow, swift sections of the river allow for the challenge of whitewater canoeing. Evidence of log driving from the turn of the century adds interest in the river. Mature red and white pine stands intermixed with some mature hardwood stands are common along sections of the watercourse. Buttonbush occurs in some of the cliff communities in the eastern section of the site.

This area is used for a variety of other traditional uses, including hunting, fishing and fur harvesting.

### **LAND USE INTENT**

Provincial Parks are areas of Crown land set aside by regulation under the *Provincial Parks Act*. The *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* established the Ministry's intent to manage this park as a Waterway class park.

Provincial Parks protect Ontario's representative natural areas and special landscapes. Parks also provide opportunities for outstanding recreational activities. Most recreational activities (e.g. hiking, skiing, tourism related uses, nature appreciation, hunting, trapping) 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. Activities permitted in this classification of park range from backcountry travel and camping to car camping, hunting, fishing, boating, picnicking and swimming.

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.

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

The Ministry of Natural Resources designed the boundaries of this provincial park with cooperative design input from the local forest industry and the environmental community; discussions with several local First Nations has also occurred. The park boundary extends back between 200 metres and 120 metres from the waterway where the boundary abuts Crown land, and to the water's edge where it borders private land.

The existing provisions of the 1983 MNR *Parry Sound District Land Use Guidelines* for the Parry Sound Wildlands and the Restricted Access Area will be reflected in the park management plan. New recreational trails will continue to be prohibited.

### **NEXT STEPS**

The *Ontario's Living Legacy 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 **August 30 and September 30, 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, Ontario Parks will undertake a Park Management Plan to determine the long term management of this area. Please let us know if you would like to be notified directly of this opportunity. Alternatively, an Interim Management Statement may be prepared to document the known values and uses of the area, and to provide custodial policies for managing the area until a detailed park management plan is prepared.

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).

### **PUBLIC MEETING**

A public meeting/open house will be held to enable the public to review the details and intent of the proposed provincial park boundaries:

Date: Saturday, September 7, 2002

Location: Magnetawan First Nation Community Hall

- Proceed 23 km north of Pointe au Baril Station on Highway 69; turn left on Highway 529 (Byng Inlet) and proceed roughly 1 km; the Community Hall is on the right.

Time: 10:00 am:

- presentations explaining background and intent of C326, P316, & P317
- followed by question and answer period

11:00 am - 12:30 pm:

- open house with detailed boundary maps available for viewing
- informal one-on-one discussion

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

For further information on the proposed Magnetawan River Provincial Park, please contact:

Hank van Luit, Zone Park Planner  
Ontario Parks – Central Zone  
451 Arrowhead Park Road,  
Huntsville, Ontario, P1H 2J4

Telephone: 705-789-1481

Facsimile: 705-789-5948

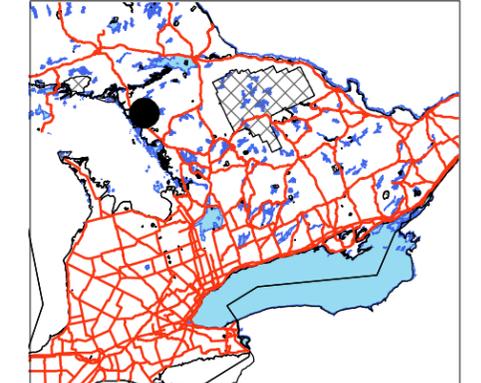
E-mail: [hank.vanluit@mnr.gov.on.ca](mailto:hank.vanluit@mnr.gov.on.ca).

You may also visit the Ministry's Internet website at [www.ontarioslivinglegacy.com](http://www.ontarioslivinglegacy.com) for information about *Ontario's Living Legacy*.

Proposed Boundary  
**MAGNETAWAN RIVER**  
 Provincial Park  
 (Waterway Class)  
 P316  
 Public Review Map

-  MAGNETAWAN RIVER
-  Forest Reserves
-  Other Proposed OLL Protected Areas
-  Existing Protected Areas
-  Indian Reserve
-  Lakes
-  Streams
-  Lot Lines
-  Townships
-  Roads
-  Trails/Portages
-  Railroad Tracks
-  Utility Lines

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 proposed 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 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 August 2002

Basedata Source:  
 Parry Sound NRVIS Database, 2000

Scale 1:80000

