

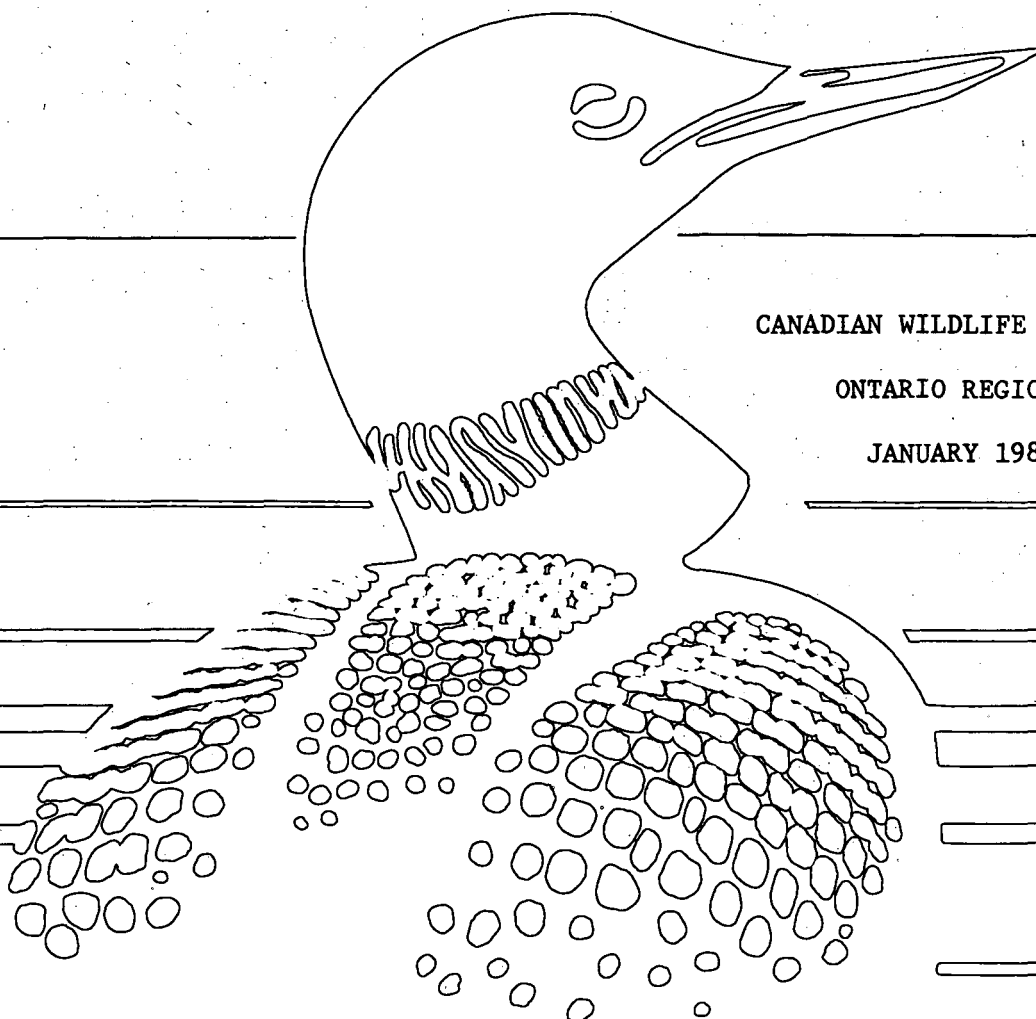
A REVIEW OF  
MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARIES  
IN  
ONTARIO

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CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE

ONTARIO REGION

JANUARY 1984



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## INTRODUCTION

The need for a review of Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBS) has been a long standing requirement for the Canadian Wildlife Service across Canada. The former Western Region had a review in 1966 for the 3 Prairie provinces. Guidelines for the establishment of new sanctuaries have been modified through the years, with a 1974 directive that new MBS were only to be established on Federal or Provincial Crown Land.

Historically many reasons have been given for the establishment of MBS, all of them with some sort of biological justification. Today, most those biological reasons have disappeared and been lost through the years, and by today's standards it would be difficult to justify more than 3 or 4 of the existing 13 MBS in Ontario.

For the development of this Review, ecological data was collected on each individual Sanctuary, consultation with existing landowners and neighbours took place and above all each individual site was discussed with the Wildlife Branch, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (District Office). CWS staff also had an opportunity to review the recommendations.

The findings of our Review are in a way almost an horror story in regard to Migratory Birds and their habitats. We now have the following activities taking place inside Sanctuary Boundaries in Ontario:

- An increase from 20 to 50 landowners on one, being now a full year round prime residential area;
- Caged Migratory Birds on display;
- One covering a large track of agricultural land in order to avoid the introduction of a Municipal Bylaw on fire arms.
- Residential subdivisions; one cemetery; one hospital;
- A nickel smelter; a lumber mill; a cement plant and junk yards;
- A gypsum plant; a sewage plant; a sports track; gravel pits; a private trailer park;
- Tailings;
- A training and interpretation school.

The list of Sanctuary land-uses could go on and on, with only very few sites being of any use or being used by Migratory Birds.

The Ontario Region is committed to implement the necessary changes to make MBS meaningful and justifiable under the Act. In order to procede, "National Guidelines on MB Sanctuaries" are going to be required.

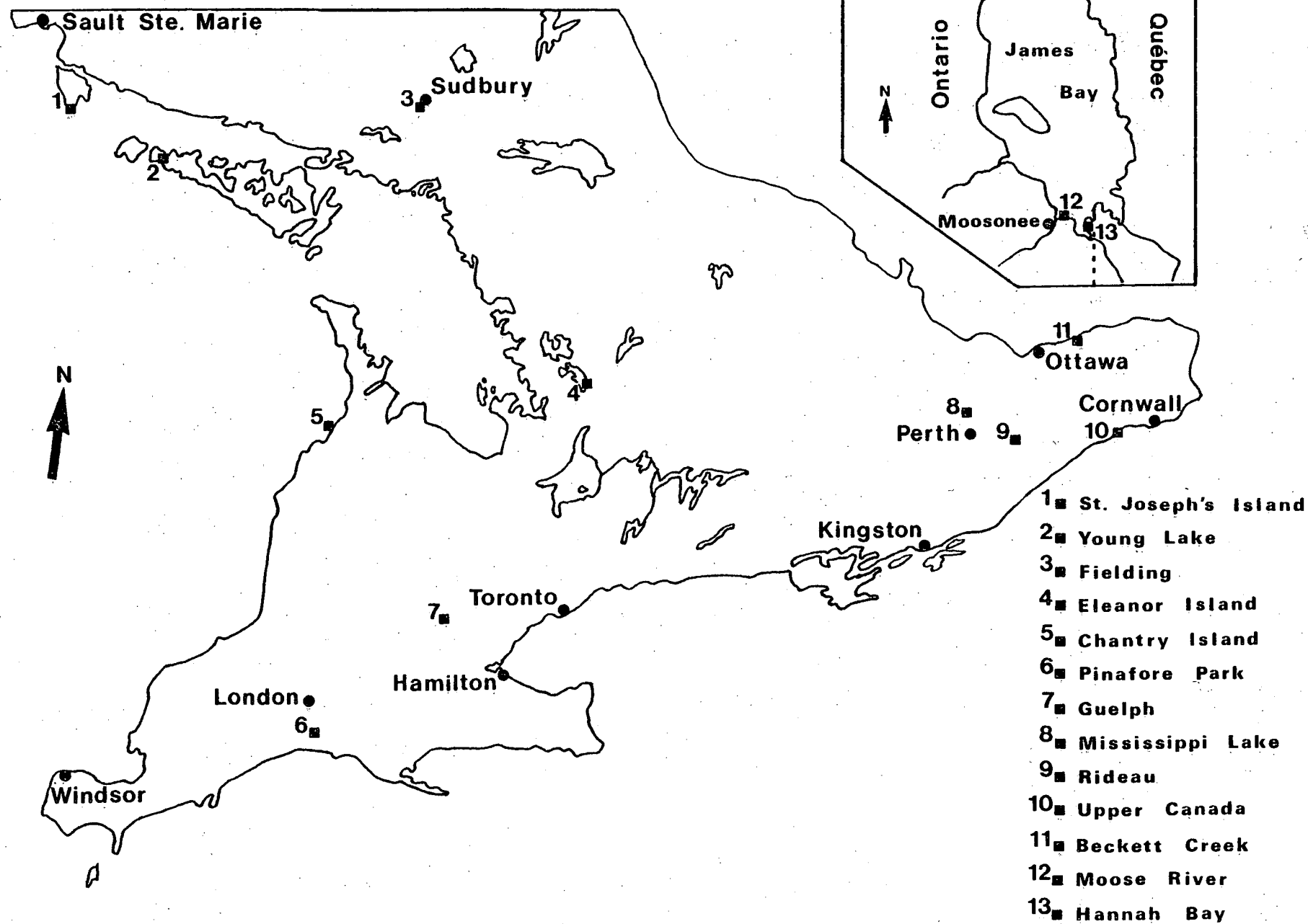
The writer, with help of CWS staff from 2 other regions, is preparing a list of required changes to the MB Sanctuary Regulations and Guidelines.

We hope that this Review will help identify the problems of MBS in Ontario, which we are sure must reflect in many ways a common situation across Canada.

We submit this Review to Senior Management and hope to be instructed to implement most of the recommendations hereby outlined.

J.F. Carreiro  
Head, Habitat &  
Ecological Assessment  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
Ontario Region

# MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARIES IN ONTARIO

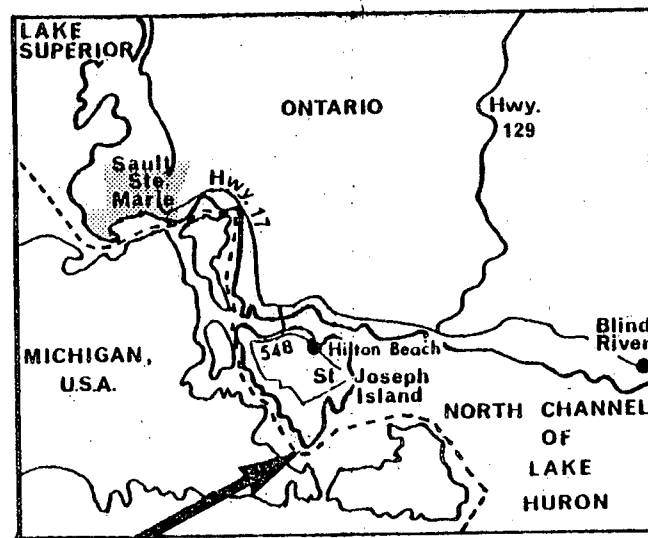
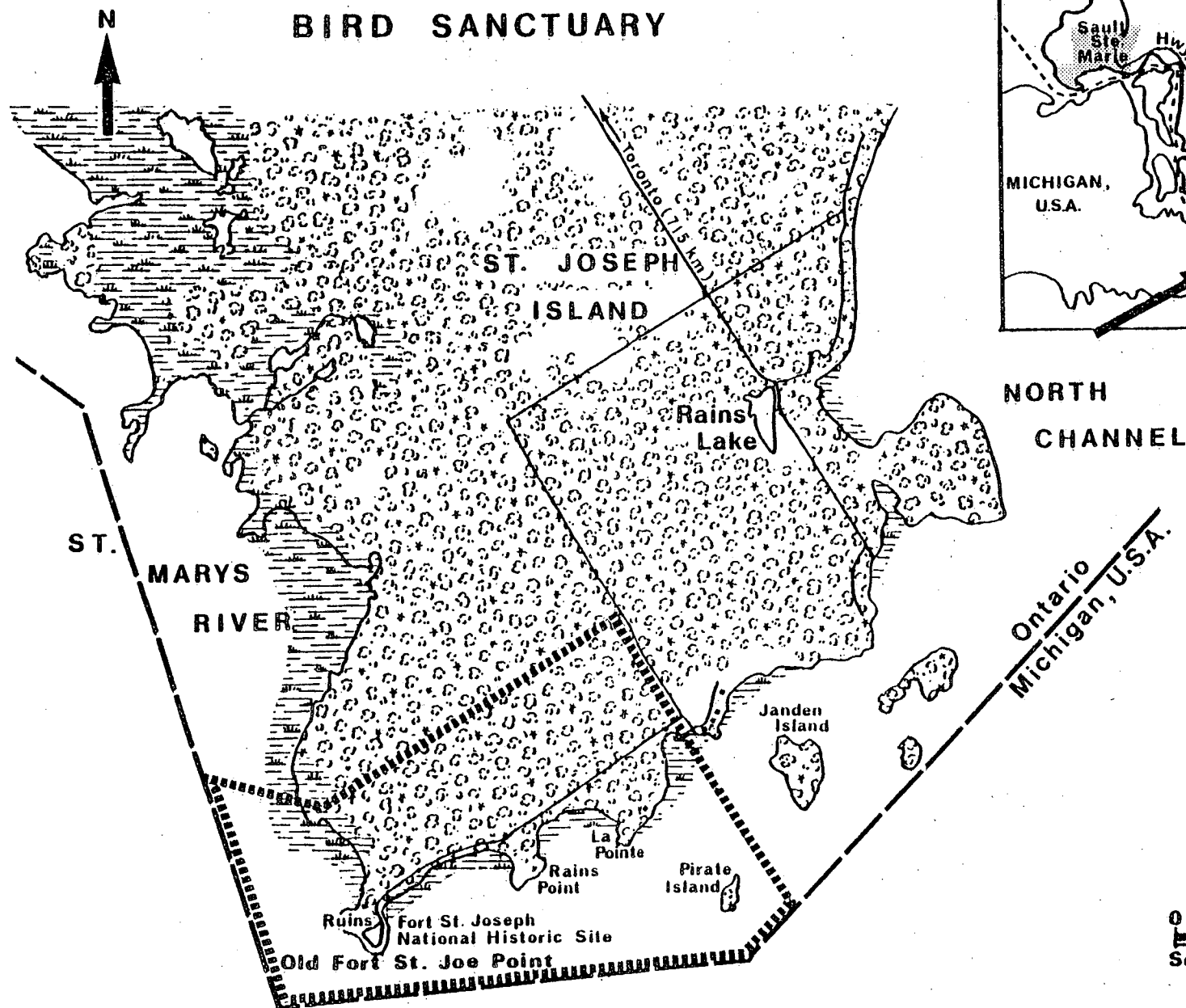





ST. JOSEPH'S ISLAND

BIRD SANCTUARY

# ST. JOSEPH'S ISLAND

## BIRD SANCTUARY



-  MBS Boundary
-  Lakeshore Marsh
-  Mixed Hardwood & Conifer Forest





# ST. JOSEPH'S ISLAND BIRD SANCTUARY

1. Location: Approximately 15 km south of Hilton Beach, Jocelyn Township, District of Algoma, Ontario.  
Lat. 46°04'; Longitude 83°55'  
UTM Grid Reference 736055  
N.T.S. 1:50 000 Sheet No. 41J/4W (St. Joseph Island)

2. Area: approximately 940 ha

3. Land ownership:

Parks Canada and Provincial Crown Land

4. Major Habitat Type:

forest	40%
open lake	50%
lakeshore marsh	8%
fort/interpretation site	2%

5. Description of Area:

St. Joseph Island is located at the west end of the North Channel of Lake Huron. The Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS) is situated at the southern tip of the Island. The boundary of the MBS extends offshore to the International Boundary.

A dense hardwood forest with scattered conifers covers most of the mainland portion of the MBS. Dominant trees are Red Maple, Red Oak, Beech, Yellow Birch, White Birch, Black Ash, Hemlock, Black Spruce, White Spruce and Eastern White Cedar. This forest habitat is common in the St. Joseph Island area.

A cleared area of about 2 ha at the southwest point contains the ruins of Old Fort St. Joseph and Parks Canada office and interpretation centre. Scattered clumps of Eastern White Cedar are located around the grassy knoll containing the old fort.

The shorelines of four small bays are composed of a fringe of Scirpus sp. marsh, backed by a narrow zone of Phragmites sp. Inland from this zone is a bayberry/alder strip. Sections of the shoreline not fringed with Scirpus are stony.

A very large marsh is located on the St. Marys River shoreline of St. Joseph Island north of the MBS. This wetland area, important to waterfowl and other wetland-dependent migratory birds, stretches from the MBS boundary north to Hay Point and Munuscong Lake. The general area is composed of open river, interspersed emergent vegetation, lakes and swamps.

The MBS also includes Pirate Island offshore from La Pointe Point. A number of other islands, including Janden Island, are located just to the east of the MBS.

The mainland portion of the MBS is a National Historic Park. A more detailed description of the vegetation of Fort St. Joseph National Historic Park can be found in Graham (1977).

6. Public Use:

Fort St. Joseph National Historic Park attracts many visitors each year from Canada as well as the United States. Park facilities now include the ruins of Old Fort St. Joseph and a visitor centre. Nature trails and possibly an expanded nature interpretation program are planned for the near future.

7. Importance to the Resource:

The St. Joseph Island BS is not of great importance in terms of its value to migratory birds. One of the main reasons that the MBS was originally established was to provide protection because "both diving and marsh ducks frequent the area in large numbers during the migration season and a few species such as Black Duck and Common and Red-breasted Mergansers breed in the area".

The open water and marsh areas of the MBS are utilized by some migrating waterfowl, most notably Scaup, but the numbers involved are insignificant compared to nearby areas. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) staff indicate that most of the duck use in the area occurs in the Hay Point marshes, to the north of the MBS. The nearby Pumpkin Point area is also locally important for migrating waterfowl. Both the Hay Point and Pumpkin Point marshes are hunted.

The MBS also has poor waterfowl breeding habitat, as was stated by B. Johnson in 1973.

A recent report (Graham, 1977) lists 120 bird species observed at Fort St. Joseph National Historic Park and provides a description of bird species/habitat associations. The author also makes note of the presence of a heron rookery, a Black Tern colony, a Herring Gull colony and a Bald Eagle nest, all outside the MBS. This report provides a thorough description of the avifauna typical of this area, which will provide a good base upon which to develop a nature interpretation program for the Park.

The MBS is of value to migratory birds, but there is little if anything to distinguish it from other similar areas nearby. It contains habitat and avifauna typical for the region.

#### 8. Historical and Present Land Use Conflicts:

In 1950, a petition was received by CWS from the Member of Parliament for Algoma West which supported the establishment of a bird sanctuary at the southern tip of St. Joseph Island. It was signed by two local Reeves, four councillors of Jocelyn Township, and thirty-nine local residents. This request was made in an effort to protect migratory birds from the extensive hunting that was occurring in the area, and also to provide a site which prohibited the entry of dogs. Local hunters would train dogs to chase deer toward the beach where capture was easy, and this resulted in complaints from residents in the area.

The Dominion Wildlife Officer for Ontario surveyed the area and found it to be suitable as a sanctuary site due to its use as a migration stopover. The proposed area was Crown Land consisting mainly of a Naval Reserve of 230 ha and 81 ha Military Reserve. These were no longer required by the Department of National Defense and the Land Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Northern Affairs agreed to their inclusion in a sanctuary.

Isolated on a peninsula extending south of the Military Reserve was the Old Fort Joseph Historic Site, under the jurisdiction of the National Parks and Historic Site Services. Due to its location, in between the reserve and offshore sections, the site was a necessary component of the sanctuary and permission was granted to include it.

The offshore area of the proposed sanctuary constituted navigable waters and was therefore the responsibility of the Department of Transport. This federal agency concurred with the proposed sanctuary, provided that navigation rights and the maintenance of navigational equipment were not interfered with.

The St. Joseph's Island Bird Sanctuary was established on March 8, 1951.

A 1973 CWS survey, conducted at the request of Parks Canada, described the MBS as of minor importance as a migration stopover, poor breeding habitat for waterfowl and ineffective at reducing the hunting of waterfowl. CWS biologist B. Johnson recommended that the MBS be cancelled "rather than continue the false impression that the area, because it is a sanctuary, is doing something positive for migratory birds".

In the fall of 1973 the Regional Director of Parks Canada requested that CWS not proceed with the planned cancellation of the MBS until a zoning scheme was developed to provide some measure of protection for the site.

In October of 1974 Parks Canada was again informed of CWS desires to cancel the St. Joseph's Island MBS because of its limited value to migratory birds.

Since 1982 the mainland portion of the MBS, the old naval and military reserves, has been designated Fort St. Joseph National and Historic Park. As such, the mainland area of the MBS is subject to National Park regulations. This legislation enables Parks Canada to regulate visitor use and activity. The restoration of the old fort site and construction of the visitor centre have had minor impact on the value of the habitat to migratory birds.

Parks Canada is presently determining their requirements for inclusion of offshore areas in the Park. These areas might include offshore islands and shoreline open water to protect archeological sites such as old docks and piers. Decisions on the type of offshore boundary, and a legal survey of same, have not at this time been made.

#### 9. Protective Status and Enforcement:

Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations under the Migratory Birds Convention Act (P.C. 1951-1118, March 8, 1951 and P.C. 1974-1989, September 10, 1974).

National and Historic Parks Regulations under the National Parks Act (P.C. 1982-3136).

As noted above the mainland portion of the MBS is also subject to the National and Historic Parks Regulations. This legislation enables Parks Canada to regulate visitor use and activities within the Park.

Parks Canada staff post the mainland boundary of the MBS yearly with MBS and National Park signs. The offshore water boundary is not, and never has been, posted. Signs are placed at the shoreline.

District OMNR staff report no enforcement problems and limited hunting pressure in the area from local residents. Parks staff indicate that some waterfowl hunting takes place in the open water outside the MBS signs, but technically within the MBS.

10. Recommendations:

- (i) That the St. Joseph's Island BS be eliminated.

This MBS is of no special importance to migratory birds and is serving no useful purpose. To quote CWS biologist B. Johnson, the MBS should be cancelled "rather than continue the false impression that the area, because it is a 'sanctuary', is doing something positive for migratory birds".

Parks Canada now has the legislative authority to control public use and activities on the mainland portion of the MBS. Parks regulations, in conjunction with the Migratory Birds Convention Act and Regulations, can provide an adequate level of protection for migratory birds and their habitat at this site.

11. References:

Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region  
File No. 9396-6-16 (2 vol.)

Graham, H.D. 1977. An avifaunal inventory of Fort St. Joseph National Historic Park, 1976. Contract No. CR 76-21. Parks Canada, Cornwall, Ontario.

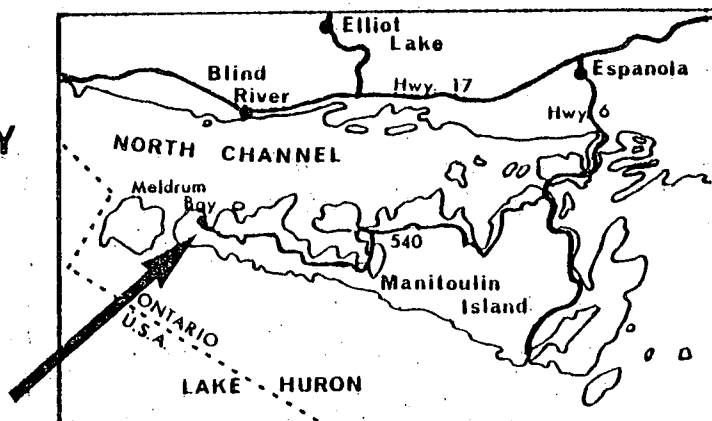
YOUNG LAKE  
BIRD SANCTUARY

# YOUNG LAKE BIRD SANCTUARY

----- MBS Boundary

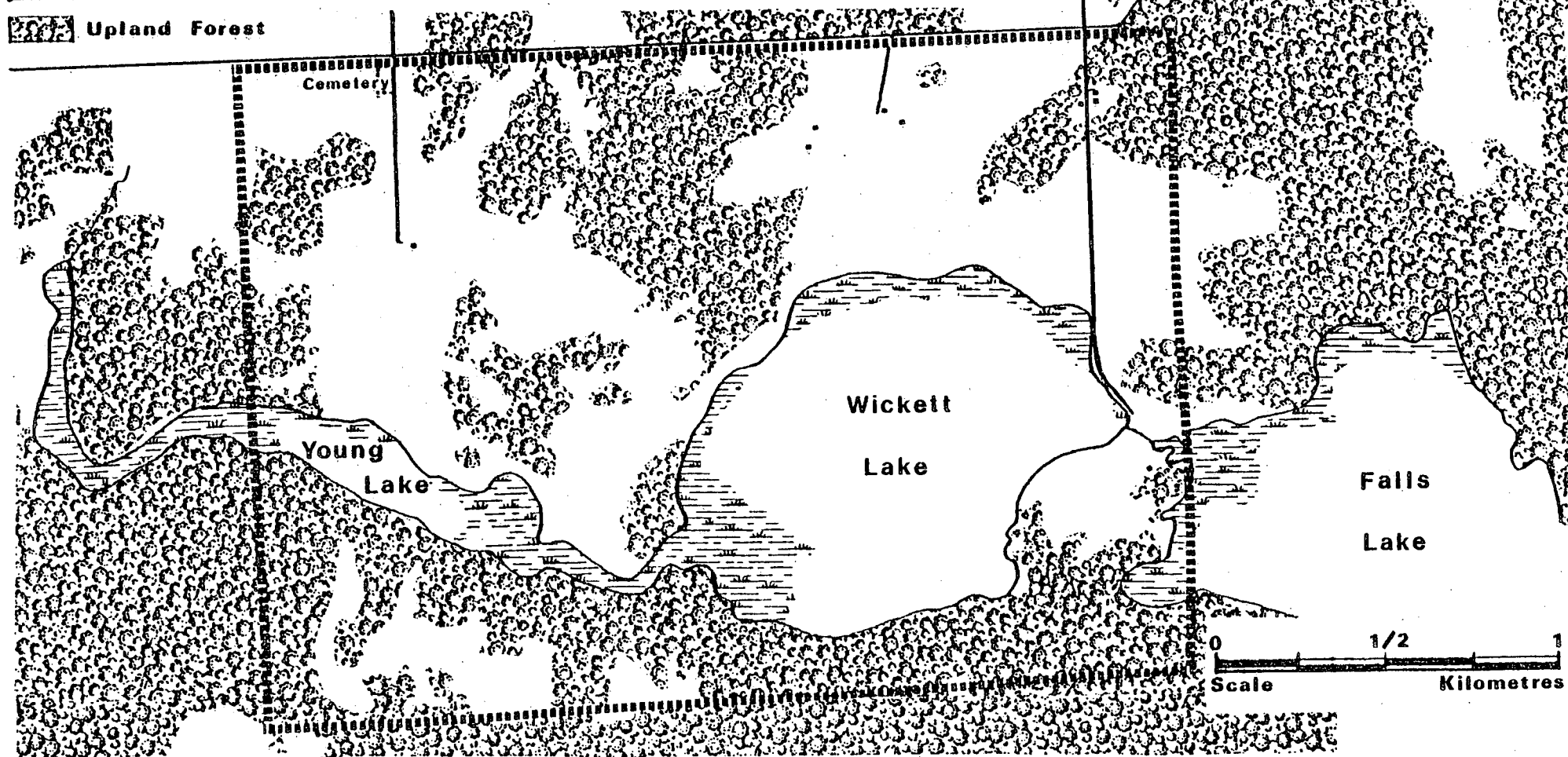
Wetland

Upland Forest



MELDRUM

BAY



## YOUNG LAKE BIRD SANCTUARY

1. Location: 3 km southwest of Meldrum Bay, Dawson Township, Manitoulin County, Ontario.  
Latitude 45°54' Longitude 83°08'  
UTM Grid Reference 343853  
N.T.S. 1:50 000 41 G/14 (Meldrum Bay)

2. Area: 534 ha

3. Land ownership:

Private ownership, (major landowners W. Joyce and M. Wickett)

4. Major Habitat Type:

open lake	15%
wetland	5%
pasture/farmland	55%
woodland	25%

5. Description of Area:

Young Lake Bird Sanctuary is located at the western end of Manitoulin Island, 3 km southwest of Meldrum Bay.

The area generally has shallow soils underlain by limestone. The main features of the Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS) are the centrally located Young and Wickett Lakes. Young Lake, the smaller of the two, is very shallow with a muddy bottom. The east and west ends of the lake have typical wetland vegetation such as Typha sp., Scirpus sp., Nuphar sp., Elodea canadensis and some Potamogeton spp. The main body of the lake is almost devoid of submergent growth. A small beaver dammed creek connects Young Lake to Wickett Lake. The beaver flooded creek has dense growth of Alnus sp., Scirpus sp., Typha sp. and some submergents. At the point where the creek enters the western end of Wickett Lake, it has a vegetation growth similar to that found at Young Lake. Most of Wickett Lake is open water.

The north section of the MBS is pasture with scattered pockets of bush. To the south of Young and Wickett Lakes the MBS is solid mixed hardwood/softwood bush.

Habitat contained within the MBS is very common in the area. Numerous lakes similar to Young and Wickett Lakes are located in the vicinity.



6. Public Use:

Because of the private ownership of the property within the MBS, public use is limited.

7. Importance to the Resource:

It is reported by a local landowner and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) staff that the Young Lake MBS attracts a peak of approximately 200 ducks and about 25 Canada Geese during migration. Although a few Canada Geese stop at the MBS during spring migration and some have been seen in the general area during late spring/early summer, no Canada Geese have nested at the MBS. One of the main reasons for establishing the MBS was to encourage Canada Geese to nest.

A number of puddle ducks have been recorded as nesting in the MBS each year, with Black Ducks being the most noteworthy (Perret, 1961). While the MBS has been described as having "excellent nesting cover", the habitat is not uncommon in the area.

Staff of OMNR have noted larger concentrations of migrating waterfowl on lakes adjacent to and in the vicinity of the Young Lake BS than on lakes within the MBS. Those lakes with the larger concentrations are hunted each fall.

8. Historical and Present Land Use Conflicts:

In 1959 the Dawson Conservation Club proposed the formation of a sanctuary at Meldrum Bay, Manitoulin Island centered around Young and Wickett Lakes. It was stated that hunting was limiting the use of the proposed site by waterfowl. Although the area was privately owned, the Conservation Club obtained permission from the landowners to propose the establishment of a sanctuary.

A biologist from the Canadian Wildlife Service examined the site in the fall of 1959 and submitted his recommendation in favour of establishing a Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

The Ontario Department of Lands and Forests did not concur. The Minister felt that the isolated conditions would present enforcement problems and more importantly, he questioned the value of small sanctuaries as a waterfowl management tool. The Minister was reluctant to concur

in the establishment of the sanctuary unless there were exceptional features which made the area unique. The Minister later bowed to pressure from the local landowners and the Dawson Conservation Club.

Young Lake Bird Sanctuary was established on September 29, 1960 (P.C. 1960-1337).

At present, no land use changes detrimental to the value of the MBS as migratory bird habitat have occurred. Normal farming operations continue on the upland.

9. Protective Status and Enforcement:

Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations under the Migratory Birds Convention Act (P.C. 1960-1337, September 29, 1960 and P.C. 1974-1989, September 10, 1974).

The land within the MBS is privately owned. The MBS was originally posted by the RCM Police. OMNR staff indicate that any required re-posting is carried out by the landowners.

No enforcement problems have been noted. The MBS is visited infrequently by enforcement staff.

The local landowners like the idea of the MBS as a "safe place for ducks". Although the landowners believe that MBS signs are more respected by the public than "no trespass" signs, appropriate posting as private land to restrict public access under the revised "The Trespass to Property Act" would likely provide adequate protection for the area.

10. Recommendations:

That the Young Lake BS be eliminated.

This MBS is of only very local importance to migratory birds. The MBS is not frequented by large numbers of waterfowl which are heavily hunted and in need of additional protection in the region. Numerous similar areas exist in the region and many which are hunted receive greater use by waterfowl than does the MBS.

The MBS is on private property and appropriate posting could provide adequate protection for migratory birds if the landowners so desired.

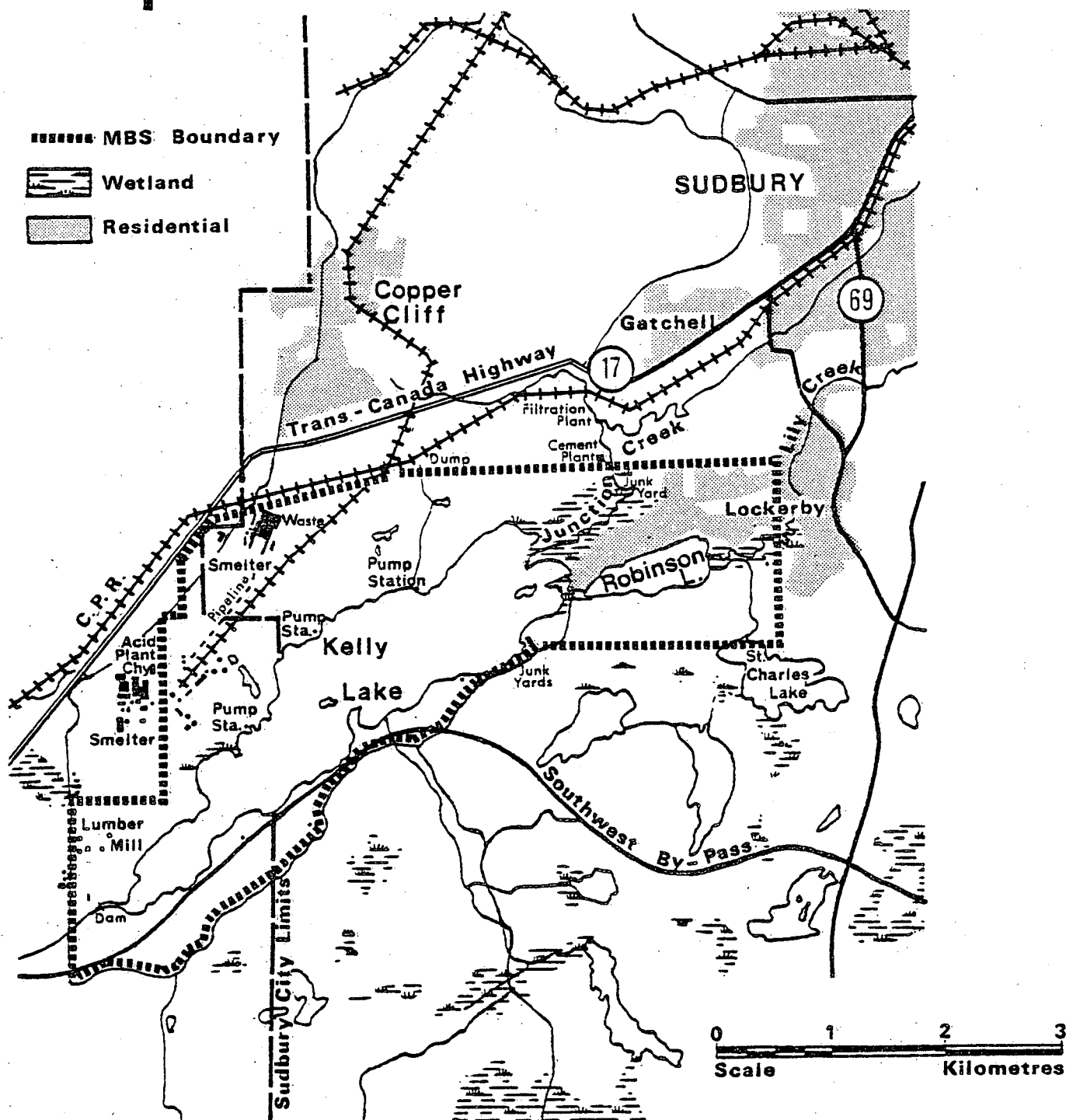
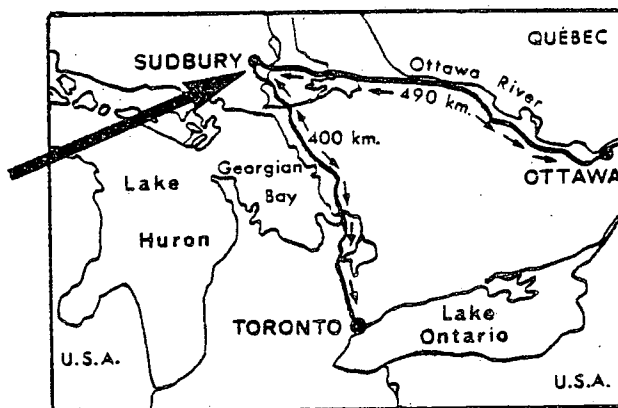
11. References:

Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region,  
File No. 9396-6-18.

FIELDING

BIRD SANCTUARY

# FIELDING BIRD SANCTUARY



## FIELDING BIRD SANCTUARY

1. Location: 2 km south of Copper Cliff within the City of Sudbury and Walden Township, District of Sudbury, Ontario  
Latitude 46°27' Longitude 81°04'  
UTM Grid Reference 948441  
N.T.S. 1:50 000 41 I/6 (Copper Cliff)

2. Area: 1,295 ha

3. Land ownership:

International Nickel Company of Canada  
Nickel District Conservation Authority  
private ownership

4. Major Habitat Type:

open lake	30%
abandoned farmland	10%
scrub bush	5%
wet meadow/wetland	5%
subdivision/industrial	50%

5. Description of Area:

Fielding Bird Sanctuary is situated almost wholly within the City of Sudbury, and includes Kelly and Robinson Lakes. Open lake comprises about 30% of the Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS) area. The lakes are fringed by scattered growths of Scirpus sp. and Typha sp. Little submergent aquatic growth is present.

Few plant species are capable of sustained growth as a result of the pollution from extensive nickel smelting operations in the area.

At the inlet end of Kelly Lake a wide grassy wet meadow surrounds the meandering Junction Creek. Immediately adjacent to this meadow is an industrial complex and a subdivision which is presently expanding. Both lakes are surrounded by sparsely vegetated rock, with old field and scattered trees back from the water's edge.

The International Nickel Company of Canada, which owns approximately half of the land within the MBS, is located along the northwest corner of the property. Located on the INCO property are a smelter, a refinery and tailings.

At the southwest end of Kelly Lake a small recreation and conservation area is being developed.

6. Public Use:

A limited amount of boating activity occurs on Kelly and Robinson Lakes. Public use of the southwest portion of the MBS will likely increase when the recreation centre near the outlet creek is completed.

7. Importance to the Resource:

Kelly Lake receives some use by early spring migrants since the inlet at Junction Creek is one of the first areas to open up. A few Goldeneye, Bufflehead and other waterfowl species concentrate in the available open water. Migrating ducks and some Canada Geese also utilize the MBS during the spring, however, no large numbers are present. During fall migration several species of waterfowl utilize the two lakes, but again no large numbers are present. The MBS can be described as a local staging area of no great importance.

The type of habitat present in the MBS is very common throughout the region. In terms of use by migratory birds (specifically waterfowl), Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) District staff report that similar lakes in the area that are hunted support more waterfowl throughout the migration period than do the lakes in the Fielding BS.

Other species of birds, such as Ring-billed Gulls and Great Blue Herons, which are common in the region, also frequent the MBS.

8. Historical and Present Land Use Conflicts:

In 1951 local landowners and the local fish and game club proposed the formation of a Sudbury sanctuary surrounding Kelly Lake and Robinson Lake. At this time the City of Sudbury did not encompass the lakes and they were therefore open to hunting. All fifteen landowners signed a petition supporting the proposed sanctuary. The International Nickel Company of Canada and the Copper Cliff Rod and Gun Club also expressed their desire to have a sanctuary established at Kelly Lake. The proposed sanctuary was to protect waterfowl, but in addition one main purpose was to provide a landing site for aircraft which was protected from hunting activity.

The area was examined by a biologist from the Canadian Wildlife Service, and on June 6, 1952 (P.C. 1952-3240) the Fielding Bird Sanctuary was established.

In 1955, a new iron-ore separation plant was constructed by INCO, the discharge from which was responsible for polluting a stream which flowed through the MBS into Kelly Lake. That effluent, composed of complex carbon structures was apparently damaging the aquatic vegetation thereby destroying the value of the area as waterfowl habitat. Within the next four years INCO, responding to government and public concern over the pollution, established a settling basin and redirected the stream away from Kelly Lake. At present it is understood that any water pumped into Kelly Lake is not considered to be polluted.

The subdivision developments at the northeast end of Kelly Lake and north of Robinson Lake have expanded during the last few years. New houses now back onto the wet meadow at Junction Creek. In at least one location land fill and garbage have been dumped beside a stream where it enters Kelly Lake.

Other than a sewage outfall, no other land use changes have occurred that have significantly affected the use of the MBS by migratory birds.

#### 9. Protective Status and Enforcement:

Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations under the Migratory Birds Convention Act (P.C. 1952-3240, June 6, 1952 and P.C. 1974-1989, September 10, 1974).

The MBS is almost wholly included within the City of Sudbury and as such is subject to the the City's no discharge of firearms bylaw. The small section of the MBS in Walden Township is also subject to a township no discharge bylaw (within 500 feet of a residence).

OMNR District staff report that no enforcement problems have occurred in the past and that very little enforcement effort is expended at the MBS. The development in and around the MBS has not created any enforcement problems. The main reason for a lack of enforcement problems is that the MBS receives little use by waterfowl therefore people are not attracted to the MBS. Nearby areas which support larger numbers of waterfowl are available for hunting.

The MBS is not presently posted. No MBS signs were observed during an August 1983 visit. Private no trespassing signs, however, were in evidence.



10. Recommendations:

- (1) That the Fielding MBS be eliminated  
The OMNR District staff concur.

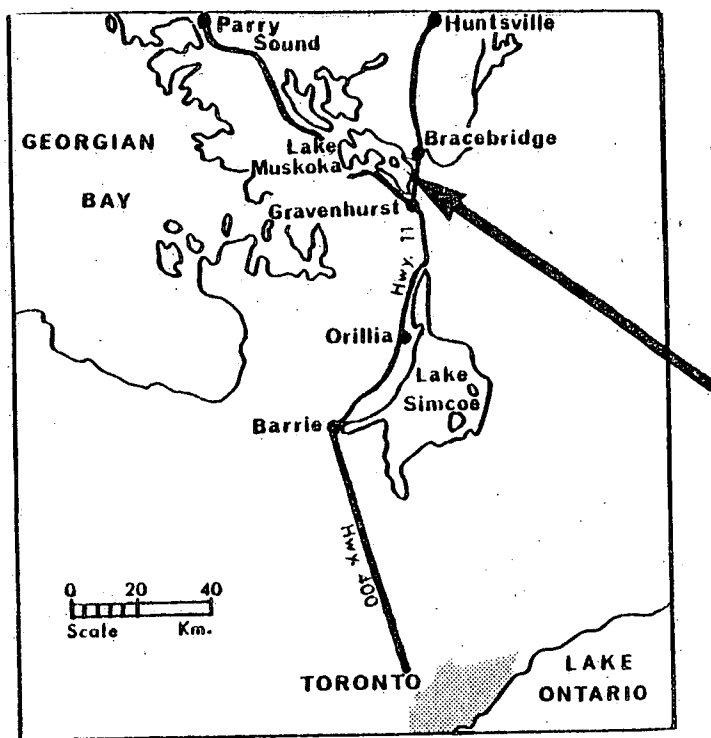
The MBS is of no special importance to waterfowl or other migratory birds, even on a local basis. Hundreds of other lakes and ponds exist in the area and many currently support far more use by waterfowl than does the MBS.

It is the opinion of CWS and OMNR that appropriate posting of the property surrounding Kelly Lake, as per The Trespass to Property Act of 1980, in conjunction with the City of Sudbury's no discharge of firearms bylaw would provide an adequate level of protection for the area commensurate with its value to migratory birds.

11. References:


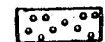



Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region,  
File No. 9396-6-6.

ELEANOR ISLAND  
BIRD SANCTUARY

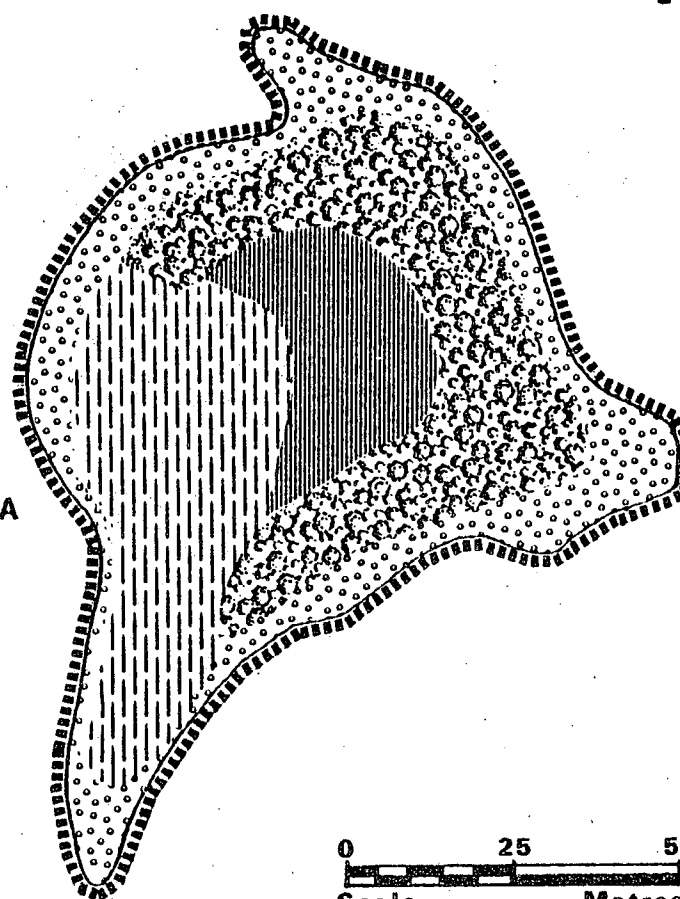


# ELEANOR ISLAND BIRD SANCTUARY



-  MBS Boundary
-  Rocks
-  Bare Rock, Scattered Grass & Shrubs
-  Grass & Shrubs
-  Trees & Shrubs

LAKE  
MUSKOKA



# ELEANOR ISLAND BIRD SANCTUARY

1. Location: 6.5 km north of Gravenhurst in Lake Muskoka District of Muskoka, Ontario.  
Latitude 44°59' Longitude 79°23'30"  
UTM Grid Reference 268822  
N.T.S. 1:50 000 31 D/14 (Gravenhurst)

2. Area: 0.6 ha

3. Land ownership:

Government of Canada; Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service, Eleanor Island National Wildlife Area.

4. Major Habitat Type:

shrub/tree	30%
bare rock/scattered grass and shrub	50%
grass/shrubs	20%

5. Description of Area:

The small rocky island is located in the lower section of Lake Muskoka, about 1.6 km from the mainland. The island is highest on the west side and slopes toward the east. The eastern third of the island is a mixture of Red Oak (Quercus rubra), Eastern White Cedar (Thuja occidentalis), Eastern White Pine (Pinus strobus), and various shrubs including Elderberry (Sambucus canadensis). Approximately half of the pines are dead. The central part of the island is a mixture of grasses and raspberry shrubs. The higher western third of the island is composed of bare rounded granite rock with clumps of grasses and shrubs scattered throughout. The western rock face drops steeply to the water's edge.

6. Public Use:

Recreational use of this island is low and basically limited to a few visits by interested birdwatchers.

7. Importance to the Resource:

Eleanor Island BS supports one of the few gull and heron colonies in the vicinity of Lake Muskoka. In 1970 the island was reported to have 20 to 30 nesting pair of Great Blue Heron and approximately 300 pair of nesting gulls (mainly Ring-billed Gulls with some Herring Gulls). During a visit to the Island in the spring of 1983, 23 Great Blue Heron nests were observed. At that time only five herons were on nests, but another 25 birds were flying about the island. Most of the heron nests were located in dead white pine snags; 5 of the 13 white pine contained in red oak trees.

Approximately 1200 Herring Gulls were on or around Eleanor Island during the above-noted 1983 visit. Herring Gull nests were scattered over the island; all areas except the cobble beach, the grass/shrub area and dense shrubs supported gull nests, however, most nests were located in the more open, rocky western third. At the time of the visit, April 22, 55 nests were located that contained from 1 to 3 eggs; 92 recently constructed nests that did not contain eggs were also found. It is safe to assume that in excess of 200 pair of Herring Gulls nested on Eleanor Island in 1983; the total was likely much higher.

Although the nesting activity of Great Blue Herons has killed almost one half of the white pine trees present on the island, nesting habitat for the birds should be sufficient for the near future. In the long term, the well-known destructive effect that Great Blue Herons have on a standing timber will likely result in a death of standing trees.

An expansion of the dense grass/raspberry shrub and/or dense shrub zones would reduce the nesting area available for Herring Gulls.

#### 8. Historical and Present Land Use Conflicts:

The Corporation of the Township of Muskoka purchased Eleanor Island and declared it a bird sanctuary because of the nesting gulls and herons. In 1970 the Township Council, concerned that under a new Regional Government they would lose control of land use on the island, offered Eleanor Island to the Canadian Wildlife Service with the understanding that the nesting colonies would be protected. On September 1, 1970 title to Eleanor Island was transferred to the Government of Canada. The following year, Eleanor Island was declared a Migratory Bird Sanctuary. Eleanor Island has since been designated as a National Wildlife Area under the Canada Wildlife Act (P.C. 1977-2958, October 20, 1977).

#### 9. Protective Status and Enforcement:

As stated in the previous section, Eleanor Island is designated and posted as both a National Wildlife Area (NWA) and a Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS). This dual designation is redundant. National Wildlife Area regulations can restrict activities and protect nesting birds as well or better than the MBS designation. The MBS status is only of value as a public recognition factor. As the public becomes more aware of the NWA program, the added status of MBS will become more superfluous. NWA regulations will allow strict control of public access and activities.

No enforcement problems have been noted by the District Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources enforcement staff, since little recreational activity takes place on Eleanor Island. In addition, the island is locally recognized as a sanctuary and many nearby residents take it upon themselves to keep an eye on the island.

10. Recommendations:

- (1) The present status of Eleanor Island as a MBS should be eliminated.

National Wildlife Area regulations can adequately restrict activities to protect nesting birds.

- (ii) A management plan for Eleanor Island should be prepared. That plan should address the protection of the nesting colonies, possibly by prohibiting access during the nesting season, April to August. Restricted access at other times is not required.

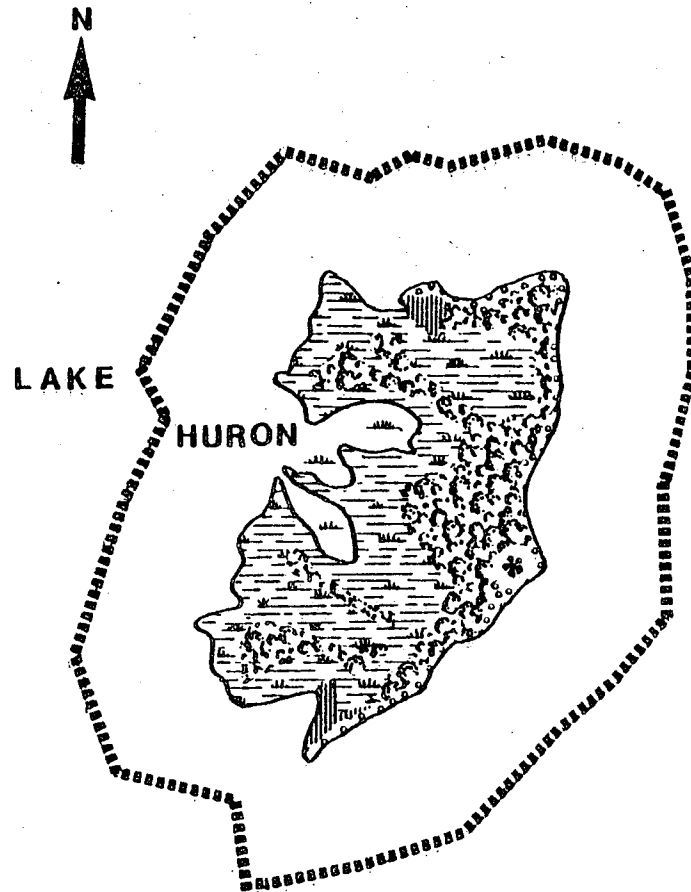
11. References:

Canadian Wildlife Service, London, Ontario. File No. 8275-6.

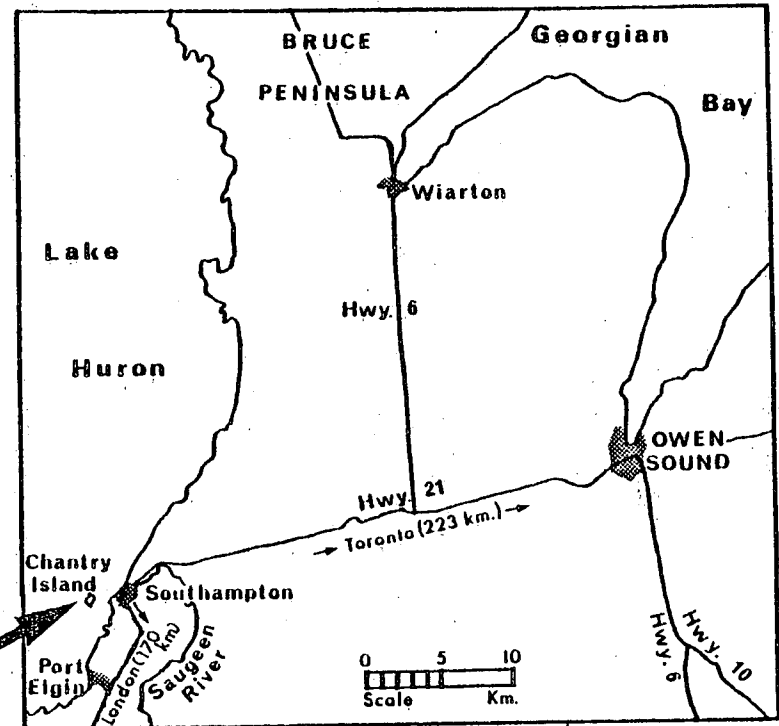
CHANTRY ISLAND





BIRD SANCTUARY

# CHANTRY ISLAND BIRD SANCTUARY



0 1/4 1/2  
Scale Kilometres



- MBS Boundary
-  Flooded Meadow
-  Cobble Beach
-  Grassy Ridge
-  Upland Trees & Shrubs
- \* Lighthouse



## CHANTRY ISLAND BIRD SANCTUARY

1. Location: 2 km southwest of Southampton, Saugeen Township,  
Bruce County, Ontario  
Latitude 44°29' Longitude 81°24'  
UTM Grid Reference 679263  
N.T.S. 1:50 000 41 I/6 (Chesley)

2. Area: 63 ha

3. Land ownership:

Government of Canada: Transport Canada

4. Major Habitat Type:

beach	3%
woodland (hardwood, some cedar)	10%
open ponds and bays	3%
wet meadow	17%
open lake	67%

5. Description of Area:

Chantry Island is located in Lake Huron, about 1 km off-shore from the town of Southampton. The island itself is approximately 19 ha in size, however, the Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS) boundary extends 183 metres offshore from the normal high water mark. At that offshore boundary the water depth is about 20 metres.

The east side of Chantry Island consists of a beach ridge fronted by a 7 m wide cobblestone beach. The ridge is approximately 3 m high and extends the full north-south length of the island. Smaller ridges are oriented perpendicular to this main ridge and run toward the west side of the island.

The main beach ridge is densely vegetated with Black Willow, Poplar, Basswood, some Maple, Choke Cherry, Red Elderberry and Red-osier Dogwood. To the west of the lighthouse, and on ground slightly lower than the beach ridge, a dense growth of white ash projects to the west. Some Red Oak are also present here. An Eastern White Cedar/Tamarack complex is located on the north side of this predominantly ash bush. The low ridges which run east-west are sparsely treed.

The west side of the island is very flat and consists of several rocky bays and ponds. These open areas grade into a wet meadow zone that appears to be flooded regularly by wind tides. The wet meadow, composed of sedges and grasses (Calamagrostis sp.), slopes gently to the east where it merges with the treed zone.

Dense growths of lilac are found around the lighthouse and the two old stone buildings. Herbaceous cover on the beach ridge includes Clintonia, Wild Cucumber, Herb Robert and grasses.

#### 6. Public Use:

Visits are made to Chantry Island by the boating public but little abuse is now evident. Since about 1933 gulls have been banded on Chantry Island by local naturalists under the authority of a federal permit. During the late 1970's Canadian Wildlife Service, Toxicology Division staff undertook scientific studies of gulls on Chantry Island dealing with, among other things, the effects of chemicals on reproductive success, population levels, behaviour and reproductive performance.

Activities associated with periodic inspection and maintenance visits by Transport Canada staff are normally centered around the automated lighthouse.

#### 7. Importance to the Resource:

Chantry Island was originally proposed as a MBS because of its gull and heron colonies. At that time Herring Gulls were undoubtedly the most common nesting bird, however, as is the case in most of the Great Lakes the Ring-billed Gull population has exploded. In 1978, the most recent year for which accurate figures exist, Chantry Island supported 7,890 Ring-billed Gull nests and 3,797 Herring Gull nests. The 1978 census also notes 70 Black-crowned Night Heron nests and 30 Great Blue Heron nests.

In 1980, 30 Great Blue Heron nests were observed in a small grouping of trees at the southwest corner of the island. The nests were located on one of the low ridges in poplar, basswood, dead cedar and dead birches. The trees were described as highly exposed and in poor shape.

In 1983 the colony at the location described in 1980 had disappeared. Twenty-five Great Blue Heron nests were now located in the large White Ash bush immediately to the

west of the lighthouse. These nests were all of a size to suggest that the colony had been at its present location for at least two years. Black-crowned Night Heron nests were also located in the zone of cedar just to the north of the Great Blue Heron colony, and in dense mixed growth on the inside edge of the beach ridge.

In November of 1983 approximately 250 ducks were observed on the west side of Chantry Island. Most of the birds were Mallards, but about 25 Black Ducks were also present. The bays and ponds on the western side of Chantry Island provide locally important habitat for waterfowl migrating down the shoreline of Lake Huron. A few ducks have been noted as nesting on Chantry Island, but the MBS is not a significant nesting area.

It is likely that the wet meadow zone and the shallow ponds and bays on the west side of Chantry Island are utilized by migrating shorebirds, although no observations have been made to document the above.

#### 8. Historical and Present Land Use Conflicts:

Chantry Island was brought to the attention of CWS in 1957 by a group of concerned local (Southampton) naturalists and the McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London. These citizens felt that the gull and heron colonies were being threatened by a proposal from individuals who wished to lease the island from the Ministry of Transport (MOT) and create a recreation area featuring cottages and picnic areas. The area was examined by a biologist from the Canadian Wildlife Service and recommended as a MBS because of its large gull colonies. The Department of Transport agreed to the establishment of a MBS on the condition that their rights to maintain navigational aids were not jeopardized. The then Minister of Ontario Lands and Forests, Mr. Clare E. Mapledoram, agreed to the designation of the island as a MBS, although it was stated that he felt the proposed sanctuary was quite superfluous. It was felt that regulations under the Migratory Birds Convention Act could adequately protect the gull colonies.

After much negotiation with MOT, the Canadian Wildlife Service had Chantry Island and its surrounding waters declared a Migratory Bird Sanctuary on December 20, 1957.

As early as 1962 complaints were voiced about the increase in the gull population and the resulting increase in

public nuisance. In 1963 CWS biologist W.R. Miller reported that "a definite gull problem exists in several of the towns bordering the lake" (Huron). Miller further stated that in his view, because of the existing gull problem and the widespread explosion of gull populations, the MBS status should be removed or established on a limited-use basis, that is, in effect only during the nesting season. No action was taken.

In 1980 concern was expressed over MOT's brush clearing operations around the lighthouse. Maintenance crews undertook this work around June 25 which caused some mortality of gull chicks in the vicinity.

As stated previously, CWS Toxicology Division has undertaken scientific studies of gulls on Chantry Island during the past few years. One such study required the construction of chicken wire exclosures. During the 1983 visit to Chantry Island three exclosures were observed in disarray. The mess of wood and chicken wire is an eyesore and does nothing to further the image of CWS in the eyes of MOT and the public.

9. Protective Status and Enforcement:

Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations under the Migratory Birds Convention Act (P.C. 1957-1692, December 20, 1957 and P.C. 1974-1989, September 10, 1974).

The Chantry Island MBS remained unposted from 1957 until 1963. As a result of this, the public as well as provincial and federal enforcement staff were confused about the status of the island. Several violations occurred, but no charges were laid because of the lack of posting. In 1963 the R.C.M. Police erected MBS signs on Chantry Island. During a 1967 visit to the MBS by a CWS biologist, no MBS signs were observed. The island was again posted. During the 1983 visit to Chantry Island, no MBS signs were in evidence.

District OMNR staff report few enforcement problems at the Chantry Island MBS.

10. Recommendations:

- (1) That, for the present, the status of Chantry Island MBS should be continued.

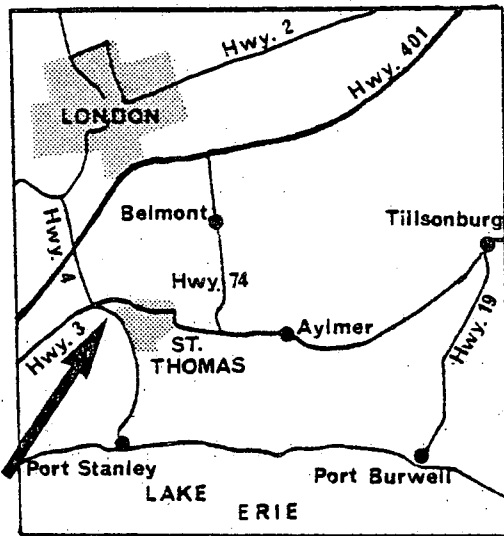
- (ii) Chantry Island should be transferred to CWS when the island is no longer required by Transport Canada. At that time, Chantry Island should be declared a National Wildlife Area under the Canada Wildlife Act, and the MBS designation should be eliminated. NWA Regulations would allow for stricter control of activities on Chantry Island during the nesting season. Access to the island could be prohibited yearly from May to August. This would allow undisturbed nesting to occur and at other times of the year recreational activities that would not detrimentally affect the colonies could be permitted. Designation as a NWA would, if required, permit management of the vegetation to benefit specific species. A management plan would be drafted to address these and other issues if Chantry Island was declared a National Wildlife Area.
- (iii) Chantry Island MBS should be posted yearly, or as required.
- (iv) The Toxicology Division of CWS should be required to remove material and clean up study areas in the MBS at the completion of yearly scientific work. Scientific research work should only be implemented under MBS Permit.

11. References:

Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region  
File No. 9396-6-4

PINAFORE PARK  
BIRD SANCTUARY


# PINAFORE PARK BIRD SANCTUARY

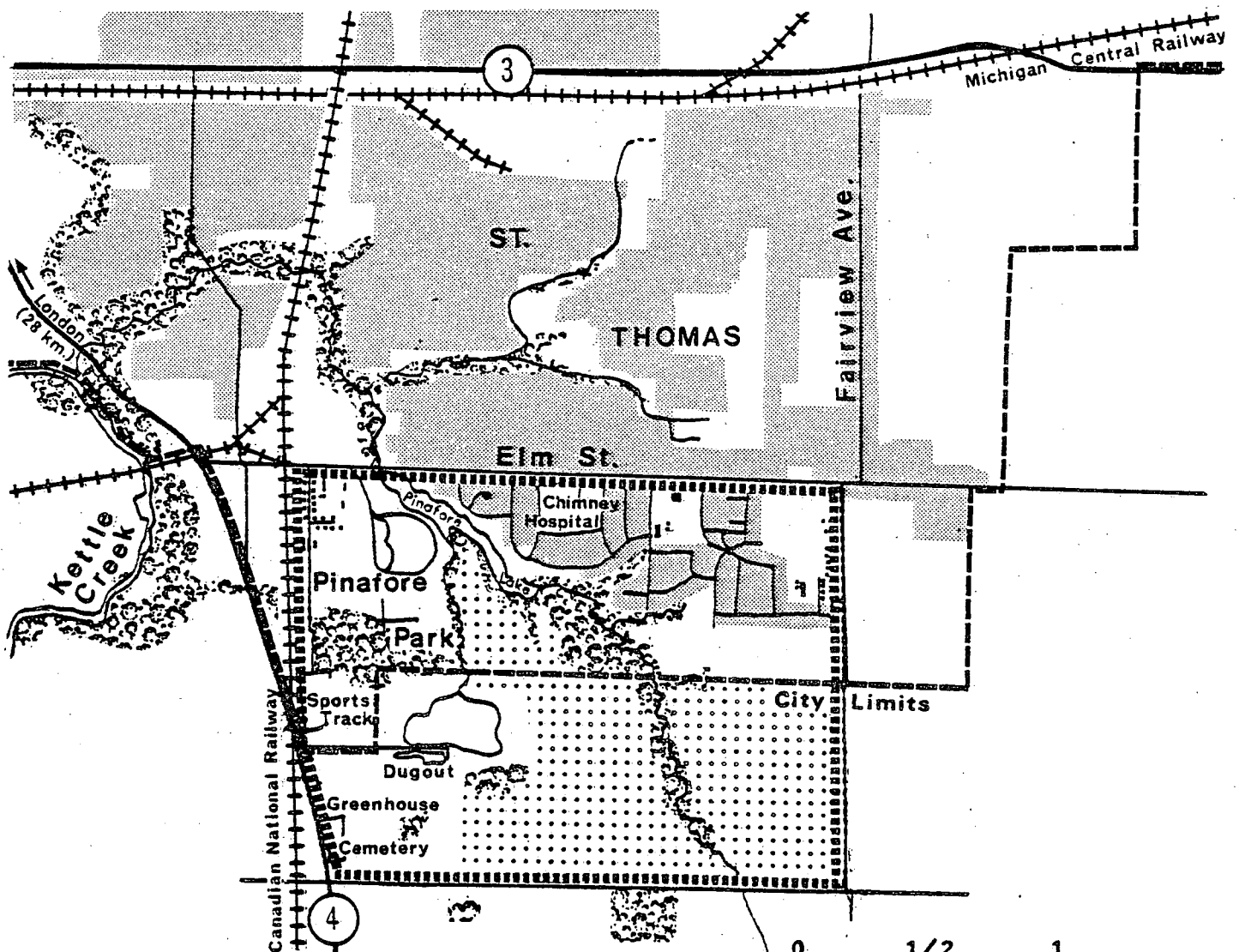


----- MBS Boundary

 Residential

 Upland Forest

 Cropland



0 1/2 1  
Scale Kilometres

# PINAFORE PARK BIRD SANCTUARY

1. Location: About half of the Sanctuary is located within the City of St. Thomas and half within Yarmouth Township, Elgin County, Ontario  
Latitude 42°45' Longitude 81°11'  
UTM Grid Reference 855337  
N.T.S. 1:50 000 41 I/14 (St. Thomas)

2. Area: 403

3. Land ownership:

Corporation of the City of St. Thomas  
St. Thomas Cemetery Co.  
numerous private holdings

4. Major Habitat Type:

Agricultural	44%
Subdivision/industrial	40%
City Park	6%
Woodland	5%
Open water (lake gravel pit)	5%

5. Description of Area:

Pinafore Park Bird Sanctuary is partially situated within the southern limits of the City of St. Thomas and subsequently includes residential areas, hospital, Pinafore Municipal Park and Pinafore Lake. The southern end of Pinafore Lake has typical wetland vegetation and includes a section of flooded stream. Some woodland and agricultural land are also located within the City boundary.

South of the City limits the Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS) contains a large flooded gravel pit, a cemetery, a nursery stock farm, agricultural land and some residences along the concessions roads.

The habitat contained within the MBS is common in the St. Thomas area. Numerous ponds and gravel pits are located in the general area and much of the Yarmouth Township is productive agricultural land.

The main features of the MBS are the open water areas, Pinafore Lake and the gravel pit, and the agricultural fields.



6. Public Use:

Pinafore Park receives many visitors over the course of the year. One attraction of the Park is the caged display of native songbirds, held under CWS permit by the parks department of the City of St. Thomas. During spring and fall migration visitors to the Park may see upwards of 1500 to 2000 waterfowl.

7. Importance to the Resource:

During the fall up to 1000 ducks, mainly Mallard and Wood Ducks, utilize Pinafore Lake and the gravel pit as a staging area of local importance. Most of the Mallards will feed on waste grain in the adjacent farm fields. A maximum of 1500 Canada Geese will also utilize the gravel pit and Lake during the fall. These birds are part of a larger flock which traditionally stage on the St. Thomas Reservoir in the Provincial Crown Game Preserve north of the City. Approximately 4000-5000 Canada Geese utilize the Reservoir each fall and some of the birds exhibit a daily movement pattern from the Reservoir to the MBS and the surrounding area to feed. Many birds loaf in the Lake and gravel pit during the day.

Up until 1980 the area south of St. Thomas and adjacent to the MBS was designated as a Provincial Crown Game Preserve. Since that designation was removed the habitat within the MBS has provided a more important refuge for the waterfowl.

8. Historical and Present land Use Conflicts:

In February of 1955 the Council of the Corporation of the City of St. Thomas requested that Pinafore Park be designated as a Federal Migratory Bird Sanctuary. The Park was valued as a refuge for waterfowl, but hunting activity outside the City limit was adversely affecting the value of the area. City officials, the Elgin Field Naturalist Club and local landowners were anxious that the area be designated a sanctuary. The Dominion Wildlife Officer for Ontario examined the area and approved it as a potential sanctuary. The Minister of Ontario Lands and Forests concurred.

Pinafore Park and surrounding lands within the concession block were officially designated as a Migratory Bird Sanctuary on December 7, 1955.

No major land use changes have occurred in the recent past that have adversely affected the use of the MBS by migratory birds. The area of subdivisions has increased, however, these areas are removed from the gravel pit/Pinafore Lake area. A greater acreage of corn is now being grown, and this is presently providing more field feeding opportunity within the MBS. The nature of the gravel pit pond area has not, nor is it likely to change in the near future.

9. Protective Status and Enforcement:

Migratory Bird Regulations under the Migratory Birds Convention Act (P.C. 1955-1811, December 7, 1955 and P.C. 1974-1989, September 10, 1974).

Approximately the northern half of the MBS is included within the city of St. Thomas and is therefore subject to the no discharge of firearms Municipal by law. The remaining part of the MBS is private rural property and could be posted as "no trespassing", however more disturbance to the waterfowl using the area would likely occur. In general the public has more respect for a MBS sign than for a "no trespass" sign.

No major enforcement problems presently exist. The enforcement staff of Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) receive only a few complaint calls each year.

OMNR District staff indicate some concern that if the MBS status was removed, and posting of the private property in the township did not prevent trespass, that the Township of Yarmouth would pass a no discharge of firearms bylaw that might encompass the whole township, not just the area within the present MBS. OMNR has been working to prevent the spread of such bylaws which can close large areas to recreational shooting and hunting.

Posting of the MBS is undertaken annually by the Parks Department of the City of St. Thomas.

10. Recommendations:

The Pinafore Park MBS be reviewed for possible elimination  
This MBS acts as a locally important staging area for ducks and Canada Geese in conjunction with the Provincially Crown Game Preserve reservoir. The northern half of the present MBS is contained within the City of St. Thomas and is subject to a no discharge of firearms municipal bylaw. No trespass posting of the private

property in the southern half of the present MBS should minimize disturbance to any waterfowl loafing in the gravel pit pond.

As a result of eliminating the MBS, waterfowl use of the southern portion of the present MBS may decrease. However, the presence of Pinafore Lake, within the City of St. Thomas, and the St. Thomas reservoir, north of the City and within the Provincial Crown Game Preserve, should provide a more than adequate refuge area for migrating ducks and geese. Waterfowl use in the general St. Thomas area may decline only slightly as a result of this action.

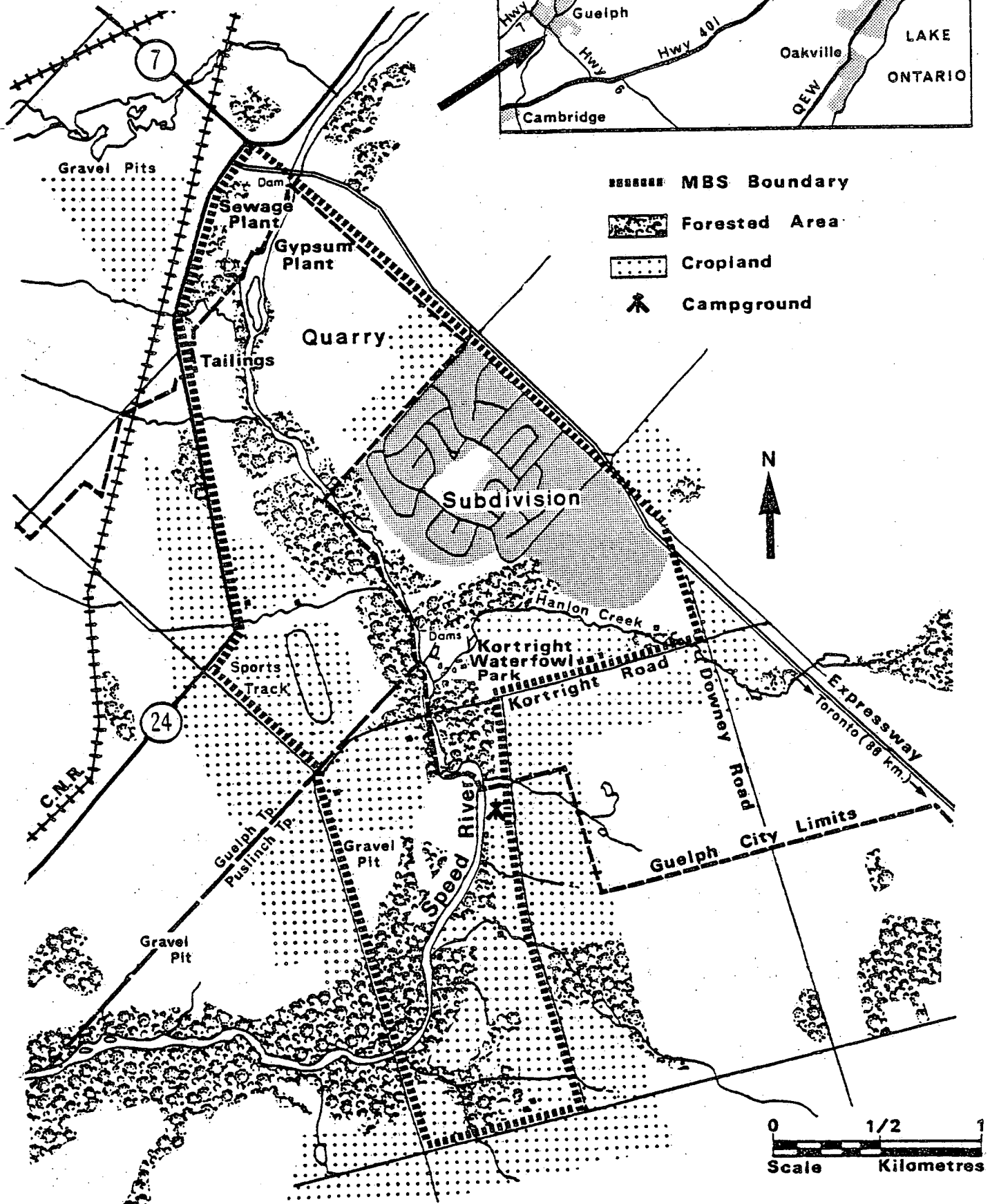
11. References:

Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region  
File No. 9396-6-13.

GUELPH  
BIRD SANCTUARY

# GUELPH

## BIRD SANCTUARY



## GUELPH BIRD SANCTUARY

1. Location: About 60% is located in Puslinch and Guelph Township, Wellington County, and 40% is located within the city limits of the City of Guelph, Ontario  
Latitude 43°30' Longitude 81°15'  
UTM Grid Reference 603164  
N.T.S. 1:50 000 40P/9 (Guelph) and 40P/8 (Cambridge)

2. Area: 620 ha

3. Land ownership:

A number of different owners hold title to the land contained within the Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS): Domlme (formerly Canadian Gypsum Co. Ltd.); City of Guelph; Grand River Conservation Authority; Provincial Crown Land; Niska Wildlife Foundation (Kortright Waterfowl Park), and, numerous private holdings.

4. Major Habitat Type:

river	3%
forested areas	32%
meadow	10%
agricultural	19%
residential/industrial	36%

5. Description of Area:

The Guelph Bird Sanctuary is a complex mixture of urban, industrial, rural and natural areas at the southern limits of the City of Guelph.

The major feature of importance to migratory birds is the Speed River which flows through the length of the Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS). The river is bordered by cedar bush and swamp along most of its length. In the northern half of the MBS the Speed River is bordered on the east side by a gypsum quarry and plant, and a major subdivision which has recently been expanding. At the very northern end of the MBS the City's sewage treatment plant discharges into the Speed River. This discharge, in addition to a number of spring-fed creeks, keeps the Speed River open during the winter months.

The Kortright Waterfowl Park and Niska Propagation and Research Centre are located in the central area of the MBS within a cedar bush. The park is situated on the lower reaches of the spring-fed Hanlon Creek where it enters the Speed River.

The western and southern sections of the MBS are a mixture of cedar bush, old field (goldenrod and hawthorn) and cultivated agricultural land.

6. Public Use:

Kortright Waterfowl Park, which is operated by the Niska Wildlife Foundation, has on public display approximately 1,000 captive waterfowl, representing over 75 different species of ducks, geese and swans from North America and around the world. Guided or self-guided tours are available to the public. In addition to the viewing of waterfowl, both captive and free-flying, activities such as hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are encouraged within the Park. Research facilities are also provided for students and professors from the University of Guelph. Research on migratory birds other than waterfowl is conducted by the University of Guelph in other areas of the MBS.

A privately-owned trailer park operates a facility within the MBS on the eastern side of the Speed River, south of Kortright. In addition to this recreational facility, a major subdivision is located within the MBS. A number of working farms and smaller rural homesites are located in the southern section of the MBS.

7. Importance to the Resource:

During the fall migration a peak of approximately 5000 ducks, mainly Mallard, Black Duck and Wood Duck, and 1000 Canada Geese are attracted to the MBS. The section of the Speed River receiving the most intensive use is centered about Kortright Waterfowl Park, however, most sections of the river both within and outside of the City of Guelph are utilized by numbers of waterfowl. Many of these birds will feed in corn stubble fields in the area of the MBS. The number of waterfowl remaining in the vicinity during the winter is about the same as peak numbers during the fall. Again, the Speed River adjacent to Kortright Waterfowl Park is intensively used by wintering waterfowl, predominantly Mallards. An estimated 200 Black Ducks wintering on the Speed River tend to concentrate in the open water just downstream from the sewage treatment plant. Small numbers of Wood Ducks, Pintail and Wigeon also winter on the Speed River.

The Guelph BS acts as a regionally important migration staging and wintering area for waterfowl and, as such, helps to make Kortright Waterfowl Park an important nature education centre.

#### 8. Historical and Present Land Use Conflicts:

In 1951, H.G. Mack, a private landowner, made a request that a piece of land at the southern edge of the City of Guelph be designated a Migratory Bird Sanctuary. He owned a game and waterfowl farm which exhibited geese, ducks, pheasants, peacocks, doves and other exotic birds. No comparable assemblage of live birds existed in Canada and the landowner made a request for the formation of a Migratory Bird Sanctuary to afford protection of the birds from hunters and vandals. This collection later became known as Kortright Waterfowl Park.

The area was used by large numbers of waterfowl in the winter since few other ice-free waters of comparable size existed in the area. Its proximity to Guelph promoted heavy hunting pressure and out-of-season shooting was difficult to control.

These reasons coupled with the landowner's request were the factors presented in support of the formation of a sanctuary. Eleven of twelve landowners, authorized its establishment. The City of Guelph, the Wellington County Fish and Game Protective Association, and many conservationists also supported the establishment of the Migratory Bird Sanctuary. The Canadian Wildlife Service had the Guelph Migratory Bird Sanctuary established on July 4, 1952 (P.C. 1952-3464).

The major land use conflict in the Guelph BS is the development and expansion of residential subdivisions near the Kortright Waterfowl Park. Unfortunately for the persons opposed to the development of these subdivisions, the Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations cannot restrict land use practices on private land. In addition to this, residents of the subdivisions are technically in violation if they allow their pets to run at large.

As previously stated the section of the Speed River that is most intensively used by waterfowl is adjacent to Kortright Waterfowl Park and the habitat is therefore relatively secure. No such security exists for other sections of the river that are privately owned, whether inside the City of Guelph or in Puslinch Township.



9. Protective Status and Enforcement:

Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations under the Migratory Birds Convention Act (P.C. 1952-3464, July 4, 1952 and P.C. 1974-1989 September 10, 1974).

Most of the Guelph BS is posted by staff of the Kortright Waterfowl Park. The staff also patrols the MBS in the vicinity of Kortright Park. Good cooperation exists between Kortright and enforcement staff of OMNR and the present relationship is described as satisfactory. At times, the development of the subdivisions has created enforcement problems related to dogs running at large in the cedar bush adjacent to Kortright on the Speed River. Kortright staff are able to handle the situation and do not consider it a serious problem.

It should also be noted that even though much of the more intensively utilized section of the Speed River is located within the City of Guelph, the City's firearm discharge bylaw does permit hunting on parcels of land greater than 5 acres if a person has written permission from the landowner. Because of that bylaw, hunting could occur on the Speed River adjacent to Kortright if the area was not designated as a MBS.

10. Recommendations:

- (i) The present status of the Guelph BS should be reviewed for boundary changes.

Suggestions have been made in the past that the integrity of the MBS could be maintained if just the Speed River and the Kortright property were included. In principal the arguments are sound, but the Speed River would require a buffer strip along each side and it would be difficult to legally delineate and post the boundary. Additionally, as described by staff of Kortright, waterfowl utilize almost all of the Speed River within the MBS. Granted the most use occurs adjacent to Kortright Park, but the distribution and number of waterfowl utilizing the area could be reduced if the MBS designation were removed. However, it is not acceptable to have the subdivision and industrial areas (Gypsum plant, quarry and tailings, sewage plant) included within the MBS.

- (ii) The present arrangement for posting of the MBS by Kortright Waterfowl Park staff should be continued. CWS enforcement staff in London will supply the appropriate MBS signs and Kortright staff will post the boundary.

11. References:

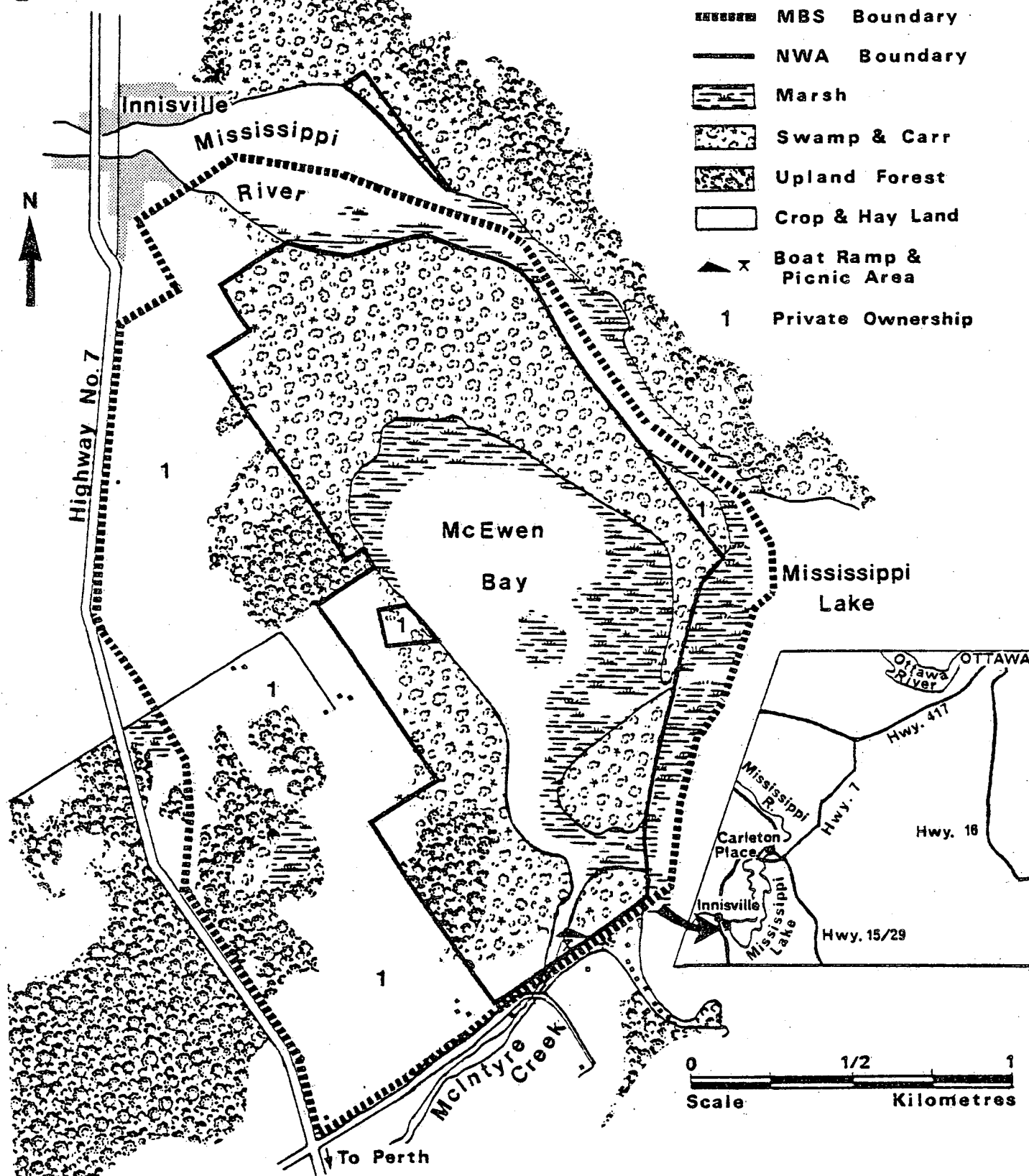
Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region  
File No. 9396-6-7 and 7/01 (2 volumes)  
Canadian Wildlife Service, London  
File No. 9396-6

MISSISSIPPI LAKE

BIRD SANCTUARY

# MISSISSIPPI LAKE BIRD SANCTUARY

To Carleton Place  
& Ottawa (70 km.)



## MISSISSIPPI LAKE BIRD SANCTUARY

1. Location: 17 km north of Perth, Drummond Township,  
Lanark County, Ontario.  
Lat. 45°03' Long. 76°14'  
Military Grid Reference 032877  
N.T.S. 1:50 000 Sheet No. 31F/1 (Carleton Place)
2. Area: ± 430 ha
3. Land ownership:  
  
Canadian Wildlife Service, Private ownership and Provincial Crown Land
4. Major Habitat Type:  
  

Marsh & Open Water	30%
Swamp and Carr	30%
Upland Forest	10%
Crop & Hay Land	30%
5. Description of Area:

The Mississippi Lake National Wildlife area (235 ha) is located within the boundary of the Mississippi Lake Bird Sanctuary, which is larger in size, partly attributable to additional bottomlands of the Mississippi Lake and River. The area delineated as a Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS) is also designated a Partial Fish Sanctuary.

Mississippi Lake, which appears as a swelling of the Mississippi River, contains at its southwestern end a small land-locked bay known as Mud Lake or McEwen Bay. This bay was formed in 1890 due to the construction of a dam by a milling company about 17 km downstream at Carleton Place. It is around this new body of water that the NWA is centered. A small stream, McIntyre Creek, flows into the main channel at the southern end that connects McEwen Bay to the Mississippi River. A peninsula and an island block the mouth of the bay.

Previous to flooding, McEwen Bay was low-lying farmland. Now the farmland is restricted to a portion of the MBS, along its western boundary. The surrounding region consists of gently rolling terrain, of a sedimentary base. In upland areas, limestone outcroppings become exposed.

McEwen Bay is relatively shallow, exhibiting an average depth of about 1.5 m. The bottom is muddy, with loose vegetative debris and silt covering much of its surface. In spite of its brown colour, the water is fairly clear. A very lush growth of aquatic plants (Alisma plantago

-aquatica, Pontederia cordata, Nuphar variegatum, Nymphaea odorata, Lemna sp.) can be found around the shoreline between the open water and Wild Rice (Zizania aquatica) stands. Wild Rice is the most abundant emergent to be found, forming extensive beds along the shore of the bay and river. Few dense cattail (Typha sp.) stands are evident.

Flooded scrub, or more specifically willow-dogwood-maple thicket (Salix sp., Cornus sp., Acer rubrum), dominates the land surrounding the bay. In some areas, this community is replaced by Silver Maple Swamp (Acer saccharinum) at the aquatic interface.

Backing the thicket, in some areas on dry land, is a mature hardwood forest, consisting primarily of maple, elm and ash (Acer saccharum, Ulmus americanus, Fraxinus sp.) with some patches of White Cedar (Thuja occidentalis). Beyond this zone is farmland.

#### 6. Public Use:

In 1972, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) helped establish a picnic area at the southwestern corner of the MBS near the mouth of McIntyre Creek. The following facilities were made available: picnic tables, two toilets provided with paper, a barbeque with wood supplied, garbage cans and a boat ramp. This is the only boat landing in the western end of Mississippi Lake.

Recreational use of the MBS is low. It includes bird-watching, picnicking, trapping, fishing and boating. The Yellow Pickerel run in McIntyre Creek is a spectacular event attracting 500 to 600 people each spring.

Agricultural activity is continued within the MBS, however, due to the topography and shallow soil, it is limited to haying.

Signs located at access points authorize the use of the area for boating and picnicking until 15 September. Permits are issued by the Canadian Wildlife Service for haying and trapping.

The Partial Fish Sanctuary regulations outlaw fishing from 15 September to 15 December.

All other activities are prohibited.

7. Importance to the Resource:

Mississippi Lake BS lacks the potential for development as a waterfowl production site. There is only slight breeding use (10 - 15 broods/year), some feeding and roosting and no post-breeding or wintering is evident. Further evidence of low waterfowl breeding use appeared during a study in 1971 of the effectiveness of Wood Duck boxes. Although the species is present during the breeding season, none of the 23 Wood Duck boxes were used. However, the area makes up for this shortcoming in its high level of importance as a MBS. Each October, up to 10,000 birds may be attracted to the site; mostly consisting of Black Ducks, Mallards, Wood Ducks and Ring-necked Ducks. They gather here not because of unlimited food or ideal staging habitat, but to escape hunting pressure from outside of the MBS boundary.

The absence of birds at times of the year other than during migration raised questions as to the value of the site as a NWA, but the proximity of the area to the Trans-Canada Highway (No. 7 from Peterborough to Ottawa) and to Ottawa allowed easy accessibility by people other than hunters thus increasing its status.

McIntyre Creek is an important spawning area for Yellow Pickerel, however, fishing pressures on Mississippi Lake have reduced the number of this species and increased the quantity of panfish greatly.

The Mississippi River area is acclaimed by commercial harvesters to be the best bullfrog harvesting area in Ontario. Over the last ten years, the population has been declining at a rate significant enough to cause concern. A harvest was permitted in 1978 for OMNR study purposes. It was revealed that without exceeding the recommended limits of harvest, over half the estimated frog population could be removed in a single season.

One important issue concerning the Mississippi Lake BS is the controversy over Wild Rice harvesting.

In 1979, special permission was given by CWS at the request of OMNR to the Lanark Wild Rice Company for the harvesting of Wild Rice in the bay. This occurred in spite of a five-year moratorium on new licenses for commercial rice harvesting commencing 1978. CWS monitored the harvest. In one week the company cleared the bay of Wild Rice. This activity had a potential high impact on the waterfowl population, because ducks feed on Wild Rice.

For at least 10 years, Wild Rice has been growing in McEwen Bay, and this has resulted in the production of a unique strain described as "Mississippian" on the north and northwest shores. In 1977, when the bay was not officially owned by CWS, a commercial harvester seeded McEwen Bay with a strain from Calabogie Lake and a small area with a Manitoba strain. The latter died out but the Calabogie strain competed with the local and attained significant numbers in the following year, though in subsequent years it uprooted. The Calabogie strain is commercially more desirable.

The McEwen Bay beds represent only a small fraction of the total Wild Rice around Mississippi Lake. Under the existing conditions, CWS decided that no further seeding or harvesting would take place, prohibiting the introduction of new Wild Rice strains, and a total ban on harvesting.

The aim of the commercial harvesters and OMNR was to obtain a maximum density of Wild Rice stands in McEwen Bay and thereby achieve the highest economic gain. This conflicts with the CWS viewpoint, which is to create an ecological balance between flora and fauna and to preserve the natural species diversity. Public opinion, generated by local hunters were against Wild Rice harvesting.

Another conflict of interests evolved through a discussion with respect to bridge construction over McIntyre Creek in 1979. CWS was concerned for the future of the Yellow Pickerel spawning area. They supported the premise that every precaution be taken to create the least disturbance to the stream bed by angling the bridge to accommodate McIntyre Creek. The result was a creek diverted and angled to allow the construction of a two-lane concrete bridge that connects a single-lane dirt road. The opinion of the OMNR was that the silting would settle down in less than a year.

#### 8. Historical and Present Land Use Conflicts:

In 1958, CWS was approached by the Mississippi Fish and Game Protective Association to have Mud Lake become a Migratory Bird Sanctuary, as it was an important spring and fall migration stopover for waterfowl. In 1959, the area was declared both a Federal Bird Sanctuary under the Migratory Birds Convention Act, and a Provincial Fish



Sanctuary by OMNR. The area was designated a fish sanctuary to keep the fishermen from disturbing waterfowl. The fish in the bay did not warrant protection since they consisted mainly of bullheads. This restriction prompted one landowner to request exclusion from the MBS to render his lots more appealing for sale as cottage development sites. Consequently, the regulations were reduced so that the restriction applied only to a three month period from September 15 to December 15. Later, an owner of a large section of land decided to sell part of his property. These circumstances demonstrated that the future of the sanctuary was in jeopardy, thus necessitating its purchase as a NWA to establish a permanent waterfowl sanctuary.

Most of the land was acquired in 1968, and Mississippi Lake became the first NWA in Ontario. Since much of the property probably fulfills the requirements of hazardous land with respect to flooding, the acquisitions generally released the owners of undesirable tax burdens.

The sale was delayed due to an undefined right-of-way accompanying one of the property transactions. This problem still exists and recent attempts to find a solution have been unsuccessful. The Mississippi Lake Bird Sanctuary was initially referred to as Mud Lake Bird Sanctuary but to avoid confusion with other Ontario Mud Lakes, the name was changed in 1970.

In 1979, lands under water previously believed to have been transferred, were discovered not to be listed in the deeds. Acquisitions for these bottomlands were then obtained by quit claim. A few areas have not yet been purchased. One property possesses unknown ownership, a second will not sell; another owner prefers to retain his land for his heirs to water cattle, while the last requests an exorbitant sum. The final owner declared a desire to lease his land to campers, thereby exemplifying the present need for rapid settlement by CWS.

#### 9. Protective Status and Enforcement of the Regulations:

The Mississippi Lake Bird Sanctuary is controlled by the Wildlife Area Regulations (P.C. 1978-1439, April 27, 1978) under the Canada Wildlife Act and by the Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations (P.C. 1959-734 June 11, 1959 and P.C. 1974-1989, September 10, 1974) under the Migratory Birds Convention Act. The Sanctuary is also protected by a Partial Fish Sanctuary Regulations, under the Fisheries Act, administered by the Ontario Ministry of Natural

Resources. Even if the Wildlife Act Regulations protect the majority of the lands included in the Sanctuary, the Bird Sanctuary status is still fully worth because it protects very strategic locations as the River areas adjoining the NWA.

During the first years of the Sanctuary establishment, there were some enforcement problems essentially related to a posting set not soon enough and, as well, not sufficiently obvious. As a result of this gap, hunters were setting floating and permanent blinds each year farther inside the Sanctuary to a point (5 years ago) at which complaints arose. At that moment, the situation was given serious consideration and solved with diplomacy by the enforcement officer in charge. Then, the post locations were reviewed and now, as a preventive measure, the post signs are chequed (and replaced if necessary) each year before the 1st of September, a long time prior the opening of the hunting season. The situation is now under control and no more problems of this kind have been reported.

10. Recommendations:

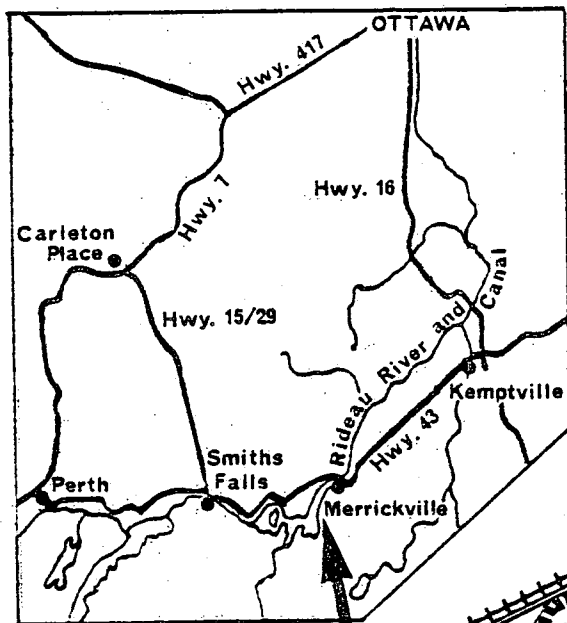
- (1) To continue present status, the Bird Sanctuary Regulations are necessary to control strategic points at the River entrance and on the River side even if almost all the area is owned by CWS and set as a NWA. On the other hand, one part of the Sanctuary out of the NWA is not significantly important in improving the protection of the National Wildlife Area. This part is an upland area between Highway 7 and the NWA boundary. However, as this area does not create land use conflicts or enforcement problems, it remains useful as a buffer zone and helps to have a very easy and clear definition of the Sanctuary boundary.
- (2) The enforcement procedure should continue as it is. The present posting seem to be adequate and well understood by the hunters of the Mississippi Lake area.
- (3) Mississippi Lake Bird Sanctuary and National Wildlife Area being visited by the public mainly for recreational purposes, including nature viewing, it would be appropriate to set a small scale interpretation program which would provide information about the role of Mississippi Lake NWA and MBS, and which would explain some of the natural phenomena displayed by this area, related in particular to waterfowl, habitats and wetland biology. However this possibility should be considered only in the general framework of a Management Plan for Mississippi Lake NWA in accordance with the objectives stressed in the said Plan.

- (4) The possibility of having habitat improvement should be considered in this area but again in the context of a Management Plan for Mississippi Lake NWA. It has to be noticed that improvements could be implemented only after more information is gathered about the ecology of the area and with respect to the general idea of preserving the ecological balance, diversity and naturalness of the site.

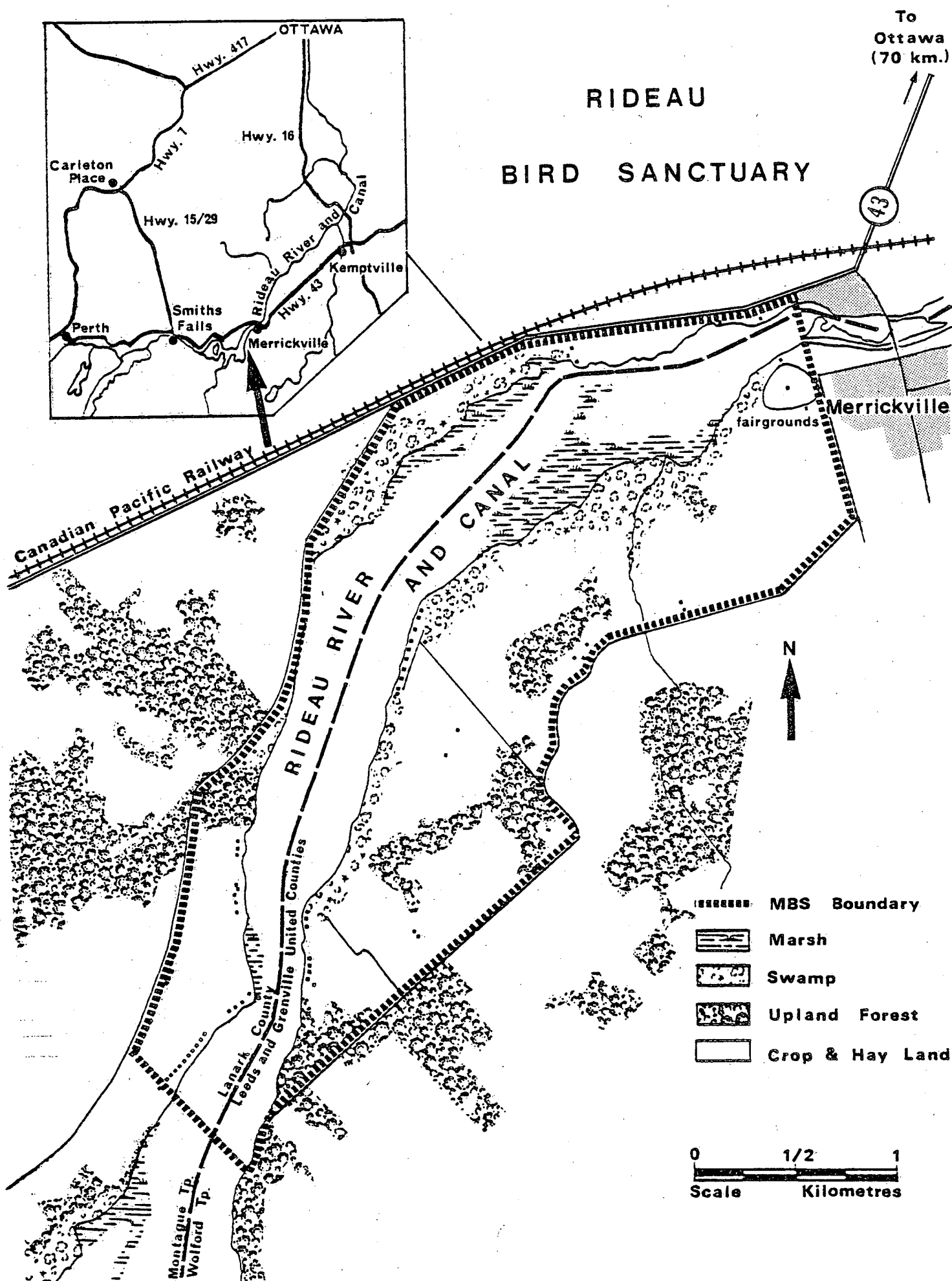
11. References:

Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region, File # 9275-6-4 and 9396-6-12.

RIDEAU  
BIRD SANCTUARY



# RIDEAU BIRD SANCTUARY



- MBS Boundary
- ==== Marsh
- Swamp
- Upland Forest
- Crop & Hay Land

0 1/2 1  
Scale Kilometres

RIDEAU BIRD SANCTUARY

1. Location: Partially within the Corporation of Merrickville, Montague and Wolford Townships, in the Counties of Lanark and Leeds and Grenville, Ontario.

Lat. 44°54' Long. 75°52'

Military Grid Reference 3187262.

NTS 1:50 000 Sheet No. 31B/13 (Merrickville)

2. Area: 800 ha.

3. Land ownership:

Corporation of Merrickville and private ownership and Parks Canada as owners and managers of the Rideau Canal system.

4. Major Habitat Type:

Marsh	10%
Swamp	10%
Upland Forest	10%
Crop & Hay Land	40%
Open Water	30%

5. Description of Area:

The Rideau Bird Sanctuary includes a section of the Rideau River and Rideau Canal (the Canal passes through the centre of the River) which begins within the Corporation of Merrickville and extends west and then southwest to cover a distance of 5.6 kilometres by water.

Along the first 2.4 kilometres, on either side of the River, there are extensive marshes constituted of Cattails (Typha sp.) and Wild Rice (Zizania sp.) with broadleaf emergents (Alisma plantago-aquatica, Sagittaria cuneata), floating (Nymphaea odorata, Hydrocharis morsus-ranae), free-floating (Lemna sp.) and submerged vegetation (Elodea canadensis). Behind these marsh areas are swamps. Alder (Alnus rugosa), Tamarack (Larix laricina) grow in these sites and moss and sedges (Carex sp.) cover the ground. Then, as the soil becomes less saturated, Eastern white cedar (Thuja occidentalis L.) grow in dense stands.

The remainder of the river is open. No more weed beds are encountered and only scattered clumps of emergents (Typha sp. and Sagittaria cuneata) grow close to the shores which are fairly dry and suitable for cottage and residential development. As a matter of fact, the lands adjoining the river in this area have been divided into small lots. The rest of the terrestrial part of the Sanctuary is composed of farmlands and of upland woodlots (Sugar maple (Acer saccharum), Basswood (Tilia americana), Elm (Ulmus americanus), etc.).

6. Public Use:

Boating and fishing occur along the river. Due to the presence of the Rideau Canal within the sanctuary, boaters are permitted to carry firearms through the area to hunting grounds beyond the Sanctuary. The land has been subdivided and year round residences were built.

7. Importance to the Resource:

This area is suitable for waterfowl staging due to the abundance of aquatic plants which provide cover and food. Up to one thousand Canada Geese and one thousand ducks, mainly dabblers such as Mallards, Black Ducks and Blue-winged Teal, and divers (Ring-necked Ducks) gather in the Sanctuary during the fall. In addition to suitable habitat, this area provides waterfowl staging on the Rideau river with an undisturbed refuge during the hunting season. Waterfowl productivity in this area is not significant.

The whole Rideau River system is bordered by more or less extensive weed beds with varying levels of human disturbance. Some areas, like the area under consideration close to Merrickville, are better quality habitats than others and so are more suitable to accommodate numbers of staging waterfowls. However what is a characteristic of the Rideau River system is the impossibility to point out one localized area where the majority of the staging birds gather. Even so, some better habitats accommodate larger numbers of waterfowl and, as the marshes close to Merrickville, play a more important role for the locally staging waterfowl groups.

8. Historical and Present Land Use Conflicts:

In 1957, the Smiths Falls Hunt Club proposed the formation of a bird sanctuary on the Rideau River at Merrickville. The Corporation of Merrickville granted permission for its establishment; and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and

Hunters, as well as the Kingston Rod and Gun Club approved the plan. All 20 landowners signed a petition in agreement to their inclusion in the Sanctuary.

The area was inspected by the Dominion Wildlife Officer for Ontario who found it to be a first class migratory bird sanctuary site. The marshlands provided an ideal habitat for waterfowl.

The Minister of Lands and Forests of Ontario concurred to the proposal, and in December 6, 1957, the Rideau Bird Sanctuary was formed.

Since the creation of the Sanctuary in 1957, the lands were divided in such a manner that the present number of landowners is probably about three times what it was then. The developed sites are located very close to the shore in the area of open water with no or few weed beds.

The Rideau River shoreline is currently zoned Environmental Protection.

#### Protective Status and Enforcement:

The Rideau Bird Sanctuary is controlled by the Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations under the Migratory Birds Convention Act; P.C. 1957-1614, December 6, 1957 and P.C. 1974-1989, September 10, 1974.

Enforcement of the Regulations in this Sanctuary does not create major problems. Given that duck hunting in the surroundings takes place essentially on Saturday morning and involves almost only local residents, and the no-hunting regulation is easy to enforce in the Sanctuary. Each year the sign posts are checked and replaced before September 1st, and the presence now of a fairly large residential community located in the Sanctuary itself in addition to the vicinity of the Corporation of Merrickville create a self-control situation by the local residents, which know well the Sanctuary limits and are part of a close knitted community. This situation at least helps to prevent that shooting take place in the Sanctuary.

In fact, no major transgressions have been recorded recently in the Sanctuary, and the many residents in the area provide by themselves part of the surveillance of the Sanctuary Regulations in addition to the normal patrolling by the local OMNR conservation officer.



10. Recommendations:

The status of the Rideau Bird Sanctuary has to be reviewed. This area with its important weed beds provide an appropriate waterfowl staging habitat on the Rideau River. As a matter of fact groups of ducks and geese of local importance stage in this area. However, since its creation in 1957, the Sanctuary has been undergoing land use changes detrimental to the MBS goals. The original 20 landowners have subdivided their properties and new residences have been built so that at the moment there are over 50 landowners in the Sanctuary. Now, in the second half of the Sanctuary (the farther from the Corporation of Merrickville), large parts of the shorelines are completely developed. These areas are still visited by waterfowl (as many built-up areas on the Rideau River shoreline) but lack the tranquility they first displayed 25 years ago when they were less disturbed. Nevertheless, the first part of the Sanctuary still remains an interesting staging area on the Rideau River. It constitutes with its extensive marshes good waterfowl habitat on this river.

In the daily life of the local community of Merrickville and its surroundings, the Sanctuary is essentially a no-hunting area. Even if one consequence of a Sanctuary creation is to have a no-hunting area, the aim still remain the protection of the migratory birds. Also, as a result of protecting an area suitable to waterfowl, a certain amount of protection is given to the wetland involved. Again this protection is an effect and not an objective of the setting of a Sanctuary. In the process of reviewing this Sanctuary, care must be taken to avoid confusion between the "waterfowl management tool" and the "land use tool effect" provided by the Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations.

In conclusion, the revision of the Rideau Bird Sanctuary should give special attention to the first part (closest to Merrickville) of the present Sanctuary which contains fine and less disturbed waterfowl habitat. However, before any further recommendations may be given out, the actual and detailed ownership might be elucidated as well as the further development projects for this area.

To do so, consultation with the landowners, the municipality, Parks Canada and the OMNR should be carried out. Also, in addition to the attention given to the present site close to Merrickville, much consideration should be given to some other possible Sanctuary sites on the Rideau River, in order to insure that the Sanctuary protection is provided at the most appropriate location (extended and undisturbed waterfowl habitat) on the Rideau River. Lands owned by Parks Canada along the River are particularly worthy in that respect, provided that these areas are under Crown control and so do not suffer from housing development.

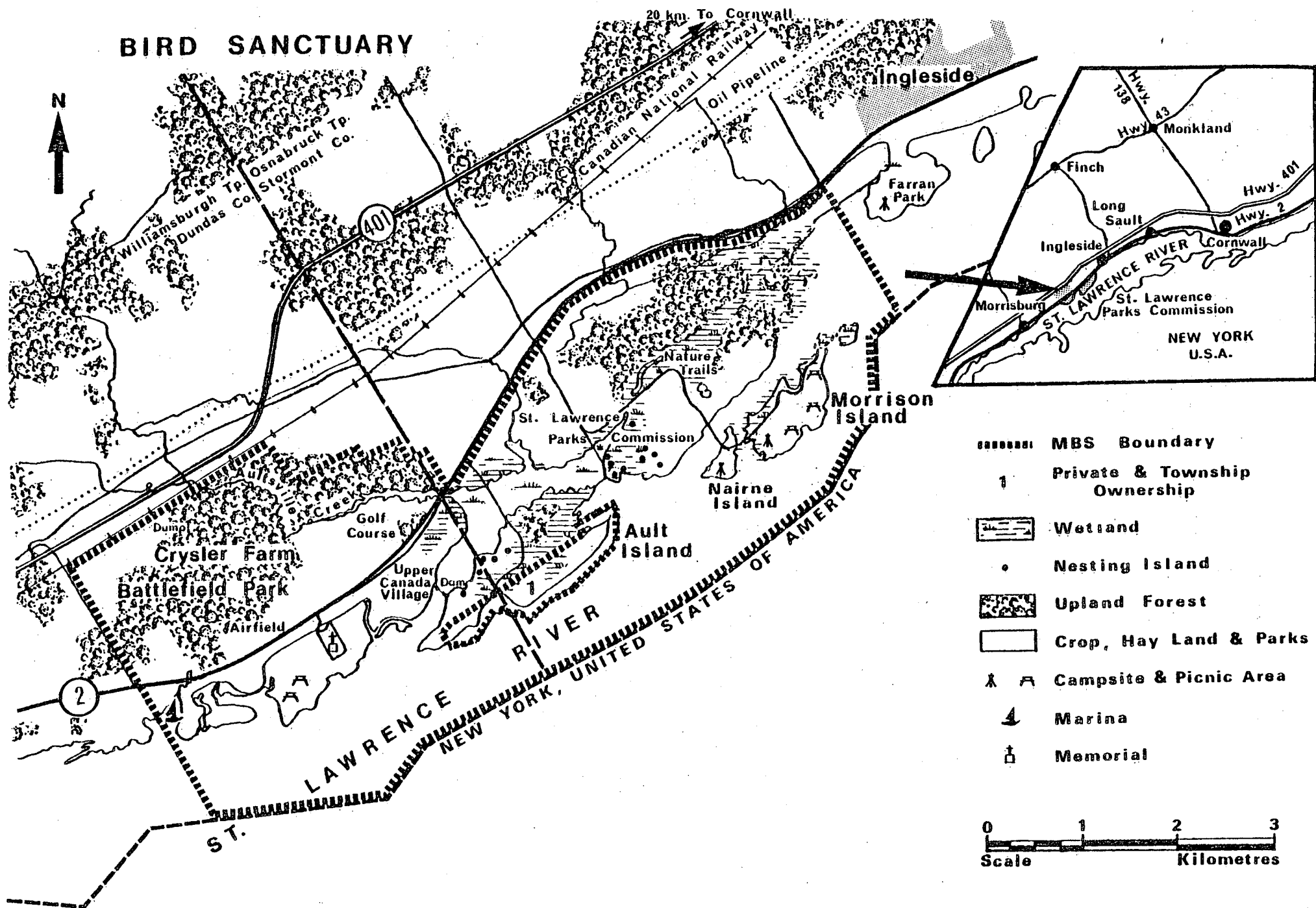
11. References:

Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region, File # 9396-6-15.

UPPER CANADA  
BIRD SANCTUARY

# UPPER CANADA

## BIRD SANCTUARY



## UPPER CANADA BIRD SANCTUARY

1. Location: 5 km southwest of Ingleside, Williamsburgh Township in Dundas County and Osnabruck Township in Stormont County, Ontario.  
Lat. 44°57' Long. 75°03'  
Military Grid Reference 963774  
N.T.S. 1: 50 000 Sheet No. 31B/14 and 31 B/11 (Morrisburg)

2. Area: 2663 ha (1353 ha of land - 1310 ha of open water)

3. Ownership:

Provincial Crown Land

4. Habitat Type: Land Section

Open Water	50%
Wetland	10%
Upland Forest	15%
Crop and Hay Land and Parks	25%

5. Description of Area:

Upper Canada Bird Sanctuary adjoins the St. Lawrence River 30 kilometres upstream from Cornwall, and extends offshore to the international border. It includes the Crysler Farm Battlefield Park, Upper Canada Village, a marina, an airfield, a golf course, nature trails, camping and picnic sites. Several islands are located within the sanctuary: Morrison, Nairne, Ault and some smaller ones. However the southern half of Ault Island, located in the centre of the area, does not comprise part of the Sanctuary. Across the St. Lawrence River, the state of New York and the St. Lawrence Parks Commission have established the Wilson Hill State Fish and Game Management Area, thus creating with Upper Canada a very extensive conservation complex.

A large part of the Sanctuary is covered by woodlots (in particular, sugar maple stands) and parks consisting mainly of open grassy areas. To a lesser extent there are some wet areas where species such as willows (Salix sp.), elm (Ulmus americanus) and ash (Fraxinus nigra) grow. One of the wet areas is a carr (Salix sp.) with dead trees and the lower strata formed of Sparganium sp. The exposed shores are sandy or rocky while artificially protected shores (in the areas where the causeways join the islands) are bordered with wetland vegetation mainly Typha sp. but also other emergents such as Scirpus sp., Carex sp.,

floating (Nymphaea sp.), free-floating (Lenticula sp.) and submerged aquatic vegetation (Myriophyllum sp.). As a whole, Upper Canada Bird Sanctuary displays a diverse and interesting upland flora, as well as, wetland areas, the latter forming good waterfowl staging habitat.

Some areas have been more specifically developed for Canada Geese use. A pen with two artificial ponds host the geese when they come in to feed. Parcels of land are cultivated and corn and buckwheat are grown as feeding crops for migratory birds. At Ault Island and on the mainland, goose nesting islands have been built on some 20 ponds or dugouts provided by the Parks Commission.

#### 6. Public Use:

Camping and picnic sites as well as nature trails are provided for public use. The combination of Upper Canada Village, migration gatherings of geese, historical parks and other attractions make the Sanctuary a heavy used area, especially in the summertime.

Special permits have been issued allowing the use of fire-arms for predator control on the Sanctuary property.

#### 7. Importance to the Resource:

Before the creation of the Upper Canada Bird Sanctuary, Canada Geese were kept all year around and fed on the site. As a result of their presence and food availability, migrant Canada Geese were attracted in increasing numbers in this staging area. In the fall of 1963, a maximum of 980 geese were counted and 900 out of the total were migrants. In 1964, the numbers were still increasing and on October 20, 1400 Canada Geese were staging in the Sanctuary. Now numbers of staging migrant geese reach as high as 8000 in addition to 3000 locally nesting birds and their broods, that nest in the Sanctuary and surrounding agricultural land. Similar high numbers of birds nest and stage some 5 km. away in the Wilson Hill State Management Area. In fact, the numbers of breeding geese have become so high that control measures such as collecting eggs, had to be undertaken.

Canada Geese nest in the Upper Canada in different locations mainly in the goose nesting islands in the several ponds dug twenty years ago. They are fed for extensive periods with the grain cultivated by Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) in the Sanctuary for this purpose. Corn and buckwheat are provided in a pen along the sides of the "eight shaped" pond. There the geese feed and rest and may be observed by visitors as the pen is part of a nature trail system. During the migration period, when the geese density reach higher levels, large

flocks may be seen resting or feeding all over the Sanctuary, on the parks' lawns, on the water in the protected channels, in the goose pen and in wetland areas.

Many other waterfowl occur in Upper Canada Bird Sanctuary, including Mallard, Black Ducks, Wood Ducks, Blue-winged Teal. Common mergansers and other diving ducks may be seen too and aquatic birds such as Cormorants, Great Blue Herons, Kingfishers are common in the area.

The largest numbers of ducks are seen staging during spring and fall migration when the birds gather on the protected channels (between the mainland and the Islands), to feed and to rest. On the other hand, few ducks nest in the Sanctuary and attempts to increase the productivity (Mallard nesting platforms, wood duck boxes) were not very successful.

Upper Canada Bird Sanctuary hold the largest Banding station on the Atlantic Flyway. Six to seven thousand geese are banded each year as well as twelve to fifteen hundred ducks.

The combination of the Upper Canada Bird Sanctuary and the N.Y. State Management Area, enable waterfowl to gather in large protected areas and even to make local movements without being disturbed during the hunting season. As a result, this area is excellent and safe for staging waterfowl and, as a second level effect, the hunting in the surroundings is enhanced.

#### 8. Historical and Present Land Use Conflicts:

The upper Canada Bird Sanctuary was initially proposed in 1960 by the Ontario - St. Lawrence Development Commission, as mitigation for habitat losses due to the flooding of the Seaway, who desired federal participation in their fish and wildlife management plan. The Commission hoped to develop the area as a useful resting, feeding and nesting ground for wild Canada Geese and other species, and thereby create a waterfowl display.

The property under consideration was entirely Crown land, except for the southern half of Ault Island. This section was originally retained by Ontario Hydro to provide space for cottages. An attempt was made to secure cottage owners permission for their inclusion in the Sanctuary, however, this was later abandoned. Complications arose because several individuals were unavailable and some of the cottages were being used as hunting lodges.

In the interest of providing federal assistance for the management plans of the St. Lawrence Parks, the request for the Sanctuary status was accepted.

The area could reveal valuable information concerning the effect of artificial water level changes on related species, and it was a potential site on which to promote conservation education and to permit observation of migrating waterfowl. The official establishment of Upper Canada Bird Sanctuary occurred on March 16, 1961, P.C. 1961-385.

During the fall of 1968 the St. Lawrence Parks Commission provided funds for the construction of twenty goose nesting islands. A goose enclosure was built to provide year-round shelter for a flock of Canada Geese.

With the increasing number of Canada Geese gathering in the area in relation to an enhanced waterfowl habitat, some problems arose in the spring with farmers living in the vicinity. The birds were attracted to flooded fields recently seeded and were causing damage especially in wet springs. Until now, relief was given to complaining landowners through the provision of appropriate scaring permits. However the number of breeding geese having increased constantly since 1962, breeders now tend to spread out in cultivated areas where most of the time they make problems not only in the spring, but later in the season too.

In addition to the land occupied by cottages, there is another piece of land on Ault Island excluded from the MBS which is still in its natural state. Developers have not yet outlined plans for these lands owned by the Township. If we accept the development possibility which is still possible, the part of Ault Island out of the Sanctuary is a very stable environment and this enclosed area in the Sanctuary's limits has generated no conflicts with the MBS objectives.

#### 9. Protective Status and Enforcement:

Upper Canada Bird Sanctuary is controlled by the Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations under the Migratory Birds Convention Act (P.C. 1961-385, P.C. 1974-514).

No major enforcement problems are recorded in this Sanctuary. All year round a Conservation Officer is affected to this area and seasonally (during the hunting period) additional staff patrol the area. All the area is well posted and, in the past, when hunters entered in the



Sanctuary they did it deliberately and were prosecuted. As a matter of fact the continuous presence of provincial employees, working on different tasks, keeps the area very well under control.

10. Recommendations:

- (1) To continue present status. The Sanctuary being located on the migration route of Canada Geese and being a staging area for thousands of these birds, the Sanctuary fulfills a very important role. As well, large numbers of ducks rest and feed in this area for varying periods of time in the spring and in the fall.
- (2) Banding activities and habitat improvements undertaken by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, are conducted with great care and result in very positive impacts. However, the number of geese breeding now in the area seem to have reached very high and maybe unexpected (when the project was first conceived) levels. As a matter of fact, population control measures had to be undertaken.

Therefore, it is recommended that the breeding geese population be kept under control, and even reduced if it appears to be necessary, in such a manner that further expansion to the surrounding farmlands be avoided.

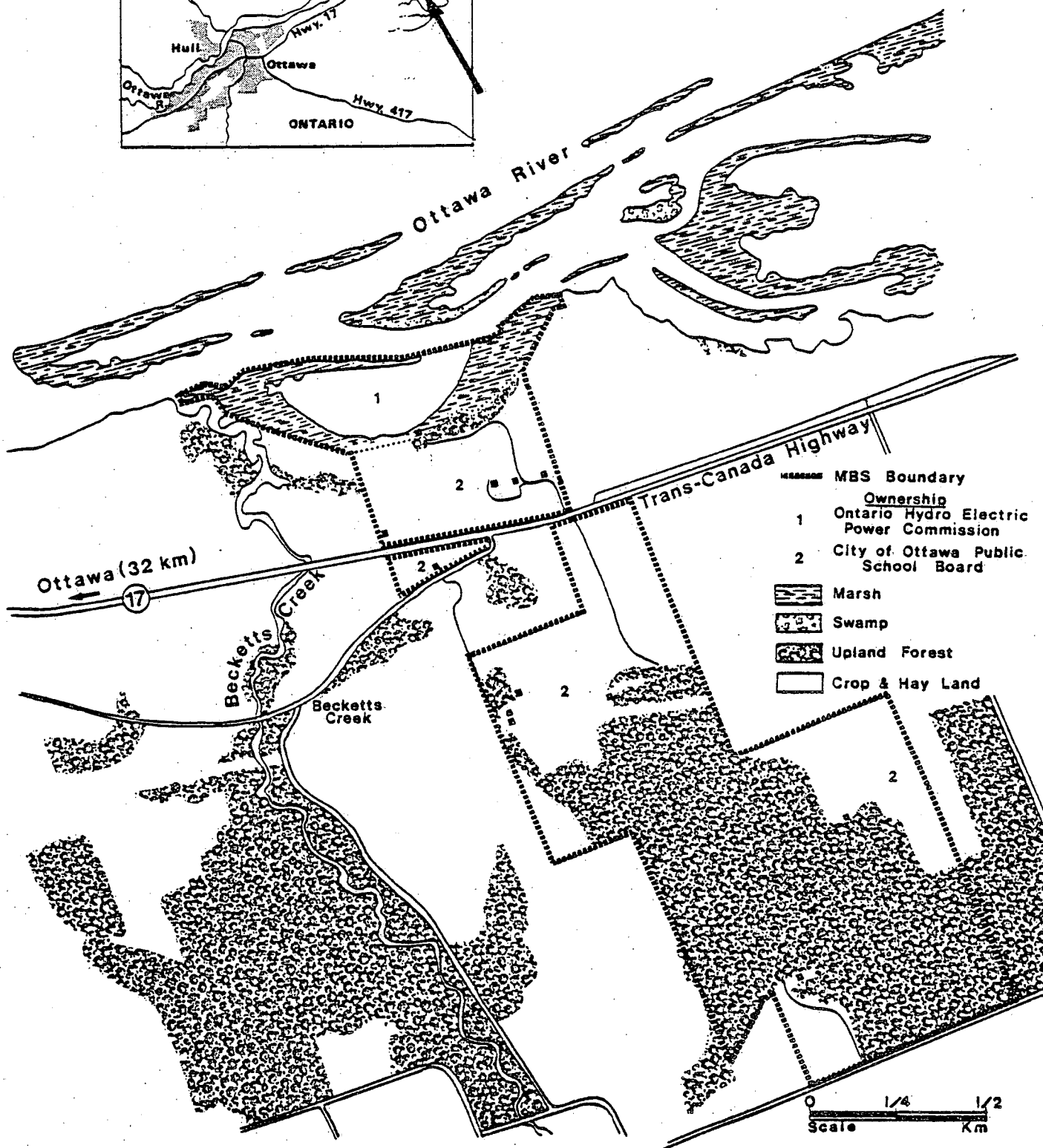
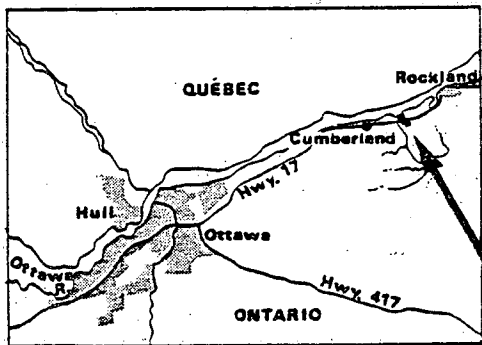
- (3) The present enforcement strategy is excellent. The Canadian Wildlife Service will continue to support the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources efforts through the provision of sign posts and other related materials when necessary and through additional assistance on request. However the general responsibility and management of the area shall remain in the hands of the provincial ministry who is accomplishing a very fine and wise job since the creation of the Sanctuary.
- (4) In the eventuality of land development in Ault Island, much care should be taken to avoid ancillary effects especially in the protected channel during waterfowl staging periods. A certain amount of disturbance might be tolerated but if plans are to have a rapid development of the whole site, consultations should take place with developers so that problems related to the Sanctuary may be expressed and to find a satisfactory compromise possibly through the planning of the works schedule. Again, because of their experience on the site and their management involvement, considerations on this subject must also remain monitored by OMNR.

11. References:

Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region,  
File # 9396-6-17.

BECKETT CREEK  
BIRD SANCTUARY

# BECKETT CREEK BIRD SANCTUARY



## BECKETT CREEK BIRD SANCTUARY

1. Location: 4 km east of Cumberland, Cumberland Township, Russell County, Ontario  
Lat. 45°31' Long. 75°21'  
Military Grid Reference 732403  
N.T.S. 1:50 000 Sheet No. 31-G/11 W (Thurso)
2. Area: 103 ha.
3. Land ownership:  
  
The City of Ottawa Public School Board and the Ontario Hydro Electric Power Commission
4. Major Habitat Type:  
  

Wetland	10%
Crop and Hay Land	40%
Upland Forest, (Sugar Maple and White Pine)	50%
5. Description of Area:

Beckett Creek Bird Sanctuary is located on the south bank of the Ottawa River. Approximately 16 ha of the area is composed of the river and its adjoining wetland. A major highway passes through the Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS) and a travelled road forms the southern boundary. Beckett's Creek empties into the Ottawa River at the western boundary of the waterfront lot. The creek carries a relatively high sediment load and this material becomes deposited to form bay bars at the mouth and low off-shore islands to the east.

The predominant soil type of the wetland part is Bearbrook Clay. Emergents (Typha sp., Sagittaria sp.), Submergents, floating (Nymphaea sp.) and free-floating (Lenticula sp.) form the aquatic vegetation component. Then, grasses, sedges (Carex sp.) and rushes (Juncus sp.) grow close to the water as well as shorter and taller shrubs (Salix sp., Populus tremuloides, Rhus typhina, Ulmus americanus).

Southward along the creek is a river terrace supporting a grove of mixed deciduous trees: Silver Maple (Acer saccharinum), American Elm (Ulmus americanus), Basswood (Tilia americana), Red Ash (Fraxinus pensylvanica) with White Pine (Pinus strobus). Beyond that, around the farm buildings, are field and meadows where domestic animals are kept. Just in the back of the farm house, a pond was dug to accommodate tame waterfowl. Following this area and extending to the travelled road is a forest which is a sugar maple (Acer saccharum) stand with associated

species: Striped Maple (Acer pensylvanicum), Yellow Birch (Betula alleghaniensis) with an area where a pure white pine stand (Pinus strobus) grow.

6. Public Use:

The Ottawa Board of Education has an Outdoor Natural Science School within the boundaries of the Sanctuary where basic ecology is taught to groups of public school students. Up to 25 000 children take advantage of the Mc-Skimming Science School each year through normal as well as special classes (deaf, handicapped etc.) in one day trips or for classes lasting one week long in the summer.

The Canadian Wildlife Service issues a permit to the school board for both the capture and possession of migratory birds.

7. Importance to the Resource:

Dabbling ducks, mainly Blue-winged Teal, nest in the Sanctuary, in the wetland area, close to the river. Great Blue Herons, Kingfishers and Northern Harriers are common visitors of this area. In the fall, waterfowl gather at dusk in the artificial pond dug in the backyard of the farmhouse in the same area where a group of tame Canada Geese are kept under permit.

The Canada Geese nest in the enclosure around the artificial pond but each year some pairs escape and go by foot to nest in the very same location close to the river. The presence of tame Canada Geese sometimes attract wild Geese which stick around for more or less extensive lengths of time.

In the upland area, a typical community of passerine birds nest in the sugar maple grove and in the white pines.

The Sanctuary is not of special significance for waterfowl, it is simply representative of the bird fauna of the Ottawa valley.

8. Historical and Present Land Use Conflicts:

In 1967 the Ottawa Public School Board approached CWS to apply for a permit for the capture and possession of migratory birds. The School Board had purchased farmland for the purpose of establishing an Outdoor Natural Science School and were interested in conducting bird banding activities. In addition, they requested that CWS consider the area for a migratory bird sanctuary to protect it from hunters and vandals.

CWS supported the outdoor natural science program and accepted the proposal.

To insure complete security for the students visiting the area, it was necessary to include the marshland and islands at the river front as part of the Sanctuary. These lands also provide an attractive waterfowl study site for the school. Ontario Hydro owns this property, and they agreed to permit its inclusion in the MBS on the condition that the land regain its former status if required for purposes incompatible with sanctuary regulations.

The MBS was created on February 4, 1969, and is subject to an Ontario Hydro easement and right-of-way, south of Highway 17.

Until now, the Sanctuary surroundings have been a stable environment essentially used as farmland. Even though the Sanctuary area is zoned conservation and the surroundings agriculture, the present administrator of the Science School is concerned about eventual changes and is working with the OMNR office to create a buffer zone around the Ottawa Board of Education property. As a matter of fact, the Ottawa Board of Education is managing wisely the whole area, keeping the naturalness of the site in spite of a heavy public use.

Hunting on the Ottawa River occurs mainly on the Québec side but usually local residents set up blinds around the Sanctuary limits each fall.

#### 9. Protective Status and Enforcement:

Beckett Creek Bird Sanctuary is controlled by the Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations under the Migratory Birds Convention Act (P.C. 1969-211, February 4, 1969; P.C. 1974-1989, September 10, 1974).

The Sanctuary is kept well posted in the River area (on the Ontario Hydro property) where hunters are attracted. However violation of the Sanctuaries regulations were recorded four and five years ago. The first time, despite the presence of obvious signs, hunters entered in the Sanctuary and killed tame geese in the wetland portion of the Sanctuary. After this event, the director of the Science School decided to keep the geese close to the farm buildings all year long. The next year, in spite of this precautionary measure, another hunter came into the Ottawa Board of Education property and killed geese in the backyard of the farmhouse. This last person was arrested and prosecuted. Since then, no major incident took place. As

a matter of fact, the Sanctuary is well known in the area and any abnormality would be recorded and reported to concerned authorities. These incidents are rather related to unethical hunters than to gaps in the enforcement strategy of the Sanctuary.

10. Recommendations:

- (1) To continue present status

Due to the heavy use by children from the public school board and to the important role played by the Science school in transmitting values related to wildlife, it is essential for educational purposes, that the school have access to a good and very safe wetland area. Thus, the Canadian Wildlife Service should continue to provide support to the Ottawa Board of Education considering that they are pursuing their original objectives which received full approval from CWS in 1967 when Beckett Creek BS was created.

However, it should be kept in mind that Beckett Creek BS is a special case among Ontario' Migratory Bird Sanctuaries. Indeed, even if the Sanctuary is not an area of outstanding significance for birds, the Sanctuary status is continued for the reasons stated above. In the future, consideration should be given to the fact that Sanctuary Regulations exist to protect migratory birds and their habitat so that any new Sanctuary is established for the benefit of migratory birds as the first and essential deciding factor.

- (2) To continue to preserve the naturalness of the area in spite of the high level of public use experienced by the Sanctuary.

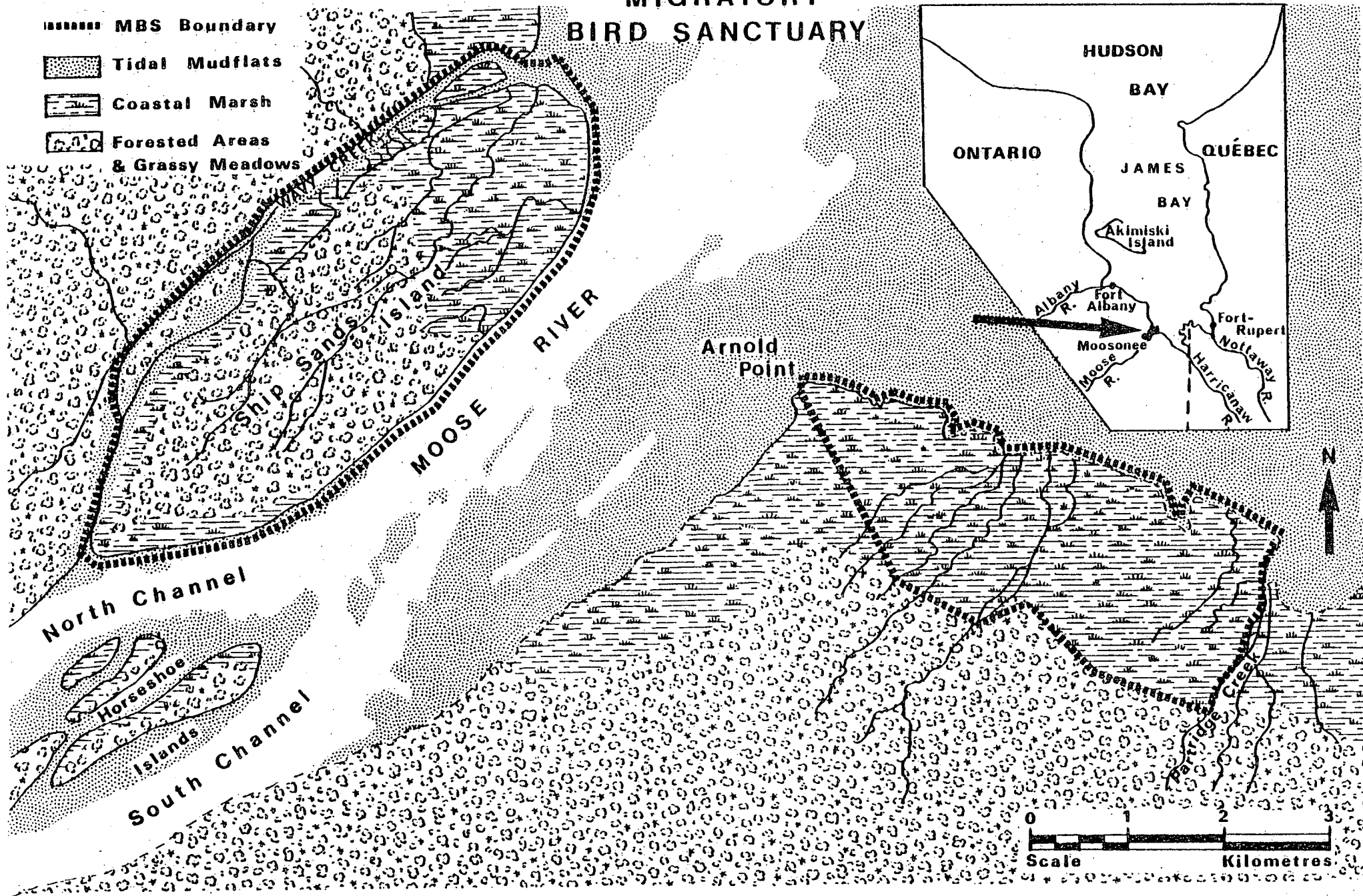
11. References:

Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region, File # 9396-6-2.

MOOSE RIVER  
MIGRATORY  
BIRD SANCTUARY



# MOOSE RIVER MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY



## MOOSE RIVER MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY

1. Location: 18 km northeast of Moosonee, District of Cochrane, Ontario  
Latitude 51°20' Longitude 80°25'  
UTM Grid Reference 412873  
N.T.S. 1:50 000 Arnold Point 42P/8

2. Area: 1 457 hectares

3. Land ownership:

Provincial Crown Land

4. Major Habitat Type:

Tidal Mudflats	10%
Coastal Marsh	55%
Forest interspersed with grassy meadows	35%

5. Description of Area:

The Moose River Migratory Bird Sanctuary is composed of two separate units at the mouth of the Moose River on the southwest side of James Bay. These two areas are Ship Sands Island located along the west side of the Moose River at its mouth, and a section of mainland on the east side of the river mouth from Arnold Point (Long Point) east to Partridge Creek. The coastal boundary for both units extends 61 metres offshore from the normal high tide water mark.

The downstream end (northeast) of Ship Sands Island is divided by numerous tidal creeks. Only a small portion of the extensive tidal mudflats adjoining the Island are included within the Sanctuary. Immediately inland from the mudflats a flooded sedge marsh begins. Many pools containing marsh arrowgrass (Triglochin palustris) are scattered throughout this large zone of Carex sp.. Along much of the shoreline, bulrush (Scirpus sp.), cattail (Typha sp.) and a compositae (Senecio sp.) are found between the tidal flat and sedge areas.

Inland on the Island, on slightly higher ground, the sedge marsh gradually grades into a grassy meadow as the soil becomes less saturated. In much of this zone willow and alder shrubs (Salix sp., Alnus sp.) are becoming established. Much of the upstream (southwest) half of the Island is covered by forest vegetation of varying density. The main tree species present are Black Spruce (Picea mariana), White Spruce (P. glauca), Tamarack (Larix laricina) and Balsam Poplar (Populus balsamifera). Examination of past and current aerial photographs indicates

that vegetation succession has been occurring. The forest and shrub zones have been expanding at the expense of sedge marsh areas.

The pattern of vegetation zones in the upstream (south-west) half of Ship Sands Island is similar to that present in the downstream half, however, the flats and sedge marsh zones are much narrower.

The mainland portion of the Moose River MBS is composed almost entirely of flooded sedge marsh. Tidal flats form the northern boundary. To the south, the broad area of sedge (Carex sp.) grades into willow thicket (Salix sp.). In some sections of the coast a clear distinction between willow and sedge zones is apparent but in others, fingers of willow growth extend into the sedges, and in many areas scattered clumps of low willow are isolated from the main zone of willow growth.

Numerous tidal creeks cut back into the Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS) and a number of fresh water creeks cross the MBS and flow into James Bay.

The pattern of vegetation present in the MBS is common along most of the James Bay coast. Coastal sedge marsh is bordered on the shore by extensive tidal mudflats and on the inland side by shrub willow/spruce forest. Fens are scattered throughout the forested zones. The habitat within the MBS is therefore not unusual or of critical importance.

#### 6. Public Use:

Public use of the Moose River MBS proper is not extensive. Birdwatchers periodically visit Ship Sands Island and persons travelling to and from James Bay may put ashore during inclement weather or unfavourable tide conditions. By regulation the possession of a firearm is prohibited in a Migratory Bird Sanctuary, however, special permission by regulation allows waterfowl hunters to transport unloaded firearms and other hunting appliances through the Wavy creek section of the Moose River MBS adjacent to Ship Sands Island.

Wavy Creek is the traditional route for hunters travelling to and from the west coast of James Bay.

#### 7. Importance to the Resource:

The funnel shape of Hudson and James Bays concentrates large numbers of migrating waterfowl and shorebirds in southern James Bay each fall. The area is especially

noted for its use as a staging area for Lesser Snow Geese. During fall migration all the eastern Arctic Lesser Snow Geese pass through James Bay. The results of yearly aerial goose surveys conducted by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) along the coast of James Bay demonstrate that the Moose River MBS provides a resting and feeding area of considerable importance. The 1982 OMNR Goose Survey, conducted in early October, indicated that of the birds present along the James Bay coast from the Ontario/Québec border to the Albany River, 27% (9,400) were located in the Moose River MBS and surrounding area (Ship Sands Island to Natatishee Point).

The Lesser Snow Geese stay essentially in the coastal marsh where they rest and feed, particularly on sedges (Carex sp.) and Marsh Arrowgrass (Triglochin palustris). The geese generally concentrate in the lower part of the Ship Sands Island during the early fall and gradually shift upstream as the food resources of the lower area are depleted. Many geese remain in the area until ice prevents access to food. During spring Lesser Snow Geese are most numerous during breakup when sea ice is still solid but streams and river mouths are open. The Snow Geese appear to travel north along the James Bay coast in relatively small hops.

Canada Geese also utilize the MBS, but in much smaller numbers than Lesser Snow Geese. Canada Geese tend to feed along the tide line and therefore do not rely on the coastal marsh zone to the same extent as Lesser Snow Geese. In the spring Atlantic Brant may stop on the open waters between Arnold Point and Ship Sands Island and at the mouth of the Partridge River.

Dabbling ducks (Pintail, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Black Duck) tend to concentrate in the open tidal marshes of the MBS during spring, however, the area is not of particular importance for nesting. Dabbling ducks moult along the whole coast of James Bay in relatively small numbers and the MBS does not contain an unusually high concentration. During fall migration the above-noted species of dabbling ducks frequent the coastal marshes and creeks of the MBS.

The Moose River MBS also provides habitat for migrating shorebirds such as yellowlegs and plovers. These birds may be found on tidal mudflats from mid-July until October. The MBS offers a large undisturbed area of tidal flat and coastal marsh but the extent to which shorebirds depend on this MBS habitat is not known. Staging areas

are critical to the survival of shorebirds, so the MBS may be of more importance than is realized at this time.

As originally intended at the time of its establishment, the Moose River MBS provides a large undisturbed feeding and resting area for migrating geese in an area of heavy hunting pressures (to the north). The presence of the MBS holds more geese in the southern part of the Bay for a longer period of time than if no protected area existed. This benefits the geese which are allowed to feed undisturbed, and also the hunters who have a much better opportunity to harvest birds throughout the early fall.

#### 8. Historical and Present Land Use Conflicts:

As previously noted, the southern James Bay attracts tens of thousands of geese and ducks each fall. In the 1950's it was noted that the number of birds using the extreme south end of the Bay was declining. Increased hunting pressure as a result of easy access to the mouth of the Moose River was blamed for the decline. Native hunters were forced to travel further north up the shore of James Bay in search of game.

In March of 1956 discussions were initiated between the Canadian Wildlife Service and Ontario Lands and Forests (now OMNR) to establish a migratory bird sanctuary in southern James Bay. It was felt that such a sanctuary would help to hold geese in the area during the fall migration thereby improving hunting, and would also provide an undisturbed area for the geese to feed prior to migrating further south.

The original proposal called for the formation of a sanctuary in the vicinity of Big Piskawanish Point, about 50 km north of the Moose River. It was hoped that the sanctuary would deter white hunters from spreading into the Indian hunting area beyond Halfway Point. A number of disadvantages to the proposed location were present, the major one was that a MBS 50 km up the coast would do nothing to solve the problem at the mouth of the Moose River. Late in 1956 a new location was proposed at the Moose River estuary. This area was to include Ship Sands Island and a portion of mainland to the east of the river mouth. Local native people agreed with the decision in the hope that the ducks and geese would attain their former abundance. On January 2, 1958 the Moose River Bird Sanctuary was established.

In 1973, in response to Wavy Creek silting in and providing easy access to Ship Sands Island at low tide, the western boundary of the MBS was extended to the mainland shore. The MBS now included Wavy Creek and any newly formed islands contained in the Creek.

No land use practices detrimental to the value of the MBS as migratory waterfowl habitat have occurred. The status of the area as Provincial Crown Land undoubtedly is responsible for this.

In 1978 a proposal was made by Chief Linklater to alter the boundaries of the Moose River MBS. The Chief requested that a portion of Ship Sands Island be removed from the MBS and that several small islands and flats be included in the MBS. Chief Linklater requested these changes in order to establish a camping area on Ship Sands so that families travelling to and from James Bay could pull in during bad weather. CWS declined to make the proposed changes in the MBS because of the necessity to have a MBS of sufficient size to provide good quality feeding and resting habitat for the geese.

Chief Linklater also raised the problem of the "willow-line boundary" at the Arnold Point section of the MBS. It was observed that some BS boundary signs were located back in the willow growth zone and not at the northerly edge as described in the Regulations. The problems of posting such a boundary line and the confusion of some hunters as to the location of the actual line have continued to the present.

#### 9. Protective Status and Enforcement of the Regulations:

Migratory Birds Sanctuary Regulations under the Migratory Birds Convention Act: P.C. 1958-15, 23 November, 1954 and P.C. 1174-1989, 10 September, 1974.

In general, no major enforcement problems exist with regard to the Moose River MBS. The area is traditionally known as a sanctuary by both local and southern hunters who generally recognize the value of the MBS.

In the past two problems related to the enforcement of Sanctuary Regulations have arisen; both were related to the boundary of the MBS. In the first instance, the silting of Wavy Creek enabled hunters to easily cross the channel at low tide and enter the western side of Ship Sands Island. In 1973 this problem was solved by altering the western boundary of the Ship Sands Island portion of

the MBS. The MBS western boundary was shifted to the mainland bank of Wavy Creek so that the MBS then included the waters of Wavy Creek and any islands contained therein. This change, including the provision for the transportation of unloaded firearms through Wavy Creek, has proven to be satisfactory, however, some years the posting of this boundary is incomplete.

The other problem relates to the "willow boundary" on the mainland portion of the MBS at Arnold Point. The northern limit of willow growth is supposed to form the southern boundary of the MBS. In theory, this moveable boundary is to shift with the willow thicket growth. Unfortunately, the presence of scattered willow clumps in the sedge zone and the growth of low willows outside the higher willow thicket growth makes the posting of this boundary line very difficult. The confusion as to the location of this southern boundary of the MBS has not been resolved.

10. Recommendations:

- (i) The present status as a Migratory Bird Sanctuary should be maintained. The MBS, because of its strategic location at the mouth of the Moose River, plays a very important role in providing Lesser Snow Geese with an undisturbed area in which to feed and rest. Additionally, the presence of the MBS in such an easily accessible area close to Moosonee holds large numbers of geese in the extreme southern end of James Bay. Consequently, waterfowl hunters are able to harvest geese throughout the fall in an area of high hunting pressure. Without the MBS, hunting success would be significantly lower.
- (ii) The southern boundary of the Arnold Point section of the MBS needs to be better defined. As previously mentioned, this boundary is supposed to follow the northerly edge of willow growth. On the ground it is difficult to determine exactly where the boundary should be and this leads to somewhat subjective decisions being made about where signs should be located. There is a consensus between local native people and OMNR staff in Moosonee that a more clear-cut boundary is required to eliminate any misinterpretation.

Further discussions should be held between OMNR biologists and CWS staff to determine the best location of a new southern boundary for the Arnold Point portion of the MBS. Local native people should also be consulted. Any

change or redefinition of the old "willow line" boundary must reflect the value of the coastal marsh to feeding geese. The area of coastal marsh within the MBS should not be reduced.

Whatever the final boundary agreement is, the decision should not be considered permanent. Because of the constantly changing nature of the coastal vegetation, the boundaries of the Moose River MBS should be reviewed periodically, perhaps every five years.

- (iii) In addition to using regular MBS signs, consideration should be given to additional posting in the Cree language. Such posting may lead to better co-operation from local native people, and would tie in to any hunter education program undertaken by OMNR in the Cree language.
- (iv) Arrangements should be made between CWS and OMNR - Moosonee to have the Junior Ranger crew post the MBS on an annual basis. The posting would be completed under the supervision of OMNR enforcement staff.

#### 11. References:

Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region, File # 9396-6-11

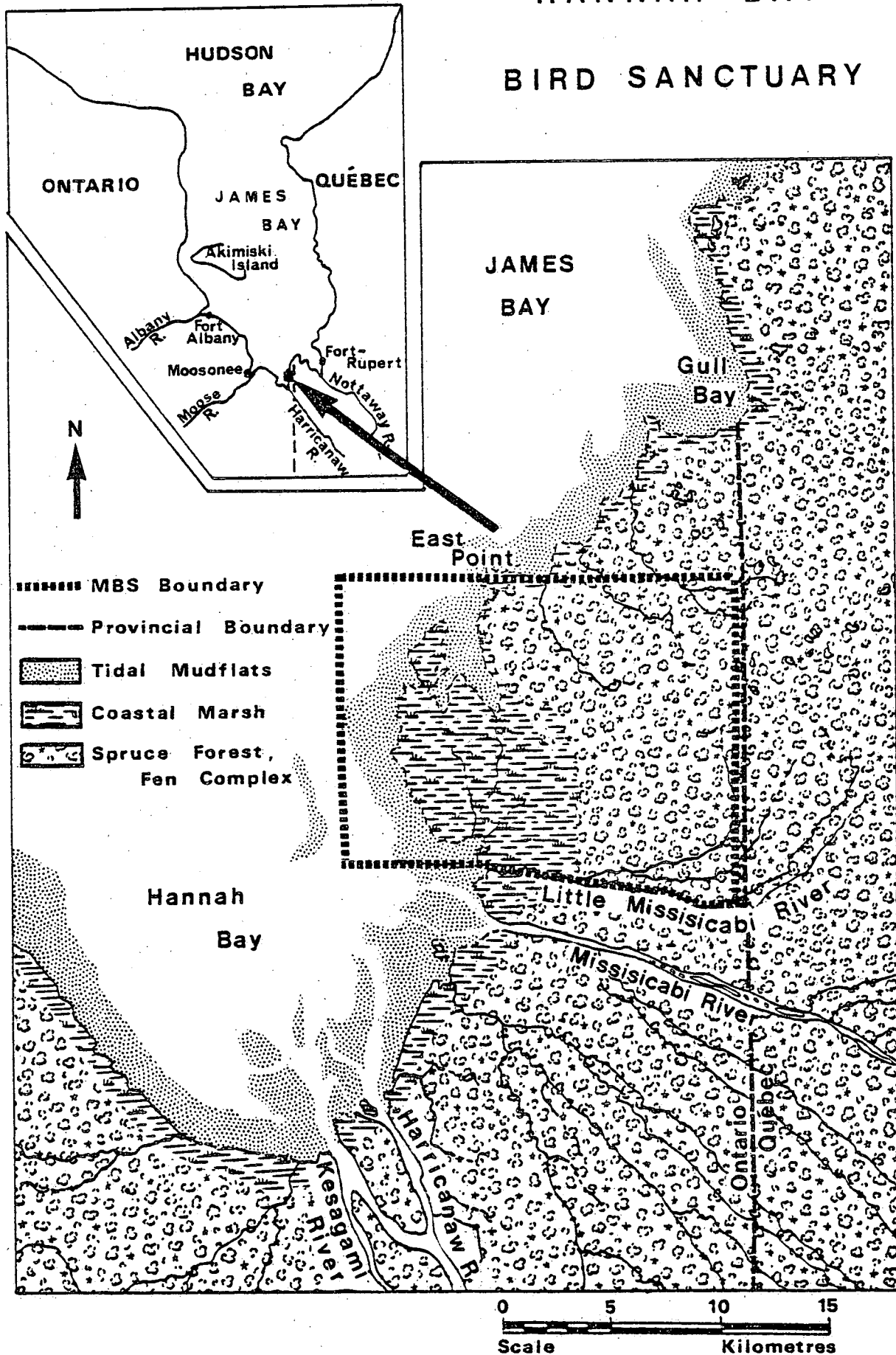
Carreiro, J.F. and G.D. Tessier. 1976.

Critical and important area for migratory birds in southern Ontario and James Bay. CWS ms. report. 123 pp.



HANNAH BAY  
BIRD SANCTUARY

# HANNAH BAY BIRD SANCTUARY



## HANNAH BAY BIRD SANCTUARY

1. Location: 60 km east of Moosonee; land area located in the district of Cochrane, Ontario. Offshore areas located in the District of Keewatin, Northwest Territories.  
Lat. 51°20' Long. 79°38'  
Military Grid Reference 953882  
N.T.S. 1:50 000 Sheet No. 32M/5 (Petite Rivière Mississicabi)
2. Area: 29 785 hectares (approximately 23 828 ha in Ontario and 5957 ha in NWT)
3. Land ownership:  
  
Provincial Crown Land and Federal Crown Land within Northwest Territories (approximately 20% of the total area of the Sanctuary)
4. Major Habitat Type:  

Tidal Mudflats and open water	20%
Coastal Marsh	25%
Spruce forest, fen complex	55%
5. Description of Area:

Hannah Bay forms the southernmost projection of James Bay. The Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS) is located on the east side of the Bay and stretches northward from the mouth of the Little Mississicabi River to East Point. The Sanctuary extends 6.4 km west from East Point and includes open water, shoals and tidal flats which are part of the Northwest Territories. In addition to the coastal area, the Sanctuary includes sedge marshes, inland fens and spruce forest which stretch eastward to the Ontario/Québec border. The northern boundary of the Sanctuary is a line due eastward from East Point to the Ontario/Québec border, while the north bank of the south branch of the Little Mississicabi River forms the southern boundary.

The Hannah Bay Bird Sanctuary is characterized by areas of extensive mud flats and well developed sedge marsh interspersed by lakes and streams. The tidal flats, which may reach a few kilometers in width, are hard packed silts and clays; the water in this area is brackish and turbid. Following the flats there are sedge dominated marshes (Carex sp. and other species as Triglochin maritima, Scirpus rufus, Salicornia europea); with rush and bulrush (Eleocharis sp., Scirpus sp.) on the edges, and occasional pool areas colonized by Potamogeton sp. On higher sites

needlerush (Juncus balticus) and grasses are found, while Cattail (Typha sp.), Mare's tail (Hippuris vulgaris) grow in the numerous shallow ponds. The deeper potholes contain a variety of submergents including Myriophyllum spicatum, Potamogeton sp., etc. Farther inland, extensive wet meadows (Carex sp.), freshwater swamps, fens and bogs (Betula pumila, Larix laricina, Sphagnum sp.) and Black Spruce (Picea mariana) forest cover the area. Salix sp. may be found along the banks of streams such as the Little Missisicabi River.

6. Public Use:

Registered traplines are located within the Migratory Bird Sanctuary and Native people continue to camp and pursue this traditional activity.

7. Importance to the Resource:

The funnel-shaped outline of Hudson and James bays cause birds migrating from the Arctic to concentrate at the southern end of James Bay each fall. Extensive tidal flats, coastal marshes and inland fens attract hundreds of thousands of ducks, geese and shorebirds each autumn. The above-noted vegetation zones are common along the southern shore of James Bay, however, the coastal sedge marsh zone is considerably wider at the Hannah Bay BS than along other sections of the shoreline.

The most common fall migrants are Lesser Snow Geese, Canada Geese, Pintails, Black Ducks, Mallards, Green-winged Teal and White-winged Scoters.

Lesser Snow Geese are found in numbers reaching several thousands of birds during the fall and spring migration through the Hannah Bay Bird Sanctuary. In 1972, Curtis (1973) recorded 1,884 large Canada Geese and 14,435 Lesser Snow Geese in Hannah Bay between September 19 and 22, and on October 4 to 10 Curtis recorded 398 large Canada Geese and 28,560 Lesser Snow Geese. Lumsden (1971) recorded 35,897 Lesser Snow Geese October 4-6, and 64,538 October 15-18. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR), in the 1982 Goose Survey, recorded over seven thousand Lesser Snow Geese in the Sanctuary itself which constituted one fifth of the total number counted in southern James Bay in this goose survey.

These habitats are essential for the waterfowl as feeding grounds to replenish their fat reserves in order to continue their migratory journey.

In addition to the value that the MBS has as a feeding and resting area for migrating geese, the coastal portion of the Sanctuary is important as a moulting area for Canada Geese.

During spring migration, some ducks may remain in the Sanctuary, on the offshore islands and the mainland, and attempt to nest. However, severe flood tides restrict the possibility of significant waterfowl production in this area. Large numbers of ducks congregate along the coastal marshes of the MBS each summer to moult. An OMNR banding crew has operated in the Sanctuary for the past two years. Thousands of ducks utilize the tidal flats, coastal marsh, streams and ponds during the fall migration.

Many shorebirds Black-bellied, Golden and Semipalmated Plovers, Yellowlegs, Dunlin, Semipalmated Sandpipers, Hudsonian Godwit, Red Knot, Wilson's Snipe, pass through Hannah Bay Bird Sanctuary during migration. The endangered Eskimo Curlew, the migration routes of which remain unknown, has been recorded near Hannah Bay by Hagar and Anderson (1977).

The presence of large tidal flats, coastal marsh and sedge marsh, in conjunction with the low disturbance as a result of its remote location and protective status, make this Sanctuary extremely attractive to large numbers of migratory waterfowl and shorebirds.

#### 8. Historical and Present Land Use Conflicts:

On October 21, 1938 the Province of Ontario, in response to concerns regarding the protection of Lesser Snow Geese and other waterfowl, established an Ontario Crown Game Preserve on the east side of Hannah Bay. The inland area from East Point to the Missisicabi River and eastward to the Ontario/Québec border was to be known as the Hannah Bay Waterfowl Sanctuary.

In order to obviate any jurisdictional problems, Ontario requested that a suitable area of open water, flats and shoals fronting the Waterfowl Sanctuary, and part of the Northwest Territories, be established as a Federal Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

The establishment of a Migratory Bird Sanctuary was recommended by Mr. Harrison F. Lewis the Chief Federal Migratory Birds Officer for Ontario and Québec and Mr. D.J. Taylor the Deputy Minister of Game and Fisheries for Ontario and the Northwest Territories Council. On February 25, 1939 the tidal waters fronting the western boundary of the Provincial Waterfowl Sanctuary were declared a Federal Migratory Bird Sanctuary by Order-in-Council P.C. 1939-406.

In 1946, it was proposed that the Federal Sanctuary include the land covered by the Provincial Waterfowl Sanctuary, to simplify and improve migratory bird protection. On August 27, 1946 the proposal was carried through, by Order-in-Council P.C. 1946-3635.

In 1973 the southern boundary of the MBS was altered to accommodate the new Tidewater Goose Camp, owned and operated by Mr. James Rickard. The southern boundary was moved northward to the north bank of the south branch of the Little Missisicabi River, thereby positioning the established goose camp outside the MBS. This boundary alteration does not appear to have adversely affected the use of the MBS by waterfowl.

In 1978 the owner of the Tidewater Camp requested that the southern boundary be moved further north to give the Camp access to more coastal marsh for goose and duck hunting. That 1978 request was turned down by the Canadian Wildlife Service, since that area of coastal tide flat and marsh is extensively used as a feeding and roosting area by thousands of Lesser Snow Geese, Canada Geese and ducks. It was felt that a further reduction in the area of coastal marsh would reduce the number of waterfowl utilizing the area and adversely affect the value of the Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

A probable reason for the boundary alteration request is that another hunting camp operates in the same general area. The Harricanaw River Goose Camp run by Ontario Northland Railway had been in operation for many years prior to the establishment of the Tidewater Goose Camp. Although no major problem existed, the hunting area of Tidewater is confined between the MBS on the north and the Harricanaw River to the south. It is only natural for the Tidewater Camp to want to have access to a larger area for goose and duck hunting, however, the purpose of the MBS would not be served if the southern boundary was moved further up the coast.

At present, the habitats of the Hannah Bay Migratory Bird Sanctuary do not appear to be undergoing change that has (or will) affect the use of the area by migratory birds.

#### 9. Protective Status and Enforcement of the Regulations:

The Hannah Bay Bird Sanctuary is controlled by the Migratory Bird Regulations under the Migratory Birds Convention Act; (P.C. 1958-15, January 2, 1958 and P.C. 1974-1989, September 10, 1974).

Because of its remote location, the Hannah Bay Bird Sanctuary is a difficult area, from a practical point of view, to enforce the Regulations. Original posting was carried out by RCM Police a few years ago, and very infrequent visits are made to this area by RCM Police or Conservation officers. Posting of the south boundary along the Little Missisicabi River was carried out in 1983 by seasonal staff of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

In general the Sanctuary is subjected to very little disturbance, however, some Native people travelling from Fort-Rupert (Rupert House) in Québec may unknowingly stop and hunt in the Sanctuary because the north boundary is indicated by only one signpost. In addition, reports have been received from local residents indicating that some hunting periodically takes place in the southern portion of the Sanctuary.

10. Recommendations:

- (i) To continue the present status due to the great value of Hannah Bay Bird Sanctuary as a staging area for waterfowl. This Sanctuary was first established to improve goose hunting in James Bay in accordance with Harrison Lewis' belief that the protection of some resting areas would cause more geese to stay longer on these staging areas. As this proved to be the case (Cooch, pers. comm. in Allison, 1977), the Sanctuary's usefulness is obvious and its integrity should be preserved. One value of the Sanctuary lies in its extensive mud flats and sedge marshes which provide ample food for birds. Any further reduction in size would adversely affect this Sanctuary's function.
- (ii) To improve the posting and enforcement of the Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations.

The northern boundary of the MBS at East Point should be marked with an appropriate number of signs so that persons travelling down the coast have no difficulty determining where the MBS begins. These signs and posts should be checked yearly and replaced as required.

Subject to agreement with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the R.C.M. Police, the southern boundary of the MBS should continue to be posted by seasonal staff of OMNR. CWS should continue to provide signs and make a monetary contribution to cover expenses. Consideration should be given to adding MBS signs in the Cree language at strategic locations.

Enforcement effort should be increased. R.C.M. Police should visit the Hannah Bay MBS at least once a year. Enforcement efficiency and Native compliance to MBS Regulations may be increased by reintroducing the practice of hiring Native people to provide Warden Services. This practice seems to have been abandoned in 1976.

11. References:

Allison, L. 1977. Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in the Northwest Territories. A Background Paper. CWS. 3 tomes. 370 p.

Canadian Wildlife Service File No. 9396-6-8 (2 Volumes).

Carreiro, J.F. & G.D. Tessier. 1976. Critical and important areas for migratory birds in southern Ontario and James Bay. CWS ms. report. 123 p.

Curtis, S.G. 1973. The movement of geese through James Bay, fall 1972 - a preliminary report. CWS unpub. James Bay report series 21 p.

Hagar, J.A. & K.S. Anderson. 1977. Sight record of Eskimo Curlew (Numenius borealis) on west coast of James Bay, Canada. American Birds 31(2): 135-136.

Lumsden, H. 1971. Goose surveys on James Bay, 1971. Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, unpub. mimeo.



#### SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the St. Joseph's Island BS be eliminated.

This MBS is of no special importance to migratory birds and Parks Canada now has the legislative authority to control public use and activities on the mainland portion of the MBS.

2. That the Young Lake BS be eliminated.

This MBS is of only very local importance to migratory birds since numerous similar areas exist in the region which receive greater waterfowl use.

3. That the Fielding BS be eliminated.

The MBS is of no special importance to waterfowl or other migratory birds, even on a local basis.

4. That the present status of Eleanor Island as a MBS should be eliminated.

National Wildlife Area regulations can adequately restrict activities to protect nesting birds. A management plan which would address the protection of nesting colonies, should be prepared.

5. That, for the present, the status of Chantry Island BS should be continued.

When the Island is no longer required by Transport Canada, the MBS should be declared a National Wildlife Area and the MBS designation should be eliminated. At such time a management plan would be drafted to discuss the possibility of restricting access during the nesting season, and other issues.

6. That the Pinafore Park BS be reviewed for possible elimination.

This MBS acts as a locally important staging area for ducks and Canada Geese in conjunction with the Provincially Crown Game Preserve reservoir. Pinafore Lake, which is protected by the no discharge of firearms municipal bylaw, together with the reservoir should provide a more than adequate refuge area for migrating ducks and geese.

7. That the present status of the Guelph BS be reviewed for boundary changes.

It is not acceptable to have the subdivision and industrial areas included within the MBS.

8. That the present status of Mississippi Lake BS be continued.

The Bird Sanctuary regulations are necessary to control strategic points at the river entrance and on the river side. A management plan will be devised to address the possibility of establishing a small scale interpretation program, and of improving the habitat, once more information is gathered regarding the ecology of the area.

9. That the status of the Rideau Bird Sanctuary be reviewed.

This area, with its important weed beds, provides an appropriate waterfowl staging habitat on the Rideau River. However due to extensive land use changes, an elucidation of the actual ownership status and planned development projects is required in order to form recommendations. Consideration should be given to other possible sanctuary sites on the Rideau River in order to insure that the Sanctuary protection is provided at the most appropriate location.

10. That the present status of the Upper Canada BS be continued.

The Sanctuary is a staging area for thousands of Canada Geese and for a large number of ducks. It is recommended that the breeding goose population be controlled or reduced to avoid further expansion. In the event of land development on Ault Island, care should be taken to avoid ancillary effects, especially in the protected channel during waterfowl staging periods.

11. That the present status of Beckett Creek BS be continued.

The MBS forms an essential part of the educational activities of the Outdoor Natural Science School by providing public school children with access to a safe wetland area.

12. That the present status of the Moose River MBS be maintained.

The MBS plays a very important role in providing Lesser Snow Geese with an undisturbed area in which to feed and rest. The southern boundary of the Arnold Point section needs to be better defined, and all boundaries should be reviewed periodically due to the changing nature of the coastal vegetation.

13. That the present status of Hannah Bay BS be continued.

The MBS is of great importance as a staging area for waterfowl. The posting and enforcement of the area should be improved.