

# Parrott's Bay Conservation Area

## *Master Plan*



*2009*



CATARAQUI REGION  
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

# Parrott's Bay Conservation Area

## *Master Plan*



Written for the  
Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority by:

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*In 1784 James Parrott, along with his family and a number of other United Empire Loyalist families, landed at an inlet that still bears his name a little west of present day Kingston; he would also come to own property neighbouring what is now the Parrott's Bay Conservation Area.*

*The Parrott's Bay Conservation Area has long been used by area residents as a place to explore and enjoy the wonder of the natural and cultural heritage features of this special place.*

## *Acknowledgement*

It is important to acknowledge, at this time, the keen and dedicated interest that so many have shown towards seeing the Parrott's Bay Conservation Area have a clear management direction and plan for development to guide this special place into the future. At this time I would like to recognize and thank the following for their contributions:

- Loyalist Township, our partner in conservation.
- Parrott's Bay Advisory Committee: Carl Bresee, Gary Osborne and Ric Bresee.
- Rob Wood from 8020Info Inc., for mediating our focus group.
- Jim Peets, for conducting the marketing analysis.
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- Members of the public that attended the public consultations and shared their ideas.
- CRCA staff members: Tom Beaubiah, Biologist

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## **Executive Summary and Recommendations**

The property known as Parrott's Bay Conservation Area (PBCA) has operated for more than 20 years without a master plan while lands surrounding the bay were acquired. It is that existing need to create this plan and policy for guiding the area's management that is the primary drive to complete it for the CRCA and Loyalist Township. In 2001 the CRCA adopted a new strategic plan that outlined goals to guide the overall development of Authority properties through the next 20 years. It is the goals set out in this strategy (and other CRCA policy documents referenced within) that will guide the development and implementation of this master plan and its associated recommendations.

Although there is limited data regarding the people that visit PBCA, visitors are likely to come from three different populations: those within walking distance, people from nearby Amherstview and those who are from further afield. The population using PBCA, like the population of Ontario, is growing and aging and this trend is expected to continue. Development of the surrounding area and communities is also expected to continue. PBCA, with its passive and low-impact recreational activities that are becoming more in demand, will continue to be valued for those leisure opportunities and nature experiences.

The following is a set of the recommendations contained within this master plan:

- Any future development proposed beyond the existing developed areas (existing trails, mown areas, etc.) will be reviewed independently for potential impacts to sensitive areas/plant communities;
- Any development plans should be presented a year in advance so that biological assessments can be made through the following field season, prior to the work being undertaken;
- So far as resources allow, the current inventory of species that use and rely on PBCA should be updated as required, to assist in determining further protection and retention measures;
- An awareness and appreciation for Parrott's Bay Conservation Area should be fostered throughout the community. This can be achieved through enhanced communication with municipalities, schools, local clubs, and online through the CRCA web-site; and also through participation in grassroots and government initiatives that promote, protect and preserve natural resources and encourage healthy active living;
- Planning for Parrott's Bay Conservation Area should consider that the surrounding population is projected to grow and will have an increasingly high percentage of older people;

- Planned outdoor recreation activities should complement and respect the continued conservation and protection of the area;
- Plan improvements that help visitors find their way on the trails, and that can also provide interpretive information and activities as part of their experiences;
- Partner with local volunteers from the community to conduct projects such as: fundraising or community cleanups of the site; and,
- Support the establishment and development of a community-led 'Friends' group for PBCA.

## **1. Introduction and Context**

“The objects of an authority are to establish and undertake, in the area over which it has jurisdiction, a program designed to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources other than gas, oil, coal and minerals.” (R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27, s. 20. *Conservation Authorities Act*)

Master plans are developed to determine the best use of and direction for a property over a 20-year horizon. Through this master planning process for Parrott’s Bay Conservation Area (PBCA), a vision for the long-term use of the property has been developed, goals set and specific actions to be taken to meet these goals have been identified. The process also identified the steps needed to respond to regional and local growth and the interests of community stakeholders while creating an ideal future for the area.

### **1.1 Goals**

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) prepares master plans to guide the management, operation and development of its properties. These plans express how these properties will contribute to achieving the goals of the CRCA and define the property uses, development and policies that will maintain or enhance that contribution over a 20 year period. The goals of the CRCA are presented in the 2001 document *Cataraqui to 2020*.

Also in 2005, to support the Authority’s lands program *Conservation Lands Guidelines: Our Role, Principles and Priorities* was compiled to define the CRCA’s relationship with its own properties, other lands and landowners. The preparation of a master plan for the PBCA establishes a clear direction for the long-term management of the area and is an opportunity to address management issues, consult with the public, and generate an updated site inventory and assessment of the property.

Parrott’s Bay Conservation Area is managed by the CRCA to meet the following primary goals:

- To protect the (cultural and ecological) site’s regional/provincial significance and diversity;
- To establish the PBCA’s role as a link in a larger network of protected, natural spaces; and
- To encourage and educate area residents to responsibly use and value this community asset.

## ***1.2 Purpose and Intent***

The purpose of this master plan is to provide a policy framework and guidelines for the management and future development of the PBCA and identify specific development for this site. This master plan will serve a 20 year period with a major review at ten years and lesser (more succinct) reviews conducted at five and fifteen years into the plan's implementation. While lands that surround the bay were acquired it was recognized that a master plan was needed to evaluate and guide the operations, development, maintenance and protection of this conservation area. Since the bulk of land acquisitions have only been recently completed, it is now prudent to develop a master plan.

## ***1.3 Master Planning Objectives***

The following objectives for the PBCA Master Plan have been identified:

- To evaluate the current site conditions that exist including the biophysical, and cultural/historical data;
- To assess current and potential user demands through consideration of the market area and the site's accessibility and features;
- To identify the site's attributes for conservation, education and recreational activities;
- To identify ways in which those aspects that make the PBCA's ecological systems unique within the region may be protected, maintained and enhanced;
- To evaluate concept alternatives as directed by site resource factors and public input;
- To present a vision and long-term plan for the area, the management direction and actions required to achieve these; and
- To serve as a working document to guide CRCA staff in management of the site's planning and operations.

## ***1.4 Report Layout***

The PBCA property is described and analysed (in terms of the natural and cultural elements) in Section 2. A summary and recommendations from the 2008 market analysis is presented in Section 3. The steps followed throughout this process are described in Section 4 of this plan. Section 5 presents the outcomes of the master planning process. An implementation framework and relative costs are developed in Section 6. A brief summation is presented in Section 7, along with a list of the master plan's key recommendations.

## **2. Site Description and Analysis**

The PBCA has operated as a conservation area, with the support of Loyalist Township, for the past 20 years. There were existing trails on the property and, as property was purchased when parcels became available, some additional facilities have been developed. The recent completion of land acquisitions means that it is essential to create a master plan to evaluate and guide the protection, development and management of this property.

PBCA is affected by a wide range of factors and has been evaluated in terms of its goals and influencing components in order to identify the suitability, capability, and feasibility of the site for various types and intensities of use, development and management.

This conservation area is not heavily used thereby limiting the impacts of visitor/users of this site. However, as the area's population increases, apace with the rising average age of local residents, there will be increased demands for safe and easily accessed public places of natural beauty for passive use and enjoyment.

The major constraints to development and management of projects and programs at the PBCA are:

- Although funded by Loyalist Township, there are presently no funds for new projects and programs at the PBCA;
- Area users who wish to tour 'around' the whole property on the trail system will have to spend some time walking by a busy highway to do so (that is without backtracking at least along some of the trails); and

### ***2.1 Location***

The Parrott's Bay Conservation Area (PBCA) occupies 100 hectares (249 acres) of meadow and wooded uplands surrounding a provincially significant coastal wetland and inland open waters of Parrott's Bay. This area of Lake Ontario within Loyalist Township lies between Amherstview and Bath, west of Kingston. The lands are bordered by Highway 33 along the south and by County Road 23 (Taylor-Kidd Boulevard) on the north. To the west is Loyalist Township's industrial Park; with residential development along Brooklands Drive to the east of PBCA. See Figure 1.

### ***2.2 Property Setting –***

Since its formation in 1964, the CRCA has undertaken activities to support the ecological integrity of south-eastern Ontario, while avoiding natural hazards such as flooding, and the recreational interests of residents and visitors. The ownership and management of land has been a core part of this program.

The CRCA operates conservation areas as one part of its mandate under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, and more directly through CRCA policy in the 2001 document, *Cataraqui to 2020* that describes the strategic goals of the Authority.

As noted in the 1968 *Cataraqui Region Conservation Report*, the lands surrounding the inland waters and wetland of Parrott's Bay have been identified as a key target for the Authority since its inception.

The Parrott's Bay Conservation Area is located in the western portion of the CRCA's area of influence. This property is significant to the representation and provision of services that the conservation authority supplies throughout this area.

This property was initially recognized as a site to be protected specifically due to the long time appreciation and use of the property by area residents over generations. It is a significant place of natural beauty where people spend leisure time. This site affords access to many examples of the variable landscapes, habitats and species that are unique to this area of the CRCA's jurisdiction. It is one of the best examples of this type of landscape in the Lake Ontario region. PBCA is also important to the area as a natural corridor to the unique and significant habitats related to the Asselstine Alvar and Bayview Wetlands.

### ***2.3 Physical Description***

“At the centre of this property are the inland open waters of Parrott Bay and its associated wetland. Water enters the bay from Cook's Creek and also from a small unnamed watercourse, each runs from the north side of County Road 23. The marsh vegetation rings much of the bay, and is particularly dense in the western basin and at the smaller inlet. The shallow, warm waters of the bay provide sheltered fisheries habitat, as witnessed by fisherman that use the area.

“The major portion of the bay itself is not visible from either County Road 23 or Highway 33. Cooke's Creek and its associated ravine allow for a narrow but spectacular glimpse of the bay from County Road 23. The channel from the bay to Lake Ontario does not allow a view of the bay from Highway 33, due to its narrow and curved shape.

“The shoreline itself is mainly rocky and tree covered, ranging from gently rolling slopes to vertical bluffs. There are two ravines that bi-sect the Parrott's Bay CA, both of which are associated with the watercourses that flow into the bay.

“The surrounding upland area ranges from hilly and tree covered to flat open fields. The lands contain both coniferous and deciduous tree species and a variety of open field and farmland vegetation. “The Parrott's Bay property contains a regionally significant and unique coastal marsh that harbours a large number of rare and uncommon species. This Great Lakes coastal wetland is also ranked as one of provincial significance.” (*Parrott Bay Land Assembly Brief*, 1988)

**INSERT FIGURE 1**

## 2.4 Natural Elements

The PBCA is part of a system of natural heritage lands that extends from Lake Ontario, north to the limestone plain near the village of Odessa, Ontario (see Figure 2 on page 14). The system includes three core natural areas as well as riparian corridors and other intermediate woodlands and old field habitat. The key features include the following:

### Core Areas:

- *Parrott's Bay* (PSW, and candidate ANSI)
- *Asselstine Alvar* (a provincially significant ANSI)
- *Bayview Wetlands* (PSW, and regionally significant ANSI)

PSW = Provincially Significant Wetland.

ANSI = Area of Natural and Scientific Interest

### Connecting areas:

- Lost Creek Riparian corridor
- Parrott Creek valley and riparian corridor
- Eastern Loggerhead Shrike habitat (1997 MNR mapping)
- Other old field and woodland habitat

### 2.4.1 Significant Species and Vegetation Communities

A list follows of the vegetation communities and globally, nationally or provincially rare species that occur on the PBCA property as well as those associated with the other core areas related with the Parrott's Bay Area.

#### Parrott's Bay – Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) and Candidate ANSI

<i>Species</i>	Pied-billed Grebe
	Marsh Wren
	Least Bittern
	Caspian Tern
	Black Tern
	Northern Harrier
	King Rail
	Stinkpot Turtle
<i>Communities</i>	Coastal Marsh
	Coniferous, deciduous and mixed forest

Asselstine Alvar – Provincially Significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI)

*Species* Carolina Whitlow-Grass  
Spring Forget Me Not  
Eastern Loggerhead Shrike  
*Communities* Alvar  
Coniferous, deciduous and mixed forest

Bayview Wetlands – PSW and Regionally Significant ANSI

*Species* Southern Flying Squirrel  
Black Tern  
Black Crowned Night Heron  
Least Bittern  
Large Heronry – Great Blue Heron  
*Communities* Fen  
Marsh  
Swamp  
Coniferous, deciduous and mixed forest

**INSERT FIGURE 2**

#### *2.4.2 MNR and Environment Canada*

The lands that PBCA occupy are vitally important to the ongoing protection of the upland fields and forested area habitat, as well as to the Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) associated with this area. An evaluation of the 30 ha wetland at Parrott's Bay was conducted by MNR staff in 1985. (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 2009)

This wetland, in addition to its provincial significance, is also recognized as being extremely important as a great lakes coastal wetland as evidenced by the use of this area in a number of research and monitoring studies. These projects included:

- Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Consortium: Wetland Indicators Development;
- Durham Region Coastal Wetland Monitoring Project; and
- International Joint Commission: Water Level Review Study.

Parrott's Bay was included in these studies because it represents a wetland that experiences much less disturbance than many other Lake Ontario coastal wetlands. That also makes it an important area to be considered for future coastal wetland studies. It should be noted that Parrott's Bay is viewed as one of the best coastal wetlands of Lake Ontario.

#### *2.4.3 – 2008 Resource Analysis*

Having up-to-date species/resource information is critical to the/master plan, as it will support the CRCA in identifying the essential and most appropriate resource protection and retention measures for PBCA. In September 2008 CRCA Biologist Tom Beaubiah conducted an Ecological Land Classification analysis for PBCA to begin a data set that will reflect a current representation of the property's features. A summary of his observations follows below here:

“In order to provide a current view of the natural elements at PBCA to this master plan a resource inventory update was proposed. However, due to budget and time constraints this wasn't possible at this time; so an alternative system of evaluation was undertaken. Parrott's Bay has a number of background documents and resources to assist in an inventory update including air/satellite photos, Forest Management Plan compartment data, and a previous inventory from 1986.

#### **Methodology –**

“Through air/satellite photo interpretation and a general tour of the property, distinguishable vegetation units were identified. Transects were developed that would ensure that all units would be bisected to ensure a thorough inventory could be compiled. A running tally of species encountered was completed for the property (limitations will be discussed later). The plant list was updated and compiled with the previous data; this updated list appears at the end of this report in appendix 5.

“Following the establishment of vegetative units, the Ecological Land Classification system was used to classify each vegetation unit. Data was compiled into GIS for spatial analysis and visual representation.

See Figure 3 on the next page, for a map of the transects that were developed through the Ecological Land Classification exercise.

### **Limitations –**

“The inventory work was conducted during the late season (September). This late season observation would only provide a listing of plants readily observed in the field at that time. It is noted that a thorough multi-season inventory would be required to capture a greater representation of species.

### **Recommendations –**

- It is recommended that any future development that is proposed beyond the existing developed areas (existing trails, mown areas, etc.) be reviewed independently for potential impacts to sensitive areas/plant communities.
- Any development plans should be presented a year in advance so that biological assessments can be made through the following field season.
- So far as resources allow, the current inventory of species that use and rely on PBCA should be updated as required, to assist in determining further protection and retention measures;

(Beaubiah, T., 2008 Resources Survey and Ecological Land Classification (E.L.C.) Analysis)

*INSERT Figure 3 – Ecological Land Classification, Transects Map*

## ***2.5 Cultural and Historical Heritage***

There has been long-standing interest to protect the lands that surround Parrott's Bay. The importance of the area for local residents was recognized in the 1960's (Cataraqui Region Conservation Report, 1968) as a site for future acquisition and conservation. This property was initially recognized as a site to be protected due to the regional significance of its features as well as the long time use of the property by area residents.

The CRCA was approached as early as 1970 by Ernestown Township (now Loyalist Township) to investigate the purchase of property surrounding the bay and coastal wetland to ensure that the natural and cultural heritage values of the area be protected.

A plaque posted along Highway 33 discusses how the PBCA sits on land given to Madelaine de Roybonne d'Allonne (the first woman landowner in what would eventually become Upper Canada and later Ontario) in 1678, by René Robert Cavalier de la Salle.

During the master planning process for the Loyalist Parkway, studies indicated that this area contains potentially valuable archaeological cultural resources pertaining to three distinct sites:

1. A Middle Woodland site (300 B.C. to 800-900 A.D.);
2. An independent French or Metis fur trading post (1760-70?);
3. A 19<sup>th</sup> Century Farmstead.

Some artifacts (unrelated to Madelaine de Roybon d'Allonne) were recovered on-site during a 1980/81 study to follow up preliminary explorations of the area by local amateur archaeologists in the late 1960's. They were then sent to the Royal Ontario Museum. (CRCA Staff. *Parrott Bay Land Assembly Brief*.1988)

Parrott's Bay Conservation Area definitely has a story to tell, whether it is in the cultural and historical activities that have taken place on this site or in relation to the historical development throughout the region. Also, some interest was expressed to CRCA staff throughout this planning process in having the artifacts recovered from the Parrott's Bay area, originally noted as the 'floating bridge' site to be brought back and housed at the Lennox and Addington County Museum.

Interpretive information and learning opportunities for PBCA, such as that to be developed for signage, brochures and online, will include examples of the multiple connections this property has to the development of culture and history of this region as well as its ecological significance.

## ***2.6 Facilities & Infrastructure***

The facilities that are currently at the PBCA are fairly limited. A main parking lot is located along the south of the park along Highway 33. This is where the picnic area and tables are located. Pedestrian access can also be had on the north side of the property where trails meet up with Country Road 23. There is a small parking lot near the point at which Cooke's Creek flows onto the property.

The CRCA has a limited amount of posted signage on the property. A planned inventory will take place and allow that analysis to determine further sign requirements. Duck's Unlimited has also erected three interpretive signs posted on the property. There are a limited number of unofficially posted directional signs as well.

The viewing deck constructed near the southern shore of the wetland was initiated by the local chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation and completed with aid of CRCA operations staff in 2008. This now completed structure is linked to the trail network, and is intended to be accessible by the mobility challenged after the appropriate trail improvements are made. It is hoped that by providing these types of accessible shoreline views the CRCA will redirect PBCA users away from creating unofficial/illegal trails to the wetland's shoreline.

### Facilities and Structures at PBCA –

- Parking lot, at Hwy. 33 (with 25 car capacity)
- 4 Picnic tables (adjacent to parking lot)
- Viewing/Observation platform
- Bridge
- 3 Interpretive Signs (1 at bridge, 1 at observation platform and 1 along trail #1)
- Approximately 6 km. of trails
- 1 bench near the trail access point in the property's south-east
- 2 nesting platforms (1 for bald eagle and 1 for osprey)
- Farmstead site and remaining foundation

**INSERT Figure 4 – Current Site Configuration**

### 3. Market Analysis

A summary of the market analysis and its recommendations, which was conducted for the CRCA by James Peets as part this master planning process, is found below. This market analysis report has played a vital role in developing this master plan; because it relates the projected future uses of and demands on PBCA by resident and visiting populations, to what public and ecological needs the area may be able to rationally meet. Please refer to appendix 2 to see the complete report.

“Use of Parrott’s Bay Conservation Area is not intense. Most users likely originate from within a distance of 40 km to 50 km or about a 45 minute drive.

“Some use the area frequently for personal exercise such as walking and running and as a place to walk their dogs. In the bay, some kayaking, canoeing and fishing takes place and in winter some cross-country skiing and snowshoeing occurs throughout the property.

“It is considered to be an important local area for environmental protection and recreation but Parrott’s Bay Conservation Area is likely not top-of-mind for people within the region when choosing an outdoor place to go.

”The trails around Parrott’s Bay can help build appreciation of, and support for, protection of natural areas more broadly. They currently afford a natural environment for visitors to enjoy walking and running, which are among the most popular physical activities of Canadians.

“Seniors are expected to become more numerous than children somewhere around 2015. The activities of an aging population include walking, bicycling, and bird watching. Interest in the environment and outdoors, personal well-being, and in informal, rather than planned, recreational activities is increasing. People are tending to spend more time close to home and they consider experiences along waterfronts to be important to their quality of life. Parrott’s Bay Conservation Area is well situated to adapt to and to cater to all of these trends.

- “Foster awareness and appreciation for Parrott’s Bay Conservation Area through communication with municipalities, schools and school boards, outdoor and other community clubs, as well as online through the CRCA web-site and through participation in provincial programs that promote the conservation of natural resources and healthy living.
- “Planning for Parrott’s Bay Conservation Area should consider that its surrounding population is projected to grow and to have an increasingly high percentage of older people.
- “Ensure that planned outdoor recreation activities complement and respect the continued conservation protection of the area.
- “Plan improvements that will help visitors find their way on the trails and that provide interpretive information and activities for them as part of their experience.
- “Partner with local volunteers to conduct various projects such as: fundraising or a community cleanup of the site; support development of a PBCA ‘Friends’ group.”

#### **4. The Master Planning Process (User, uses and opportunities analysis)**

These steps were followed in the development of this master plan:

- Review the current situation and background materials;
- Initiate data collection (market research, ecological analysis, etc.);
- Inform public of the current conditions, considerations and potential concepts for development;
- Revise planning options to consider the public input and develop recommendations and preliminary draft;
- Circulate draft to planning partners for review and comments;
- Revise draft; and
- Submit draft master plan for approval and adoption

There was little information available regarding the public use and perception of PBCA to begin with. As such, it was decided that helpful insight could be gained by initiating the planning process with an informal gathering to share opinions/concerns regarding the management and development of PBCA. A summary of this event is provided at the end of this report in appendix 1.

##### ***4.1 Parrott's Bay CA Planning Process***

Several projects were identified as critical to updating the background information that support completion of this project. A summary of the initial issues used to develop terms of reference for this master plan included:

##### **Site Inventory and Component Analysis**

A site inventory was conducted to appraise the conditions that exist at PBCA. To update current materials a number of projects were undertaken. The reviews and research included:

- Forest Management Plan (FMP)
- Facility and Infrastructure Assessment
- Historical and Cultural Heritage
- Current Area Planning
- Resources Inventory Update
- Market Analysis

The site was evaluated in terms of the preliminary goals/objectives of the area along with the various component studies to identify the suitability, capability and feasibility of the site for various types and intensities of use, development and management.

## Public Consultation, Concept Development and Plan Revision

- Became familiar with the situation existing at PBCA through the documents and reports that are currently guiding the management of this area.
- Initiated an analysis to gather an up-to-date reflection of the site's components and influences.
- Through a stakeholder consultation reviewed and assessed the current situation at PBCA as well as the ideas/opinions for future development as reflected through the opinions of the various stakeholders.
- Proposed concepts for the ongoing development of PBCA to a public open house and generated feedback regarding the proposed development and management of this site.
- Incorporated the comments received through the open house process into the master plan to ensure that the area is not only appropriately protected and also provides safe access to the area for passive recreational pursuits, but to ensure the community is represented and included in planning for the future.
- Presented the draft plan to the general public at an open house.
- The master plan was presented to partners and the CRCA Board for approval.

### ***4.2 Creation of a Vision***

Based upon comments collected throughout the master planning process, and the review of information about this property's history and use as well as CRCA policy, the vision statement is as follows:

***The PBCA is an integral part of preserving space and protecting the watershed, its species and habitats. It inspires a sense of pride, value and stewardship throughout the community, and provides a quiet space for area residents and visitors to enjoy, appreciate and learn about the cultural and ecological significance of this site.***

### ***4.3 Proposed Concepts for the Area***

An open house held in Amherstview on December 9, 2008, discussed concepts for the future direction and development of Parrott's Bay Conservation Area. Two concepts were proposed. These are summarized below.

#### ***Concept A***

This concept proposes reconciling the existing features on the property and its role and image within the community and the CRCA, as a place for quiet contemplation and passive recreation. For instance it envisions:

- Rationalize the existing trails and public access points, including completion of the accessibility trail;
- Create a site map and information kiosk at the existing south parking lot;
- Install signs to identify the property's boundaries, user code and trails;

- Provide enhanced information about Parrott’s Bay on the CRCA website, in brochures and other publications;
- Proposed future projects, beyond the existing developed areas, will be reviewed for potential impacts to sensitive areas/communities; and
- Create interpretive learning opportunities through self-guided activities and signage that link to the information on the CRCA website and other online resources.

***Concept B***

This concept includes all of the provisions from Concept A in addition to further development of the site’s features. Policy will determine the standards necessary for property development and maintenance. This concept proposes to:

- Construct a parking lot and trailhead/kiosk at a north access point to the property;
- Build a bridge at south end of property to cross the channel without road travel;
- Further enhance the trail system by expansion of accessibility trails; and
- Install facilities such as a picnic area shelter, privies and safe drinking water.

***4.4 The Chosen Concept – Outcomes of the Public Open House***

In total, 18 responses were submitted to CRCA staff after the PBCA Open House. The comments from these forms have been included in this report as Appendix 4. The preferred development option identified through this consultation and open house was Concept A.

There was a wide array of comments expressed throughout this exercise. Comments ranged from a few respondents that wanted the principles of concept A, in combination with the development features that were identified in concept B. Other respondents worried that concept A may go too far to develop features for this property that would increase the attraction to and use of PBCA.

It should be noted however, that projects and management issues that were raised in concept B, or may yet be proposed, may require further investigation.

From this process, the primary goals for PBCA under this plan are as follows:

1. Maintain the natural and cultural heritage of PBCA;
2. Rationalize and enhance the opportunities for safe use of the trails and property for passive recreation/education activities;
3. Collaborate with partners and members of the public in the maintenance, use and enhancement of PBCA;
4. Seek out, identify and examine potential funding sources to meet goals 1 through 3, and assist in securing the future of PBCA.

*INSERT Figure 5 – Conceptual Development Map*

## **5. Property Management Plan**

To support the goals in section 4.4, the Master Plan process has identified several issues and makes several observations and recommendations to assist the CRCA in management of PBCA. The plan identifies the significant issues and concerns as well as key projects for the ongoing management and development of PBCA. Each has been categorized under one of five headings:

- *Property Access*
- *Trails*
- *Amenities and Facilities*
- *Signage*
- *Policy and Management Issues*

### ***5.1 Key Directives***

Listed below is the cumulative summation of recommendations and comments received throughout this planning process. These have been categorized under these headings to describe the specific area of the property's management that address the concern. The points below are not mutually exclusive to their management category; in fact it is these directives, working together, that will ensure the long-term protection of the natural and cultural heritage features and will continue to provide the opportunity for people to safely access and explore PBCA.

#### ***5.1.1 Property Access***

A key subject of concern that was brought up throughout this planning process is the issue related to where and how PBCA is accessed. The directives proposed below address the primary issues (under this heading) according to background research and site familiarization as well as public comments.

- Minimize change to preserve the natural state of the property.
- Sensitive and core habitat areas should be designated/preserved against intrusion.
- Place barriers that deter wheeled vehicles from accessing the property.
- Place safeguards against the destruction or removal of natural features and habitat.
- Reduce the number of access points, especially along Taylor-Kidd Blvd.
- Designate the Highway 33 parking lot as the PBCA main entrance to create a central property access and focal point.

### 5.1.2 Trails

The trails are the primary user feature of PBCA and are already well established and defined but need to be rationalized. However, it should be noted that these trails have evolved (without a plan) over a number of decades, even prior to the CRCA acquiring these lands. Also, as is discussed in Section 3, demand for passive activities (i.e. walking/bird watching) can be expected to increase. The directives proposed below address the primary issues under this heading:

- Rationalize the trail system to identify, remove or reduce potential hazards;
- Construct a trailhead and information kiosk at the main entrance;
- Create loop trails where possible;
- Implement standards to distinguish official trails from illegal paths;
- Eliminate dead-end trails and remove illegal trails; and

### 5.1.3 Structures and Facilities

As outlined below, there are a number of key infrastructure development projects that are proposed to improve the user features of the area that aren't directly attached or related to the system of trails at PBCA:

- Replace the picnic tables and improve the picnic area's function;
- Improve visibility of the main entrance and parking access;
- Determine potential locations for additional amenities and accessories, such as benches along trails; and
- Install a boardwalk in the northeast of the property, at the low point in the wetland where trails 5 and 6 meet.

### 5.1.4 Signage

An inventory of signs at PBCA was conducted in 2004; this record will be reviewed in the year following adoption of this master plan to determine the needs for additional property signage. The site's signage will be reviewed every three years thereafter to ensure that signs are legible, reflective of current conditions and sufficient for current property needs. Using the CRCA sign standards, as created for other conservation areas, the design and placement of signage for PBCA will assist property managers in continuing to communicate a clear and consistent message for visitors to any of the properties owned by the CRCA.

- Plan and erect a clear (yet unobtrusive) property signage for the property.
- Site mapping/signage should clearly identify property access, use and rules.
- Interpretive signage can also be created to compliment online and print material.
- Signage will encourage users to respect and appreciate this special place.
- Signage will also provide contact information for the CRCA, as well as emergency services.
- Post a sign to recognize the donors relating to PBCA land acquisition; as part of the new trailhead and information kiosk.

### 5.1.5 Policy and Management Issues

These final observations do not specifically fall into one of the above categories or could easily be included into more than one of the above categories.

- Primary interest was the protection and restoration of lands.
- Make information available about the property's value and significance.
- Do not encourage a vast increase in, or group, access to PBCA.
- Dogs must be kept on a leash no longer than 2 metres – please stoop and scoop.
- Further site-specific study should take place as part of future project planning.
- Involve the local community with the property through events such as cleanups.
- Support the development of a community-led “Friends of PBCA” group.
- Stop illegal dumping - remove scrap and other dumped materials.
- Develop a plan for conducting, and keeping current, an inventory of species.

### **5.2 Land Management**

The ongoing management of this property will continue to operate under CRCA policies noted in Section 1, and within the guidelines set out by the programs described below. This will ensure continued qualification of PBCA for the benefits that these programs provide. Exceptions may be made under permit by the CRCA for certain activities (e.g. scientific research).

#### 5.2.1 Managed Forests

PBCA forests are managed in accordance with the Forest Management Plan: Parrott's Bay Conservation Area 20 Year Plan (1998-2017). The plan identifies 66.82 acres (27.04 ha) as eligible for the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP), in 11 compartments. The forest management plan recognizes protecting the property as a whole for the complex vegetative communities, important wildlife habitat and erosion control that it provides along with its value as a passive use recreation area. (Knapton, R. 2008. *Forest Management Plan: PBCA 20 year plan*)

#### 5.2.2 Community Conservation Lands

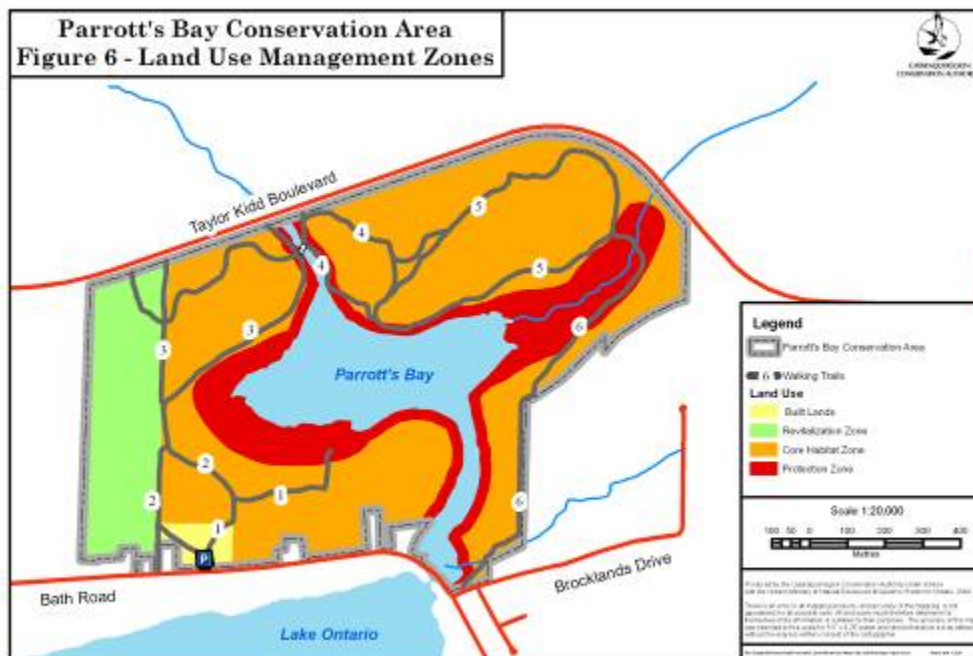
In addition, this property has large acreage designated as Community Conservation Lands (CCL's), recognizing its importance as Loggerhead Shrike habitat and as a Class 1 Provincially Significant Wetland complex. Under the Conservation Lands Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP) portions of PBCA totalling 157.87 acres (63.91 ha) are considered CCL's.

“All lands submitted for consideration under this category must meet the natural heritage protection objectives of the CLTIP. Lands in a non-natural state, previously or currently subjected to activities inconsistent with the program's protection mandate or that currently generate revenue through use of the natural resources, are not eligible for inclusion under CLTIP. Lands currently under the MFTIP must clearly demonstrate that past MF objectives, activities and existing site conditions conform to CLTIP policies.” (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 2009)

### 5.3 Land Use Management Zones

The PBCA property has been subdivided into management zones. The roles of each zone are briefly described below and are shown in Figure 6.

- Built Lands – This area is the centre of visitor amenities and access to the conservation area. It will be maintained as such with maintenance of the parking lot, manicured lawns and picnic tables.
- Revitalization – As there has not been any demand or proposals received appropriate for development of this portion of PBCA, these areas should be allowed to naturally regenerate.
- Core Habitat – Access and development in this zone should be avoided to support the further establishment of some core ‘interior’ habitat. Management and development will be limited to the existing trails and developed areas, and to avoid areas with noxious plants that could be hazardous to visitors.
- Protection – This zone was created to define a 30 metre protective buffer around the provincially significant wetland, where access and development is restricted to the existing features and trail system of PBCA.



#### ***5.4 Area Wildlife and Habitat Retention/Enhancement Features***

It is crucial, through the implementation of this plan, that the ecological integrity of PBCA be maintained. As recommended in section 2.4.3, further investigation of species and habitat needs must be conducted to determine the need for any additional and specific measures. The retention and enhancement features currently enacted include the following:

##### *5.4.1 Monitoring*

A 1986 resource inventory of (what is now) the PBCA property was updated with observations recorded during a 2008 exercise that evaluated and classified the various lands and ecological functions of the area. Ideally, all CRCA conservation areas would keep current records of species present throughout the year so that this ongoing inventory would be current and be able to recognize changes to habitat(s) and the potential for impacts on species.

Appropriate management and planning measures will be determined to retain and protect Species at Risk and Species of Special Concern for the long-term. These measures will ensure that significant and /or sensitive species and habitats are protected by the necessary measures.

Knowledge of the wetland's water quality is also necessary to maintain the health of the wetland and inland waters of Parrott's Bay. This accumulated data will consider the property's wide range of species and habitats to recognize and address the potential impacts stemming from upstream changes and development. Due to the impacts of upstream development and other potential sources, it would be appropriate to conduct monitoring of the water quality in the wetland to accomplish the following:

- Gauge baseline levels and trends for the area
- Identify water quality issues
- Determine whether eutrophication is occurring

##### *5.4.2 General property operations*

Maintenance of mown areas, and plowing snow at the parking lot on Hwy. 33, is the general extent of operational activities at this property along with trail upkeep. The trail maintenance and operations are limited at PBCA, mainly focusing upon responding to reported issues (such as a downed tree blocking a trail), and hazard tree/trail inspections; for a further example, although cross-country skiers are welcome to use PBCA, no ski-trail grooming activities take place at this property. There have been a number of projects over the years to improve the usability of PBCA. However, these were done to avoid projects that would create additional maintenance responsibilities.

Since acquisition of the western portion of PBCA, this field area has been maintained in anticipation of a need or demand for the open space. This maintenance would avoid the need to disturb areas that have begun to regenerate. To date, there has not been any demand or proposals that would be appropriate for PBCA. As described above, there are limited operational or maintenance activities carried out on a regular basis. A reduction in the extent of mown areas will reduce the amount of disturbed space and operational costs. Therefore much of this open space should be allowed to regenerate.

#### *5.4.3 Nesting Platforms*

December 2008 saw the installation of a bald eagle nesting platform along the south-west edge of the PSW. This project was initiated and directed by OMNR staff in response to the *Conserving Lake Ontario and Upper St. Lawrence River Bald Eagle Habitats* report done on behalf of the St. Lawrence Bald Eagle Working Group (SLBEWG. 2006).

In July 2005 a nesting platform was erected for osprey on a disconnected hydro pole along the shoreline on the north side of the bay. This project was led by the Kingston Field Naturalists with the assistance of MNR and CRCA staff. To date, there have been no reported observations of osprey using the platform. It has been suggested to add a couple of sticks/branches to attract activity. Also, movement of this platform to a more opportune location may be considered should it continue to be unused.

An evaluation of the use of these two nesting platforms should be conducted by 2012 to determine their effectiveness. At such a time, it may be advantageous to also consider opportunities to install additional nesting boxes for other species as would be appropriate (such as wood duck or eastern bluebird).

#### *5.4.4 Adapting to Development*

Loyalist Twp. plans indicate the continuing industrial development of areas to the north of PBCA, most notably in the area that stretches north and west from the intersection of County Rd 6 and Taylor-Kidd Blvd. Steps will be taken to mitigate the impact of these future developments including: (1) the involvement of the CRCA in municipal planning to minimize downstream impact to the wetland at PBCA; and (2) monitoring the impacts of development and addressing impacts as they are identified (as discussed in section 5.4.1).

### ***5.5 Intended Activities by Management***

The recreational use of PBCA consists primarily of passive or low-impact pedestrian activities. This usually involves walking such as hiking, dog-walking, nature and wildlife viewing, and snowshoeing. Visitors are restricted to trails and designated picnic and interpretive areas. Service vehicles used for maintenance and operations may use trails as necessary.

Beyond the primary rules that guide access to all CRCA properties, as sanctioned under Regulation 99 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (R.S.O. 1990, Chapter C.27), the CRCA does not feel that further restrictions need to be implemented regarding access and use of this property. ***These are:***

- ***Entry is prohibited between dusk and dawn.***
- ***Dogs must be kept on a leash no longer than 2 metres. Please stoop and scoop.***
- ***No alcohol is permitted.***
- ***No hunting is permitted.***
- ***Please do not litter.***
- ***No All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV), or other motorized recreational vehicles.***
- ***Take only pictures; leave only footprints.***
- ***Violators will be prosecuted***

#### Trail Use

There is a series of well established trails throughout this site with an approximate length of 6 km. These trails cross woodlands, open areas and wetlands and are used by walkers, joggers, dog-walkers, cross-country skiers and snowshoers. Although there has been a limited amount of cycling reported at PBCA because of rough surfaces and poor sightlines along the trails, there is no plan to redevelop the trails to make it safe for bicycle use. Funding is sought to install bicycle racks at the main entrance of PBCA where signage will also be posted to inform area visitors that PBCA trails are not safe for bicycle use.

The north-south trail along the western side of the bay likely has the highest volume of use. This trail begins at the north side of the parking lot at Hwy 33 and leads to and crosses the bridge at the north end of the wetland. The trail then begins to head east travelling through the northern quadrant of PBCA. This main trail is also paralleled on its west side by an unopened road allowance. A short distance north of the parking lot, a spur trail turns east to travel through the woodland along the southern portion of PBCA before turning north and ending at an observation lookout over the wetland and bay. There is also access to the property and trails at Bayview Drive. This trail follows the eastern edge of the property as it travels north and gradually begins to travel adjacent to the wetland before crossing over to the loop trail that runs through the northern portion of PBCA. Please refer to Figure 4 for an image depicting of the current configuration of trails and the rest of the property.

### *Improvements –*

- Make surface repairs to problem areas, where safety and/or drainage is a concern.
- Consolidate trails that are in close proximity.
- Build links to formalize and loop trails (as indicated on the conceptual development map).
- Construct a Trailhead/kiosk to function as an information/communication centre, site map and windbreak, and also a location for placing a waste receptacle.
- A boardwalk crossing the wetland in the northeast would channel the flow of traffic through this area, and would have less impact on the ground.
- Install bicycle racks, and barriers to deter wheeled vehicle access (including signs)
- Maintain regular monitoring and inspections of the trails.

### Picnic Area

There are picnic tables located adjacent to the main PBCA entrance and parking lot at Hwy 33. It is understood that these are not highly utilized likely due to the lack of waste receptacles and washroom facilities/privies. Observations have shown that workers from nearby operations will use the parking area as a place to park and eat lunch without further exploration or use of the property. Developing a space that is more attractive for area visitors to enjoy a bit of rest and refreshment, will encourage and support the respectful use of this part of PBCA.

### *Improvements –*

- Improve the function of this space to provide PBCA users with a pleasant experience by maintaining the quality of the picnic tables and other facilities in this area.
- Create native plant garden(s), to accent and enhance this part of PBCA

### Fishing

Fishing is permitted at PBCA in accordance with provincial regulations. The waters that are clearly accessible from the developed areas (trails and bridge), as well as areas that are accessible by canoe or kayak, are the points from which angling is permitted.

### Canoe/kayaking

The careful exploration of the inland waters of Parrott's Bay by canoe or kayak is encouraged. However it should be noted that PBCA itself does not have launch point, and there is no intention to establish such a facility here at this time. There is one located in the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) parkette on the south side of Hwy 33(just east of the former "floating bridge" site, PBCA can then be accessed by travelling north under the bridge. It is this indirect access that has limited and likely somewhat controlled or reduced the exploration of this area by canoe/kayakers.

## **5.6 Other**

### Fostering Stewardship and Educational Opportunities

The need to develop and provide educational opportunities on CRCA properties is recognized as an excellent way to develop interest in an area and encourage the considerate use of authority lands. This fostering of appreciation can inspire an ethic of stewardship that will further support the authority's efforts. The programs that operate at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area and Mac Johnson Wildlife Areas, and also through the Limestone District School Board's programming that operates at Gould Lake Conservation Area, will continue to be the focus of hosting and supporting school and other organized group learning experiences. These properties, especially considering the proximity of the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area, already have the infrastructure, and supporting staff and services necessary to manage/deliver these programs. Implementing such a formal program at PBCA is not necessary or practical at this time. Therefore the learning support services to be developed for PBCA will be focused upon the use of self-guided interpretive activities and signage.

### Emergency Access and Response

To allow more direct access to a wider expanse of the interior areas of PBCA, the 'driveways' located along Taylor-Kidd Blvd. will not be removed when some of these informal trail access points are closed off. The purpose of this measure is to continue providing access in case of emergency response and hazardous tree or trail operations.

When a new site map is created for PBCA, a copy will be forwarded to each emergency responder group (police, fire and ambulance) to ensure updated information is available.

### Volunteer Organization

Past CRCA experience with supporting volunteer groups such as the 'Friends of Mac Johnson' and the 'Friends of Lemoine Point' provides authority staff with an extensive background in working with dedicated people and groups interested in working together for the ongoing protection of a conservation area. These relationships have proven themselves to be beneficial for the CRCA. Friends organizations special projects and monitoring of site conditions/activities provides the CRCA and area visitors with a much more safe and attractive environment. A number of area residents expressed their interest in working with the CRCA to form a similar volunteer group. Therefore, CRCA staff should be prepared to support the development of a community-led 'Friends of PBCA' group.

### ***5.7 Land Acquisition and Disposition***

It was the most recent (2006) addition to PBCA that renewed interest in creating a management plan for this site. Now that the bulk of lands targeted for protection have been acquired and there is currently no interest or plan to acquire more, it makes sense to implement a policy to guide the ongoing management and development of this site as a conservation area.

However, as outlined in the CRCA report *Building Linkages Towards a Regional Trail Network*, any future acquisitions would focus upon increasing the connectivity this property has with the CRCA Bayview Wetlands Property, and to the adjacent Collins Creek and Millhaven Creek watersheds.

None of the land at PBCA is identified as being surplus or non-essential to the ongoing protection of this unique and special place. Therefore, in accordance with policy described in *Conservation Lands Guidelines: Our Role, Principles and Priorities*, there is no intention to dispose of any of the lands associated with PBCA at this time.

## **6. Implementation Phasing and Evaluation**

The purpose of this implementation strategy is threefold:

- 1) to prioritize projects into a phasing schedule
- 2) to identify capital development projects and associated relative costs
- 3) to assist in identifying annual operating and maintenance costs

The phasing plan will ensure that projects identified in this master plan are carried out in a systematic fashion. However, implementation is dependent on the availability of financial resources as well as staff and volunteer capacity. Approval of this master plan does not ensure that funding and/or labour capacity will be sufficient for the implementation of recommendations that are made as part of this master plan.

A review of the master plan will be conducted every five years. This schedule of review ensures that the master plan continues to follow a direction for PBCA that is current and consistent with the priorities for the area, the needs of the community and the concerns of neighbouring landowners. Phasing of Implementation and Relative Cost Estimates charts appear further along in this section

### ***6.1 Priority of Proposed Actions***

Management of PBCA should follow the vision and goals developed for the property through this master planning process. Therefore projects will be prioritized by the following considerations:

- 1. Public Safety** – The first priority when considering the planning and implementation of any future projects at PBCA will be to reduce or remove risks as appropriate.
- 2. Habitat and Character** – Projects that maintain or enhance the natural characteristics of PBCA will have second priority; including maintenance and protection of the existing habitats.
- 3. Public Use and Education** – These projects that maintain the trails, infrastructure, and facilities for use by the public are the next priority; they include replacement of existing structures and features.
- 4. Amenity Improvements** – Projects to improve the trails and other features of PBCA are the final priority.

This list is intended to guide the focus of future projects. Some projects will cover more than one of these priorities; they are not exclusive of one another.

## 6.2 Phasing of Implementation Schedule and Relative Cost Elements

Planned Projects and Actions	1-4 Years	5-10 Years	11-15 Years	16+ Years	Initial Cost	Annual Cost
<b>Property Access</b>						
Sensitive/core habitat areas are protected	X				Low	Low
Place barriers to deter wheeled vehicle access		X			Low	Low
Reduce the number of PBCA access points	X				Low	Med.
Formalize Hwy. 33 parking lot as main entry	X				Med.	Low
<b>Trails</b>						
Construct a trailhead-kiosk at the main entry	X				Low	Med.
Trails Rationalization Study				X	Low	Low
Apply standards to discern illegal paths				X	Low	Med.
Establish links to complete looped trails		X			Med.	Low
Eliminate dead-ends trails			X		Low	Med.
Remove illegal paths and shortcuts			X		Low	High
Merge parallel trails in close proximity		X			Med.	Low
Strategic surface and drainage improvements	X				Low	Med.
<b>Facilities and Structures</b>						
Replace picnic tables & improve area function			X		Med.	Low
Native species planting to accent picnic area			X		Low	Low
Improve parking access & main entry visibility	X				Med.	Med.
Map potential locations for trail amenities				X	Low	Low
Install a boardwalk to cross wetland at trail 5/6		X			Med.	Low

<b>Signage</b>						
Signage inventory and needs analysis	<b>X</b>					Low Low
Informational signs – property access/use/rules	<b>X</b>					Low Low
Interpretive signs – to inspire learning/curiosity		<b>X</b>				Low Low
PBCA lands acquisition, donor recognition sign	<b>X</b>					Low Low
<b>Policy and Management Issues</b>						
Make available info re: PBCA significance	<b>X</b>					Low Low
Develop system to keep species checklist current		<b>X</b>				Low Low
Nesting Platforms (boxes) evaluation		<b>X</b>				Low Low
Wildlife retention and enhancement measures			<b>X</b>			Low Low
Enhancing PBCA image	<b>X</b>					Low Low
Forest Management Plan		<b>X</b>				Separate Funding Mechanism
Place barriers to deter further illegal dumping	<b>X</b>					Low Low
Property clean-up/ Junk removal	<b>X</b>					Med. Low
Community relations and “Friends” support	<b>X</b>					Low High
Water quality sampling and monitoring	<b>X</b>					Low High

Relative Initial Costs

Low: Below \$5,000

Medium: \$5,000 to \$20,000

High: Above \$20,000

Relative Annual Maintenance Costs

Low: Below \$200/year

Medium: \$200 to \$500/year

High: Above \$500/year

The relative costs used here have been estimated based upon the results of recent similar projects that have been undertaken by the CRCA.

### ***6.3 Evaluation Plan for Operations and Management***

Master plans are developed to determine the best use of and direction for a property over a 20-year horizon. The planned review of this master plan, every five years, will facilitate the identification of additional major long term goals for protection and development of PBCA. It is anticipated that the further investigation of site-specific needs (sensitivity and limitations) as well as the ongoing determination of user needs and safety will have establishes the appropriate program for facility and infrastructure development and management for the area.

Review of this master plan and site conditions will be conducted to determine the ongoing effective-appropriateness of the plan. This review will consider, but not be limited, to the following:

- User and public safety concerns
- Facility and Infrastructure Deficit Assessment
- Status of previous recommendations
- New opportunities and trends

## 7. Summary and Key Recommendations

Parrott's Bay Conservation Area is a much loved, though undervalued and under-utilized, gem in this part of the CRCA's watershed/jurisdiction. As an increase of visitation to PBCA is expected due to the continuing growth of the surrounding communities and as area features become rationalized and more user-friendly, further specific actions designed to increase the use of PBCA are not being presented here. It is presumed that projected growth of the area's population and the fast growing interest by people to access the activities permitted at PBCA will naturally develop a larger audience of regular visitors to the area. Research and consultation, throughout this master planning process suggest that it is inappropriate to plan for any major changes or development at this time. The primary interest to see PBCA maintained in its current state for future generations is indicative of the keen devotion that users and area residents feel towards this important local resource.

The purpose of this master plan is to provide a policy framework and guidelines for the management and future development of the PBCA and to identify specific development projects for this site.

The following is a set of the recommendations contained within this master plan:

- Any future development proposed beyond the existing developed areas (existing trails, mown areas, etc.) will be reviewed independently for potential impacts to sensitive areas/plant communities;
- Any development plans should be presented a year in advance so that biological assessments can be made through the following field season, prior to the work being undertaken;
- So far as resources allow, the current inventory of species that use and rely on PBCA should be updated as required, to assist in determining further protection and retention measures;
- An awareness and appreciation for Parrott's Bay Conservation Area should be fostered throughout the community. This can be achieved through enhanced communication with municipalities, schools, local clubs, and online through the CRCA web-site; and also through participation in grassroots and government initiatives that promote, protect and preserve natural resources and encourage healthy active living;
- Planning for Parrott's Bay Conservation Area should consider that the surrounding population is projected to grow and will have an increasingly high percentage of older people;
- Planned outdoor recreation activities should complement and respect the continued conservation and protection of the area;
- Plan improvements that help visitors find their way on the trails, and that can also provide interpretive information and activities as part of their experiences;
- Partner with local volunteers from the community to conduct projects such as: fundraising or community cleanups of the site; and,
- Support the establishment and development of a community-led 'Friends' group for PBCA.

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## **List of Appendices**

- Appendix 1 Parrott's Bay Conservation Area, Focus Group Input, 2008
- Appendix 2 Parrott's Bay Conservation Area Market Analysis, 2008
- Appendix 3 Synopsis of Public Open House Responses
- Appendix 4 Master Plan Recommendations in Context of CRCA Goals
- Appendix 5 2008 Resources Survey and Ecological Land Classification Analysis



## Appendix 1 PBCA Focus Group Input

### **Summary of Findings: Parrott's Bay Conservation Area Focus Group Input (July 3, 2008)**

As part of the master planning process, a group of seven stakeholders met with representatives from the CRCA and 8020Info on Thursday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008, to share their opinions on the best future vision for the Parrott's Bay Conservation Area. Major themes and findings from the discussion are summarized below, followed by various notes from the session and a copy of the discussion guide handed out to participants.

#### **A quest to balance use and preservation:**

The participants in this particular consultation were cautious about any measures leading to significantly increased levels of use that might compromise preservation of the property. In general, they felt that Parrott's Bay Conservation Area should be "left in the most natural state possible" with passive presentation, great trails, and non-intrusive opportunities for interaction with nature.

It was noted that the property should be valued and protected as a community asset, with safeguards against poachers (rock and wood) and machinery.

Concerns about intrusive use were expressed through references to Lemoine Point (used more like a park than a preserved conservation area), to the threatening impact of traffic on the Owls' Woods on Amherst Island, and to other "sanctuaries" where limits are placed on access.

At the same time, it was noted that the Area should not be regarded as a "museum where you can't touch anything." Interaction with nature and enjoyment by the general public is also important. Local residents will value and support PBCA if they can experience (see, taste, and smell) and learn about nature.

It was agreed that modest growth would be acceptable. On balance, however, these stakeholders felt the master plan for the PBCA should focus primarily on preservation rather than various types of development.

**Friends of PBCA:** As use increases, it was felt that a sense of public pride and ownership would be important and that all users should be educated to become supporters and "friends" that treat the property with respect as "owners and keepers."

#### **A focus on connected trails looping around the property:**

The discussion returned many times to a focus on trails, the primary feature of interest to this particular group. Participants, although active users of the property, were surprised to learn they were unaware of a number of existing trails. Many have evolved through informal use, rather than by design or construction.

Participants expressed a primary desire for a connected network of trails that would provide a complete loop around the Bay and the property. It was suggested that dead-end trails should be avoided, and that signage was a needed improvement.

The most difficult issue would be how to handle crossing the bay, whether through a floating bridge, boardwalk, pedestrian-footbridge or walkway combined with the existing highway bridge, or by some other means.

Trail standards represent another set of important issues to be resolved. Simple improvements and eco-friendly amenities such as benches may be necessary and desirable in terms of accessibility and comfortable use. A variety of views were expressed on whether trails should be left in a plain/rough/natural state, improved with gravel and drainage in wet spots, or fully finished with crushed stone or paving.

A number of participants felt the trails and walkways should not be used by wheeled vehicles, for reasons of limited sightlines and safety issues but also because it's a "slippery slope" beyond pedestrian use -- from bicycles and equestrian use to various types of motorized vehicles. It was felt non-compatible uses, along with off-leash dog parks, should be located elsewhere, perhaps nearby in the community or possibly on a separate part of the property.

**Other improvements:**

**Entrances:** Suggestions were made for enhancements to the main entrance -- better signage, washroom facilities, and supply of drinking water and parking lot improvements (or possibly parking in the quarry). It was recommended that the number of entrances be reduced to provide better security and more focus at the main entrance.

**Security and Safety:** Various concerns were expressed about users becoming lost (especially after dark), and the need for site maps (self-guided) and better signage was frequently mentioned. Mention was also made about illegal dumping and the potential for undesirable uses or abuses by ne'er do wells.

**Education and Culture:** Ideas were put forward to enhance the archaeological assets (homestead) and repatriate artifacts taken to the ROM. It was recommended that inventories of significant features were needed. It was also suggested that the church be acquired to provide for a study centre on site.

## Parrott's Bay Conservation Area

### Market Analysis

James Peets

2008



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## Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Context

The lands of Parrott's Bay Conservation Area, comprising 117 ha, surround a Provincially Significant Wetland.<sup>i</sup> Protection of this coastal marsh is the main reason Parrott's Bay Conservation Area was established by the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA). The property has also been designated a public recreation area since 1969 by Ernestown (now Loyalist) Township Council to preclude development.<sup>ii</sup> As such Parrott's Bay<sup>iii</sup> has been a place of passive enjoyment that has been well valued within the area of Kingston and Loyalist Township by canoeists, anglers and naturalists.

Other typical users of Parrott's Bay Conservation Area include walkers, runners, birders, photographers, people walking their dogs, mountain bikers, and incidental visitors who are curious about the area. There is no fee for entry and with limited staff presence there is no data on this use though it is generally considered to be a low to moderate level of use.

In 2008 as part of the master planning process CRCA hosted a focus group to discuss the future of Parrott's Bay Conservation Area. Notes<sup>iv</sup> from this session provided some indication of existing and potential uses of Parrott's Bay Conservation Area. In addition, a number of interested users were contacted to get their perspective. This consultation confirms the perception that use of the area is not intense.

There is little except this anecdotal information on the number and type of users at Parrott's Bay Conservation Area. It is likely that most originate from within a distance of 40 km to 50 km or about a 45 minute drive. See Figure 1 on page 50. People from Bath, Odessa, Westbrook, Amherstview and Collins Bay, who live closer to Parrott's Bay Conservation Area, may be more frequent visitors. Most people recalled seeing about two or three cars on weekdays and perhaps up to five or six on weekends at either the Taylor-Kidd or Bath Road entry.

People use the area frequently for personal exercise such as walking and running and many use it regularly as a place to walk their dogs. There seems to be incidental kayaking and canoeing in the bay and a similar level of cross-country skiing and snowshoeing on the trails in winter. Likewise, some fishing has been observed. No one mentioned organized activities or events associated with the area, aside from the dedications of commemorative plaques near the north and south entry points.

The trails at Parrott's Bay Conservation Area are not extensive, perhaps 6 km in total, and users familiar with them indicated that they can be completed in less than 2 hours. While it is recognized as an important local area for environmental protection and recreation, it is likely not top-of-mind for people within the region when choosing a place to go for a half day outing.

Within a range of 50 km are numerous green spaces<sup>v</sup> offering outdoor recreation opportunities that complement those offered by the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority at Parrott's Bay. Figure 1 shows their distribution and Table 1 on page 62 lists their names and associated management.

## Conservation and Recreation Potential

Conservation organizations have been working with government agencies over the past several years to develop a coordinated approach to conservation in the future. This is expressed in the Big Picture Map 2002 and in *A Greenway for Ontario: A Cooperative Approach to Protecting Green Space*.

Figure 1 Green Spaces (see list on page 62)



Here are some excerpts to explain:

The Big Picture:

The *Big Picture 2002* can serve as a model for natural heritage planning at finer scales, such as at the watershed level, for municipalities etc. It assists in setting priorities for restoration and land securement, and encourages new approaches to conservation planning.<sup>vi</sup>

*A Greenway for Ontario*<sup>vii</sup>:

While private landowners will continue to own and steward most of the Greenway lands, some Greenway lands are held by conservation organizations, and some are already in public ownership as parks, regional and county forests, conservation areas, rail trails and hazard lands. In exceptional cases, additional lands may be purchased on a willing buyer, willing seller basis, to make connections, buffer or join existing parklands, or provide for low-impact public use.

The Greenway for Ontario will be:

- based on sound conservation science;
- respectful of landowner rights and interests;
- subject to planning controls that are in place;
- eligible for incentives for restoration and protection; and,
- established largely on privately owned lands in cooperation with landowners.

The primary objective of the Greenway is protection and stewardship of sensitive and important natural areas and water sources. Most of the lands that will provide the threads to connect the Greenway will be privately owned and stewarded, and consequently the existence of the Greenway will not include any inherent right to public access. However, portions of the Greenway may be located on public lands and, in some cases, footpaths can be located without interfering with sensitive natural features. These paths may also be connected through trail easements, rail trails or voluntary agreements with landowners to provide a network of paths across southern and eastern Ontario. These paths and trails can, in some cases, form part of the corridor and linkage function in the Greenway.

Footpaths will connect communities and will help more people to enjoy the natural beauty of Ontario. The Bruce Trail on the Niagara Escarpment, the Oak Ridges Trail, the Grand Valley Trail and many others have demonstrated that public footpaths build appreciation of and support for natural areas protection. They are very popular, contribute to community health and healthy landscapes, and benefit local economies. Like natural areas in every municipality, existing trails need some interconnections to make them stronger and more valuable for nature protection.

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority has identified three ongoing land acquisition programs:<sup>viii</sup>

- Little Cataraqui Creek Valleylands Acquisition Project (City of Kingston)
- Bayview Wetland (Loyalist Township)
- Three Lakes Conservation Area (Township of Front of Yonge, Township of Athens)

Bayview Wetland and Parrott's Bay are linked as part of a regional conservation concept that is now under review by the authority.

## **User Trends**

The trails around Parrott's Bay currently afford a natural environment for visitors to enjoy walking and running, which are among the most popular physical activities of Canadians. (Some activities are prohibited by regulation<sup>ix</sup> at Parrott's Bay Conservation Area, as they are at other conservation areas of the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority. Prohibited activities include hunting and the use of all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles and motorized boats. Dog owners must keep dogs on a leash that is not more than 2 m in

length.) Future uses at Parrott's Bay Conservation Area will be considered during the master planning process.

The plan for Lemoine Point Conservation Area<sup>x</sup> in Kingston suggests the following trends, which would apply to the market population around Parrott's Bay Conservation Area as well:

- People are becoming more interested in the environment and outdoors, in their own well-being, and in informal rather than planned recreational activities.
- Demand for natural environment parks is rising, while demand for recreation based on facilities such as arenas and ball diamonds is decreasing.
- People spend more time close to home, which increases the pressures on facilities near urban areas.
- Walking, bicycling, and bird watching are the popular activities of an aging population.
- People consider experiences along waterfronts to be important to their quality of life.

### ***Physical Activities of Canadians***

Inferences for Parrott's Bay Conservation Area can be made from national trends in outdoor recreation as well. This information is useful in considering existing and potential activities at Parrott's Bay.

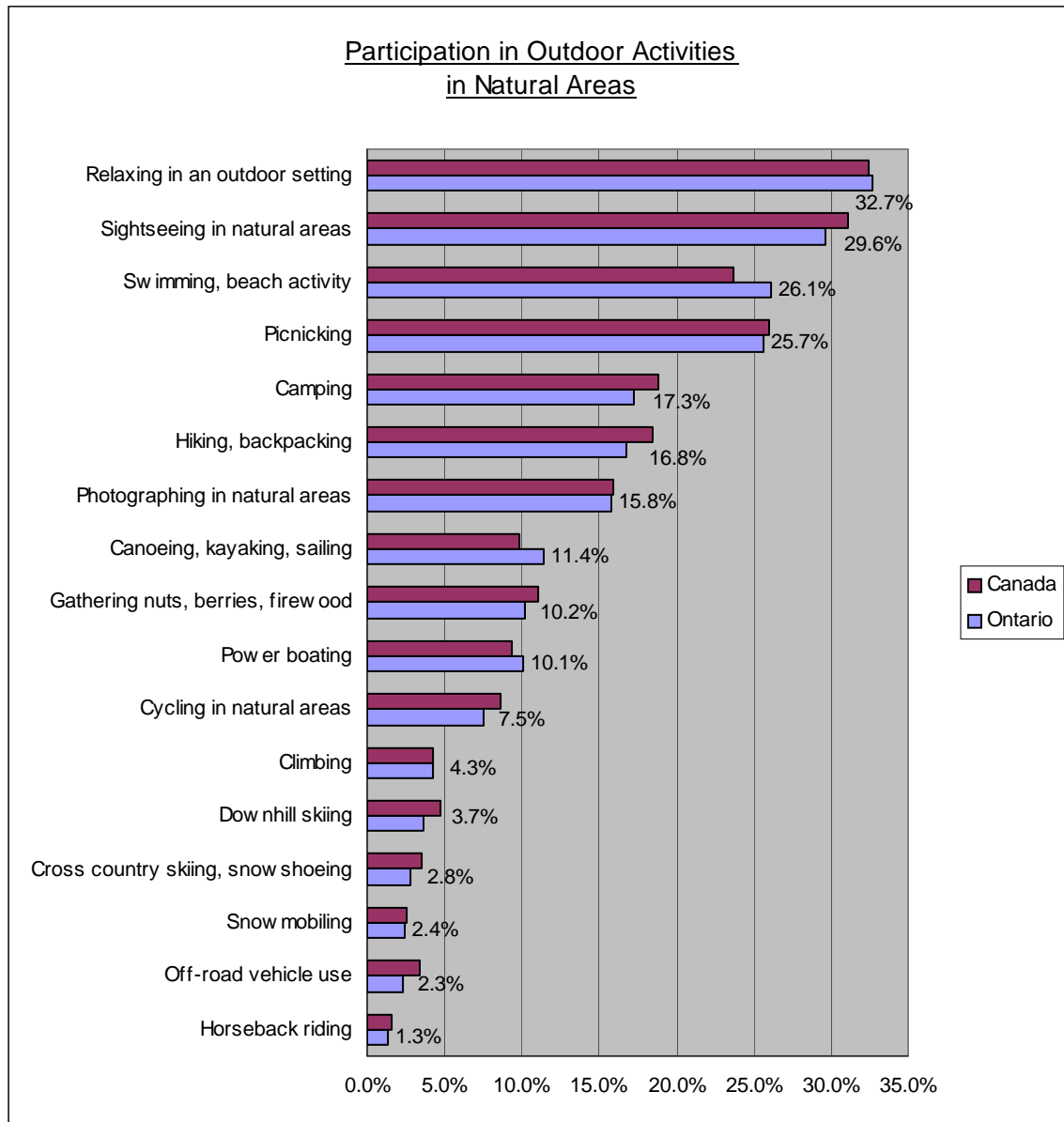
Between 1994/95 and 2004/05 the percentage of Canadians that was at least moderately active increased significantly. For adults age 20 and older, the five top ranked activities are walking (71%); gardening, yard work (49%); home exercise (33%); swimming (22%); and bicycling (20%). For people younger than 20 years of age the five top ranked activities are walking (66%); jogging, running (56%); bicycling (49%); swimming (45%) and home exercise (43%).<sup>xi</sup>



**Photo 1 Frontenac Provincial Park Visitors. Credit: Eric Peets. 2007**

## Importance of Nature to Canadians

The 1996 Survey on the Importance of Nature to Canadians<sup>xii</sup> assessed the social and economic value of nature-related activities to Canadians. The survey examined the popularity of nature-related recreational activities, participation in these activities according to the natural areas in which they take place and the significant benefits to the economy resulting from spending on these activities. Participation rates in outdoor activities in natural areas for residents of Ontario and for Canadians are displayed in Figure 2 Participation in Outdoor Activities.



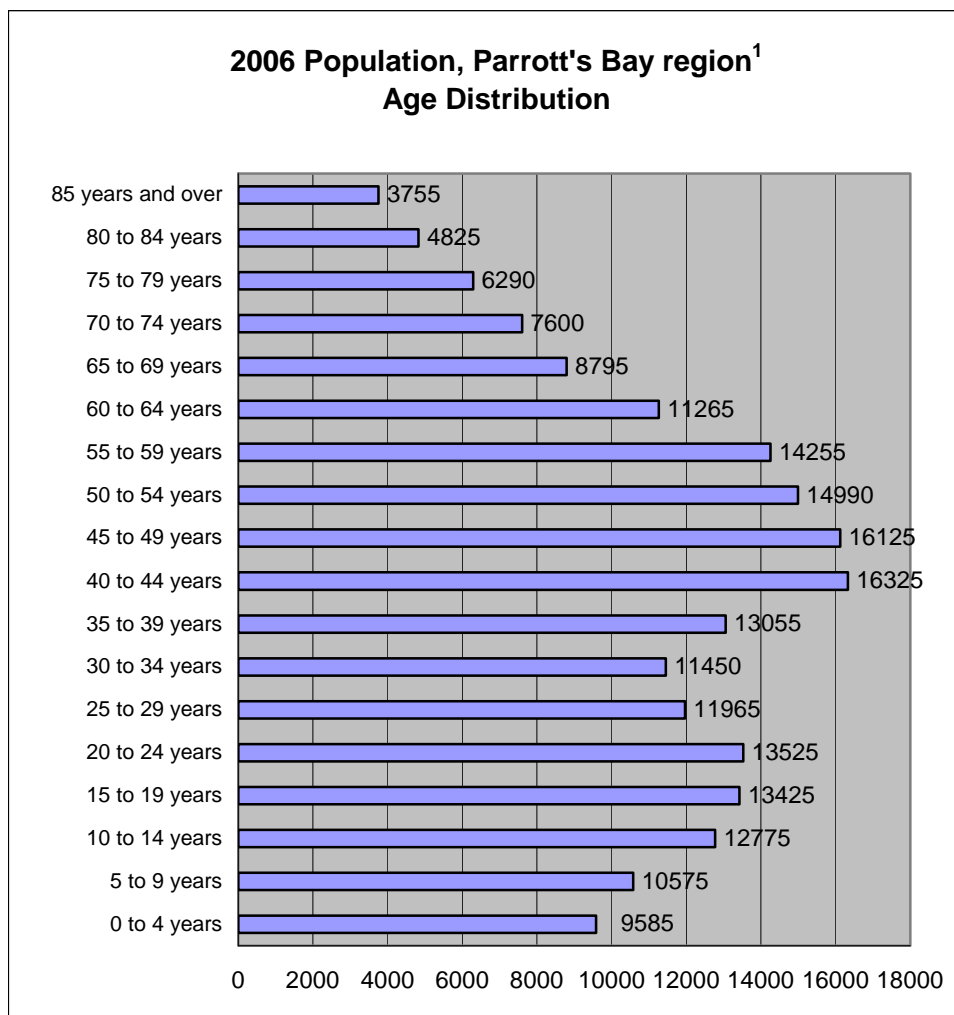
**Figure 2 Participation in Outdoor Activities by Canadians**

## Demographic Trends

Parrott's Bay Conservation Area lies within Loyalist Township, which in 2006 had a population of 15,062.<sup>xiii</sup> In addition to Loyalist, the surrounding area within a 45 minute drive includes the following local municipalities (from west to east): Tyendinaga, Deseronto, Greater Napanee, Stone Mills, Central Frontenac, South Frontenac, Kingston, Frontenac Islands Township, Leeds and the Thousand Islands, and Gananoque. The population of these eleven local municipalities is 200,605.

Between 1996 and 2006 the population increased by 5% (from 191,126 to 200,605). Ontario's population increased by 6.1% (from 10,753,573 to 11,410,046) during the same period.<sup>xiv</sup>

**Figure 3 Surrounding Population, 2006**

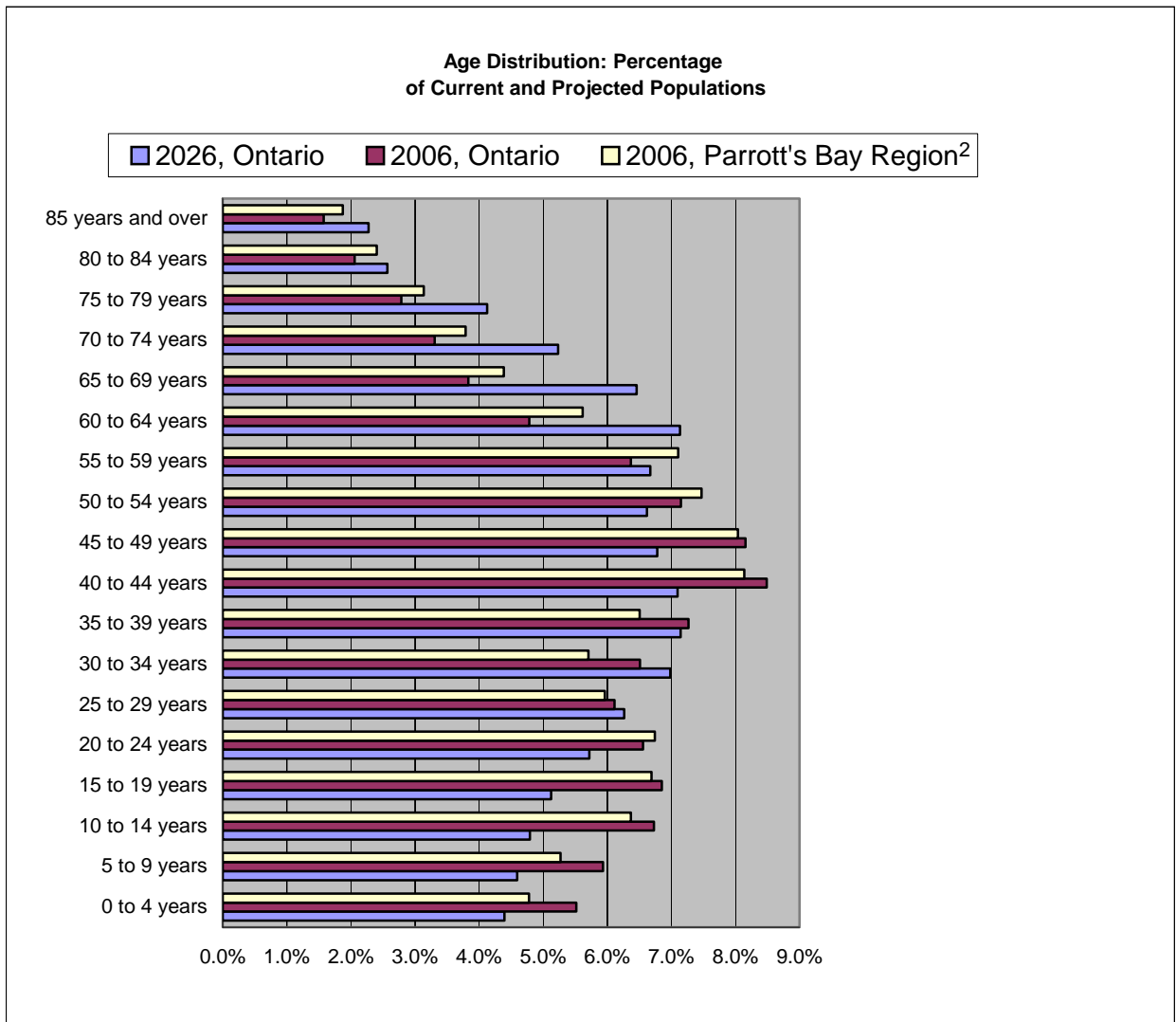


<sup>1</sup> includes, from west to east, the local municipalities of: Tyendinaga, Deseronto, Greater Napanee, Stone Mills, Loyalist, Central Frontenac, South Frontenac, Kingston, Frontenac Islands Township, Leeds and the Thousand Islands, and Gananoque.

The median age of the population in the surrounding area is 42.8 years, higher than that of the province as a whole, which had a median age of 38.2 in 2006. The median age of Ontario's population is expected to rise to 43.5 in 2026.<sup>xvi</sup> (Median age is the point at which exactly half the population is older and half is younger.) Figure 3 Surrounding Population, 2006 shows a breakdown of the local population by age groups.

Between 2006 and 2026 Ontario's population is projected to increase by 24.6% while an increase of 18.7 % is projected for Frontenac County and an increase of 14.4% is projected for Lennox & Addington County. The share of Ontario's population within Frontenac County is projected to drop between 2006 and 2026 from 1.3% to 1.1% while Lennox & Addington County's share is expected to remain at 0.3%. This trend is consistent with other regions of Ontario except the Greater Toronto Area, which is projected to increase its share to almost half of Ontario's population by 2026.<sup>xvii</sup>

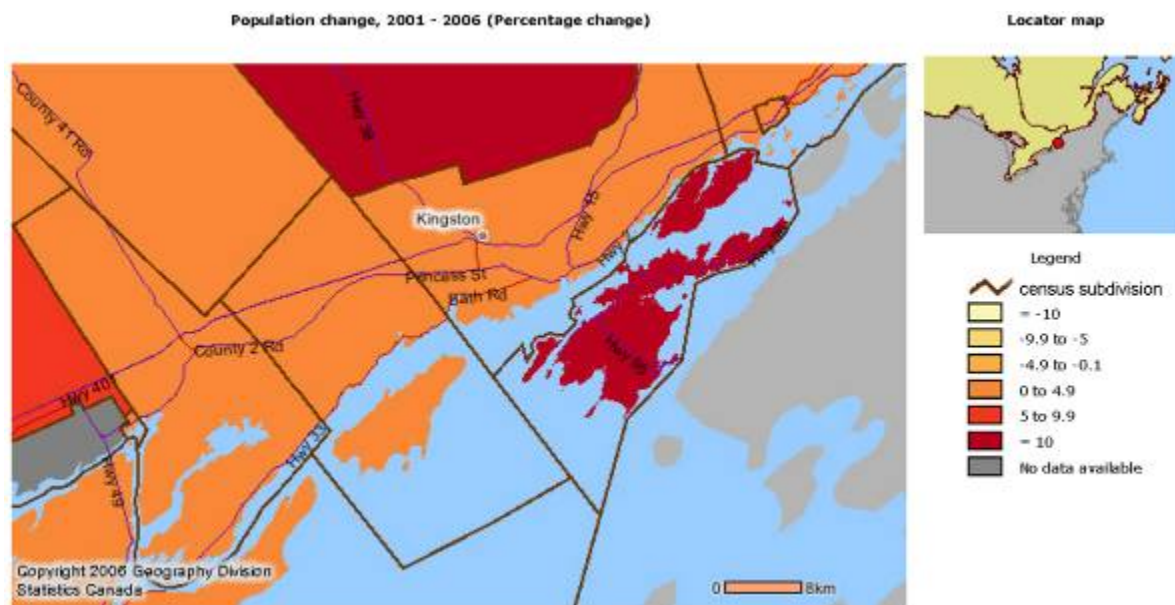
**Figure 4 Current and Projected Age Distribution<sup>xviii</sup>**



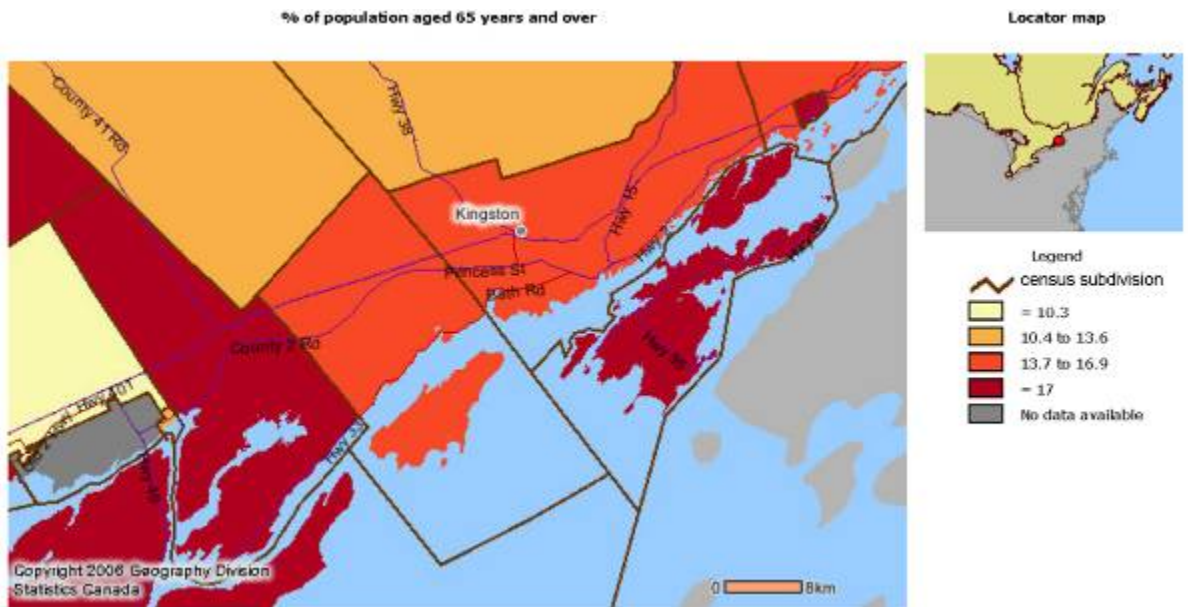
Canada's population is expected to age more rapidly in the coming years as a direct result of the pronounced baby boom in Canada that followed the Second World War and lasted 20 years. In the projections, seniors would become more numerous than children somewhere around 2015.<sup>xix</sup> Figure 4, on page 55 shows, by percentage, the age distribution of current populations and the aging of the projected Ontario population in 2026.

So, the population around Parrott's Bay Conservation Area is projected to grow and to have an increasingly high percentage of older people. As a result, increasing use of Parrott's Bay Conservation Area for activities such as walking can be expected based on the participation rates noted on page 52.

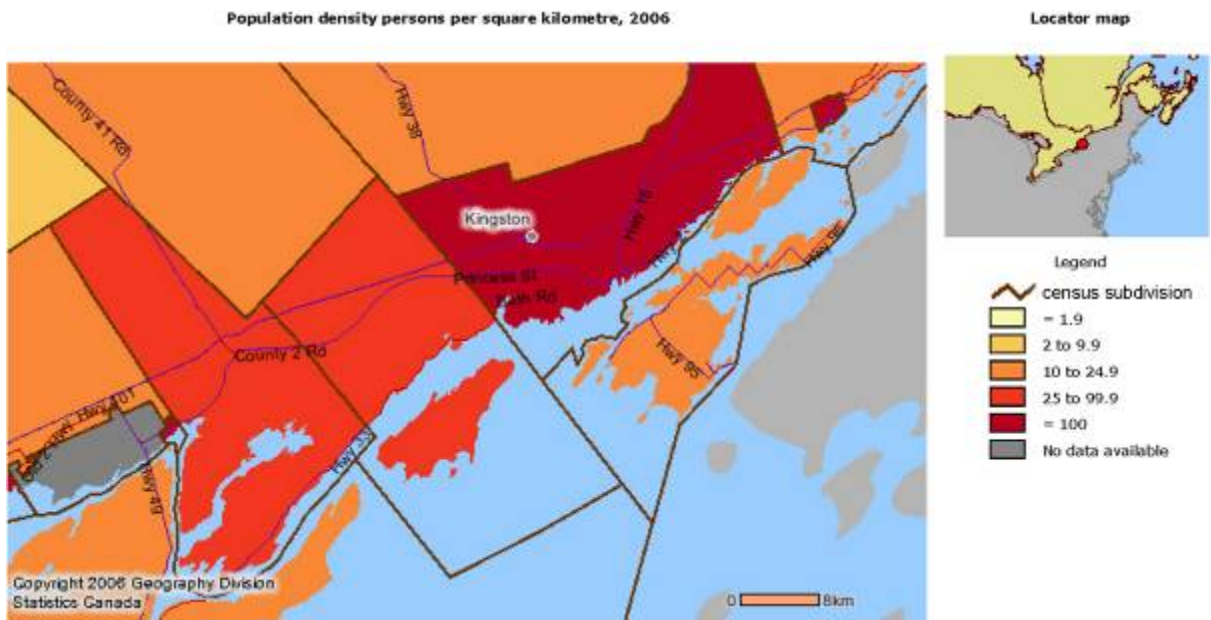
**Figure 5 Population Changes 2001 - 2006**



**Figure 6 Population aged 65 and over, 2006**



**Figure 7 Population density, 2006**



**Figure 8 Median Age, 2006**

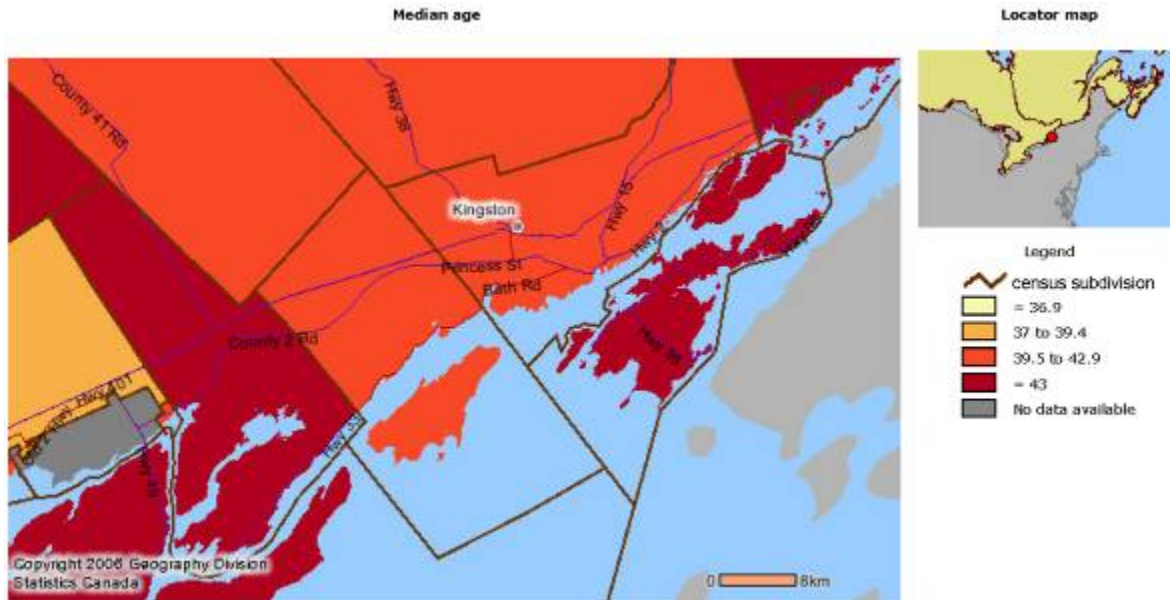


Figure 5 to Figure 8<sup>xx</sup> above show, by census subdivisions in the area around Parrott's Bay Conservation Area, the changes in population between 2001 and 2006, the percentage of the population older than 65, the population density and the median age.

**Fostering Appreciation**

With increasing populations and their attendant pressures on outdoor spaces it is important to foster appreciation of the role that Parrott's Bay Conservation Area plays in global conservation initiatives. Outdoor recreation activities here should complement and respect the continued conservation of this coastal wetland.

Opportunities to raise this awareness within local municipalities can be found in communication: directly with the municipalities; through local print and broadcast media; with local schools and school boards; with local trail clubs and naturalists clubs; and through participation in programs such as Ontario's ACTIVE2010 strategy,<sup>xxi</sup> Trails Open Ontario<sup>xxii</sup> and initiatives such as The Celebration of Trails<sup>xxiii</sup> and WetKit,<sup>xxiv</sup> which is a web-based tool kit designed to help Canadians better understand and manage wetlands.



**Photo 2 Trail Sign at Parrott's Bay Conservation Area Credit: J. Peets**

According to a 2004 report,<sup>xxv</sup> tourists are increasingly seeking learning and enrichment experiences when they travel. While the intent is not to promote Parrott's Bay as a destination the tone of these findings may be helpful in forming useful strategies to foster appreciation of the property.

"The types of visitor experiences in demand included:

Reaching into the community in ways that enable travelers to meet local people and participate in day-to-day community experiences. The three most popular vehicles were via kitchen parties, home visits and farm visits;

Experiential, hands-on, or interactive activities and 'no cost, low cost' activities that creative companies have included in their tours through innovative use of their core assets;

Special access and behind-the-scenes tours that go beyond the traditional tourism offer, are unique and, in some cases, not available to mass market travelers;

Learning and discovery that is participatory, involves two-way communication and interaction with locals, and fosters personal growth. These opportunities were not perceived to be value added, rather it was a core expectation of travelers; and Travel that promotes shared experiences with family, friends and fellow travelers."

The report was intended for providers of tour packages but may be useful when considering the provision of programs, services and facilities at Parrott's Bay Conservation Area.

Some of the ideas advanced in the consultation to date have focussed on improvements to help visitors find their way on the trails and on providing interpretive information for them as part of their experience of the place. Awareness of some of the features of the property is not widespread. For example there is a story to be told about its historical and archaeological components. A great start has been made in highlighting the general values of wetlands on the trail signs and lookout but more can be told about the details of Parrott's Bay. Consideration could be given to making more information available online: recording the interpretive stories in digital audio formats for easy download and making bird and plant species checklists available online.

## **Volunteer Organization**

The idea of a volunteer friends organization was supported in initial discussions with a number of interested users of Parrott's Bay Conservation Area. Members of such a group would take pride in the place and provide valuable information and assistance in caring for Parrott's Bay Conservation Area.

There may be projects that appeal to a potential friends organization among these pages or in the 2008 focus group consultation or it may emerge from future consultation as part of the master planning process for Parrott's Bay Conservation Area. For example, the group may want to work on ways to help visitors find their way on the property and to help their understanding of its important features; they may want to get involved in research or monitoring activities to improve the level of information available to guide its management; or there may be interest in raising awareness of the area within the local population.

The Friends of Big Sandy Bay is a local example of such a volunteer group. The Friends of Big Sandy Bay is a not-for-profit association of volunteers dedicated to the conservation, restoration and appreciation of the natural features of the Big Sandy Bay.<sup>xxvi</sup> This volunteer group works collaboratively to interpret, conserve and restore the natural heritage resources at Big Sandy Bay for future generations.<sup>xxvii</sup> The group was incorporated around 2005 and may have some good advice to offer people interested in considering a similar organization for Parrott's Bay. Setting out clear objectives for the group is a key step to be done early in the process. There are many things to consider. The website of the Friends of Big Sandy Bay<sup>xxviii</sup> and their By-Law Number 1.0 provide some useful references.

## **Summary**

The lands of Parrott's Bay Conservation Area, comprising 117 ha, surround a Provincially Significant Wetland.<sup>1</sup> Protection of this coastal marsh is the main reason Parrott's Bay Conservation Area was established by the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority.

Use of Parrott's Bay Conservation Area is not intense. Most users likely originate from within a distance of 40 km to 50 km or about a 45 minute drive.

Some use the area frequently for personal exercise such as walking and running and as a place to walk their dogs. In the bay, some kayaking, canoeing and fishing takes place and in winter some cross-country skiing and snowshoeing occurs throughout the property.

It is considered to be an important local area for environmental protection and recreation but Parrott's Bay Conservation Area is likely not top-of-mind for people within the region when choosing an outdoor place to go.

The trails around Parrott's Bay can help build appreciation of, and support for, protection of natural areas more broadly. They currently afford a natural environment for visitors to

enjoy walking and running, which are among the most popular physical activities of Canadians.

Seniors are expected to become more numerous than children somewhere around 2015. The activities of an aging population include walking, bicycling, and bird watching. Interest in the environment and outdoors, personal well-being, and in informal, rather than planned, recreational activities is increasing. People are tending to spend more time close to home and they consider experiences along waterfronts to be important to their quality of life. Parrott's Bay Conservation Area is well situated to adapt to and to cater to all of these trends.

## **Recommendations**

Foster awareness and appreciation for Parrott's Bay Conservation Area through enhanced communication with municipalities, local schools and school boards, trail and naturalist clubs, and through participation in programs such as Ontario's ACTIVE2010 strategy,<sup>xxi</sup> Trails Open Ontario<sup>xxii</sup> and initiatives such as The Celebration of Trails<sup>xxiii</sup> and Wetkit<sup>2</sup>. Use the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority's website to make more information available to existing and potential users of Parrott's Bay Conservation Area.

Plan for Parrott's Bay Conservation Area within the context of the *Big Picture 2002*,<sup>vi</sup> which is a useful guide to setting priorities for restoration and land securement, and encourages new approaches to conservation planning.

Match the objectives for Parrott's Bay Conservation Area with those of the Greenway<sup>vii</sup> which centres on the protection and stewardship of sensitive and important natural areas and water sources.

In planning for Parrott's Bay Conservation Area, consider that its surrounding population is projected to grow and to have an increasingly high percentage of older people. Consider too opportunities for interactive activities and shared experiences for visitors.

Ensure that planned outdoor recreation activities complement and respect the continued conservation of the provincially significant coastal wetland at Parrott's Bay Conservation Area.

Plan improvements at Parrott's Bay Conservation Area that help visitors find their way on the trails and that provide interpretive information for them as part of their experience.

Investigate the establishment of a volunteer organization to assist the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority in caring for Parrott's Bay Conservation Area.

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<sup>2</sup> Wetkit: a web-based tool kit designed to help Canadians better understand and manage wetlands

**Table 1 Green Spaces<sup>v</sup> within 50 km of Parrott's Bay**

Name	Description	Management
McGowan Lake Campground	commercial campground	private
Mellon Lake Conservation Reserve*	conservation land	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Canoe Lake Tent & Trailer Park	commercial campground	private
Kaladar Jackpine Barrens Conservation Reserve*	conservation land	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Puzzle Lake Provincial Park	Natural Environment	Ontario Parks
Chaffey's Lock	Rideau Canal lock station	Environment Canada
Depot Lakes Conservation Area	Conservation Area	Quinte Conservation
Queen's University Biological Station	biological research	Queen's University
Davis Lock	Rideau Canal lock station	Environment Canada
Sheffield Conservation Area	Conservation Area	Quinte Conservation
Shangri-La Campground	commercial campground	private
Skycroft	commercial campground	private
Jones Falls	Rideau Canal lock station	Environment Canada
Frontenac Provincial Park	Natural Environment	Ontario Parks
Rock Dunder	6 km trail and lookout	Rideau Waterways Land Trust
Desert Lake Family Resort	commercial campground	private
Otter Lake Sanctuary	conservation land	Kingston Field Naturalists
Portland Conservation Area	Conservation Area	Quinte Conservation
Gould Lake Conservation Area	Conservation Area	Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority
Camp Brylene	commercial campground	private
Stoco Fen Provincial Park	Nature Reserve	Ontario Parks
Vandewal	conservation land	Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority
Camden Lake Provincial Wildlife Area	conservation land	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Brewers Mills	Rideau Canal lock station	Environment Canada
Hell Holes Nature Trails and Caves	Commercial	private
Marble Rock	conservation land	Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority
Colebrook Conservation Area	Conservation Area	Quinte Conservation
Menzel Centennial Provincial Park	Nature Reserve	Ontario Parks
Millhaven Reservoir	conservation land	Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority
Loughborough Lake Holiday Park	commercial campground	private
Forest Mills Conservation Area	Conservation Area	Quinte Conservation
Newburgh Conservation Area	Conservation Area	Quinte Conservation
Camden East Conservation Area	Conservation Area	Quinte Conservation
Cataraqui Trail	year-round, shared-use recreation trail	Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority
Rideau Acres Campground	commercial campground	private
Kingsford Conservation Area	Conservation Area	Quinte Conservation
Kingston Mills	Rideau Canal lock station	Environment Canada
Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area	conservation land	Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority
Bayly Conservation Reserve	conservation land	Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority
Napanee Conservation Area	Conservation Area	Quinte Conservation
North Fredericksburgh	conservation land	Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority
Bayview Bog	conservation land	Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority
Little Cataraqui Creek Valley Lands	conservation land	Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority
Fort Henry National Historic Site of Canada	Historic Site	Environment Canada
Shoal Tower National Historic Site of Canada	Historic Site	Environment Canada
Mumey Tower National Historic Site of Canada	Historic Site	Environment Canada
Bellevue House National Historic Site of Canada	Historic Site	Environment Canada
Rideau Trail	387 km trail for walking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing	Rideau Trail Association
Waterfront Trail	900 km multi-use trail connecting parks, natural areas and centres of activity	Waterfront Regeneration Trust
Lake Ontario Park	Municipal Park	City of Kingston
Lemoine Point Conservation Area	Conservation Area	Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority
Parrott's Bay Conservation Area	Conservation Area	Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority
Mohawk Bay Trailer Park	commercial campground	private
Owl Woods	conservation land	Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority
Pickrel Park	campground	private
Big Sandy Bay	conservation land	Township of Frontenac Islands
Bass Cove Park	commercial campground	private
United Empire Loyalist Heritage Centre & Park	Municipal Park	UELCA
* not all sites appear on Figure 1 Green Spaces		

## Endnotes and References

<sup>1</sup> The Ontario Wetland Evaluation System developed by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources evaluates the importance of a wetland based on a scoring system considering four principal components i.e. biological, social, hydrological, and special features. The Province of Ontario, under the Provincial Policy Statement protects wetlands that rank as Provincially Significant.

<sup>1</sup> Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority. [www.cataraqueiregion.on.ca/lands/pbay.htm](http://www.cataraqueiregion.on.ca/lands/pbay.htm). Accessed 2008-09-22

<sup>1</sup> Various spellings of this name have been observed: Parot, Parrot, Parrott, Perrot. The Conservation Authority uses Parrott's Bay currently but its older signs on the property use Parrott Bay. The Geographic Names Board of Canada and the Province of Ontario recognize Parrotts Bay as the name of the geographic feature. For this report Parrott's Bay will be used since that is the current practice of the Conservation Authority.

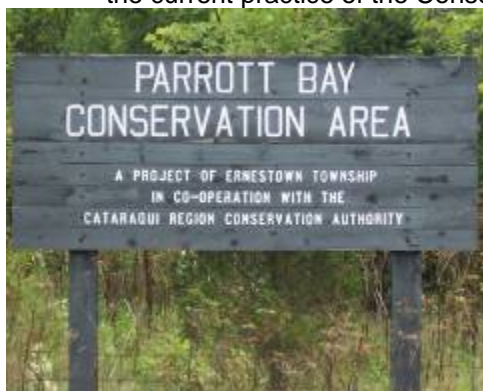


Photo: J. Peets



Photo: J. Peets



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<sup>1</sup> Parrott's Bay Conservation Area Focus Group Input: July 3, 2008

<sup>1</sup> Green spaces include properties managed for natural and cultural heritage protection, recreation, and tourism by public agencies (provincial, national, municipal), by non-governmental organizations and by private owners for commercial purposes. The list is comprehensive but some sites will certainly have been missed.

<sup>1</sup> Cores and Corridors – The Importance of a Green System in Southern Ontario. Federation of Ontario Naturalists. Fact Sheet. No date.

<sup>1</sup> A Greenway for Ontario: A Cooperative Approach to Protecting Green Space. Ontario Nature. 2006.

<sup>1</sup> Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority. [www.cataraqueiregion.on.ca/lands/index.htm](http://www.cataraqueiregion.on.ca/lands/index.htm). Accessed 2008-09-22

<sup>1</sup> Revised Regulations of Ontario. 1990. Regulation 99 under the Conservation Authorities Act.

<sup>1</sup> Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority. 1999. Conceptual Plan for Lemoine Point Conservation Area.

<sup>1</sup> Cameron, C., Wolfe, R., & Craig, C. L. (2007). Physical activity and sport: Encouraging children to be active. Ottawa, ON: Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute.

<sup>1</sup> Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada. 1999. The Importance of Nature to Canadians: Survey Highlights. ISBN 0-662-27494-6. Catalogue No. EN 47-311/1999E.

<sup>1</sup> Source: adapted from Statistics Canada. 2007. 2006 Community Profiles. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 92-591-XWE. Ottawa. Released March 13 2007. Accessed via: [www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/profiles/community/index.cfm?Lang=E](http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/profiles/community/index.cfm?Lang=E)

<sup>1</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1</sup> Source: adapted from Statistics Canada, [www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/91-520-XIE/00105/t431\\_en.htm](http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/91-520-XIE/00105/t431_en.htm), 2008-09-26

- <sup>1</sup> Ontario Population Projections Update, 2006–2031. Spring 2007. Ontario Ministry of Finance. Accessed via [www.fin.gov.on.ca/english/economy/demographics/projections/2007/index.html#tables](http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/english/economy/demographics/projections/2007/index.html#tables)
- <sup>1</sup> Source: adapted from Statistics Canada. 2007. 2006 Community Profiles. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 92-591-XWE. Ottawa. Released March 13 2007. Accessed via: [www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/profiles/community/index.cfm?Lang=E](http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/profiles/community/index.cfm?Lang=E)
- <sup>1</sup> Source: adapted from Statistics Canada, [www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/91-520-XIE/00105/bfront1.htm](http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/91-520-XIE/00105/bfront1.htm)
- <sup>1</sup> Source: adapted from Statistics Canada, [www.statcan.ca/english/mapsgeo/index.htm](http://www.statcan.ca/english/mapsgeo/index.htm)  
Accessed: 2008-09-23
- <sup>1</sup> *ACTIVE2010: Ontario's Sport and Physical Activity Strategy*
- <sup>1</sup> [www.heritagefdn.on.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts\\_1\\_8764\\_1.html](http://www.heritagefdn.on.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts_1_8764_1.html)
- <sup>1</sup> [www.celebrationoftrails.com/-106255.html](http://www.celebrationoftrails.com/-106255.html)
- <sup>1</sup> [www.wetkit.net](http://www.wetkit.net)
- <sup>1</sup> Canadian Tourism Commission. 2004. *Defining Tomorrow's Tourism Product: Packaging Experiences.*
- <sup>1</sup> Friends of Big Sandy Bay, By-Law Number 1.0. Undated.
- <sup>1</sup> [www.bigsandybay.ca/members](http://www.bigsandybay.ca/members)
- <sup>1</sup> [www.bigsandybay.ca](http://www.bigsandybay.ca)

## Appendix 3 Synopsis of Public Open House Responses

### **PBCA Master Plan Open House Summary of Comment Form Responses**

On December 9, 2008 an open house was held by CRCA staff to present and discuss the ongoing development of the Master Plan for Parrott's Bay Conservation Area. At this meeting comment forms were provided to the public; this form along with background information was also made available through the CRCA website.

Below, there is a listing of the comments received from attendants to the open house and from a number of members of the Kingston Field Naturalists that reviewed the materials.

Total number of Comment Forms returned – 19

#### **1. Do you have a preferred choice among the proposed development concepts; if so which one and why?**

**Concept A - 12      Concept B - 3      Other – 5**

The chosen concept will be emboldened and in parenthesis ahead of the individual's comments.

- **(A)** I want the area kept as natural as possible; no fancy signs, privies or bike racks etc. KEEP IT NATURAL
- **(B)** I like the proposed parking; it will get the cars off the road. All in all a good plan.
- **(A)** Concept A because trails are not planned to completely encircle the wetland; and parts of Concept B because of improved trail maintenance, new parking lot on north side and a boardwalk across north end of wetland is a good idea as opposed to current situation.
- **(O)** Concept A plus trails for accessibility and the proposed bridge would be a good option.
- **(A)** I prefer to keep parking to the south I don't think that a northern parking lot is necessary. Taylor-Kidd Blvd. is intended to be a limited access road and I think we should stay off it. I don't mind the bridge and boardwalk proposed in Concept B – it would allow a loop (*trail system*) to occur.
- **(A)** n/c (no comment)
- **(A)** Constrains public access to the conservation area.
- **(B)** Bridge over narrows would shorten some hike- Nice. FOOT BRIDGE!
- **(B)** Incorporating a north parking lot and second bridge will increase usage and enjoyment of the conservation area.
- **(A)** Foot travel only, especially no motorized vehicles.
- **(A)** I think the land was acquired for conservation purposes rather than recreation i.e. quiet, no wheels etc.

- (O) The current concept has been working well. This area has one of the fifth highest numbers of breeding birds in southern Ontario, and many rare birds are breeding.
- (A) n/c
- (A) I would like the area maintained to preserve as much natural habitat as possible, and give the flora and fauna the prime consideration.
- (A) n/c
- (A) No motorized vehicles.
- (O) Due to the popularity and heavily used Lemoine Point- I think the Kingston public needs another area. However I prefer it (*PBCA*) the way it is for the sake of wilderness preservation/conservation.
- (O) Best Area for rare breeding birds e.g. Louisiana Waterthrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet; as well as lots of dragonflies, including the bent winged meadowhawk!
- (O) I think the CRCA should consider Parrott's Bay CA and Lemoine Point CA as complimentary areas. It seems to me that if the CRCA was to undertake a major/massive ecological restoration project at Lemoine Point, what you might end up with in a hundred years is essentially what you currently have at PBCA. I think the best course for the future, is therefore to maintain both areas much as they currently are: PBCA should be regarded as a nature reserve with minimal public access and facilities. Lemoine Point should continue as an 'ecological park', in which large numbers of people can get in contact with nature within the Kingston City area.
- (A) Keeps development to a minimum. Actually I would prefer to see even fewer trails in the northeast area – get rid of the trail along the wetland shoreline, and move trails closer to the property boundary. After all the bridge and observation deck would provide sufficient views of the bay for pedestrians. That being said, I like that Concept B puts a boardwalk across the creek at the west boundary; over time boardwalks have less impact on the ground than walking trails, especially in damp areas. As much as I like loop trails, I don't support development in currently-undisturbed areas; C.R. 33 has wide paved shoulders to walk on to make a loop (as per Concept B).

**2. Please indicate specific issues that you would like to see addressed through this process.**

- It would be very good to see signs at entrances regarding dogs (Rules). A place for garbage receptacles at entrances/exits.
- Update to inventory of life sciences – flora and fauna. Bike racks should be at area access points to discourage riding bikes on trails. I don't want to see second bridge installed – too much fragmentation of a small natural area.
- Enforce dog on leash rules. Upgrade trail surfaces in some places.

- I think some type of washroom (Johnny-on-the-spot) should be provided in the area adjacent to the parking lot.
- Signage to control dogs.
- Cater to the needs of the conservation area (Nature) rather than catering to the public.
- Keep all paths intimate 1 to 2 person width. Path not trail or sidewalk.
- Re: new trail from south parking lot to trail #2 (*North/South Road Allowance*) – as homeowner at 5005 Bath Rd. and landlord for 5007 Bath Rd. I am not opposed to this new trail but I would like to be consulted on the surveying of this trail – this connecting trail could be set back behind scrub brush and hills to provide privacy for homeowner and trail walkers.
- Fishing? Canoeing?
- All of the eastern area needs full protection, without any trails.
- Unfortunately improved trails often leads to too many people; then ATVs, snowmobile and motor cross bikes.
- Natural environment preserved for “nature”. Keep it simple.
- No motorized vehicles.
- No motorized vehicles.
- Please have a site/trail map at the main north and south access points, and clear signage on the main trail(s). Right now, the Parrott's Bay trails are confusing (another reason I've stayed out of the area! Not good to get lost and spend an hour finding your way back...).

**3. Are there specific management measures that you suggest that we undertake differently?**

- Do not ring the wetland with trails – use spur trails to lookout points.
- Protect natural environment to greatest degree while providing safety and comfort for walkers and wildlife. Reforestation of native species (e.g. Lemoine Point CA)
- Leave the trails in this early stage of development – Don't turn this into another Lemoine Point.
- Pave from Parking lot t North/South (*main trail/wagon road*) – for disabled; and repair mud road.
- Why are MTO “C” Conservation Area signs not utilized on Hwy.33 (*Bath Rd.*); these should also be investigated and installed on Taylor-Kidd Blvd. if a new parking lot is added there.
- Leave it the way it is, it worked well for nature.
- I would like it left alone, so that it is natural; maybe a washroom near entrance.
- The area should not be developed as a recreation/picnic spot.
- It's hard to tell from the concept plans where significant biological/geological/cultural features are concentrated. I hope that any proposed development will take into account the research literature, and especially input from the KFN -- after all, many of us members donated money for the land acquisitions, and we'd hate to see the property take on

too much of a recreational focus and end up losing the values we tried so hard to save (plus, that would affect the likelihood of KFN assisting CRCA financially in the future).

**4. Are there any other comments that you like to make?**

- Very good meeting Tues. Dec 9/08.
- Bridge (*proposed channel crossing*) is key to increasing use; Signage could include recognition of area settlers/farms.
- We should limit the freedom of dogs to roam in the park. They could have a fenced area to the west but there are animals in the park that are bothered by dogs and there are people who are fearful of dogs. The northern parking lot would increase maintenance costs and would be dangerous to traffic on Taylor-Kidd Blvd.
- Plan A looks good
- Please don't build a bridge across the stream at the south end of the property. It will destroy the view as well I expect it will discourage herons flying from the lake along the stream.
- 1. A fence style (Steps up and over fence) at SE corner of the property would be nice and give more direct access to the gazebo (*viewing deck*) from Bath Rd. 2. If bridge is built at narrows (*proposed channel crossing*) – wheelchair width – Parking for disabled at old house property at Brooklands Dr – Build path to bridge – there to bridge to gazebo.
- I would like you to continue providing parking areas both on Bath Rd. and Taylor-Kidd Blvd.
- Buy another area for recreation – but keep this one undeveloped and as natural as possible.
- People involved in the management of Lemoine Point would have useful input e.g. invasive species, erosion and the digging up (*poaching*) of native plants.
- I hope you're considering future development around the area. Keeping trails close to the Parrott's Bay property boundary would help create a bit of a buffer between future residential properties and the bay/forest habitat.

**5. Are you interested in volunteering at Parrott's Bay Conservation Area?**

Yes – 7

No - 13

## **Appendix 4** PBCA Master Plan Recommendations in Context of CRCA Goals

The Strategic Plan: *Cataraqui to 2020* sets out goals for the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority as follows:

- *Goal A: To conserve CRCA's water resources, including the safeguarding, management and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, and to work cooperatively with our partners to protect the water cycle.*
- *Goal B: To implement policies that will protect life and property from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion.*
- *Goal C: To conserve woodlands, wetlands and natural habitat.*
- *Goal D: To facilitate protection of resources within the jurisdiction in order to conserve, restore, develop or manage them*
- *Goal E: To provide opportunities for the public to learn from the public open spaces within the jurisdiction, and to respect the local natural environment.*

The key management recommendations and strategies identified in the PBCA Master Plan support these goals as follows:

***Goal A: To conserve CRCA's water resources, including the safeguarding, management and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, and to work cooperatively with our partners to protect the water cycle.***

Proposed in PBCA Master Plan

- continue to manage Parrott's Bay in such a way as to safeguard its waters, as well as wetlands associated with this Provincially Significant coastal Wetland; and
- continue to establish and maintain positive relationships with our partners and neighbours.

***Goal B: To implement policies that will protect life and property from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion.***

Proposed in PBCA Master Plan

- continue to manage the forest and trees of this site to prevent erosion of the steep-sided slopes and the associated wetlands; and
- ensure safe access throughout this site (via the trail network) for monitoring/evaluations and for equipment to maintain these features

***Goal C: To conserve woodlands, wetlands and natural habitat***

Proposed in PBCA Master Plan

- ensure that any proposed development or site alteration adjacent to these features will not have a negative impact on the ecological features and functions of the area;

- update inventories of natural heritage features and map the resulting information;
- use this data to determine the appropriate species/habitat protection measures; and
- seek to develop and conserve corridors linking to surrounding natural areas, in cooperation with other agencies/groups and in conjunction with appropriate ongoing initiatives;

***Goal D: To facilitate protection of resources within the jurisdiction in order to conserve, restore, develop or manage them***

Proposed in PBCA Master Plan

- continue to focus on providing low-impact outdoor recreational opportunities;
- work with local volunteers on property maintenance, projects, and fundraising;
- establish a program to collect statistics on the use of the area;
- support trails and other initiatives linking open spaces; and
- continue updating the inventories of species, ecosystems and natural heritage features to monitor the protection and prevent the degradation of this area.

***Goal E: To provide opportunities for the public to learn from the public open spaces within the jurisdiction, and to respect the local natural environment.***

Proposed in PBCA Master Plan

- establish a regular presence in the area to cultivate collaborative relationships with area users, local school boards, community members and others in determining the appropriate features to support and/or develop recreational and learning opportunities;
- pursue other partnerships and appropriate partnering project opportunities; and
- make historical and current information about PBCA and its significance available for area visitors

*Appendix 5* 2008 Resources Survey and Ecological Land Classification (E.L.C.)  
Analysis

2008 Resources Survey and Ecological Land Classification (E.L.C.)  
Analysis

for

Parrott's Bay Conservation Area

By: Tom Beaubiah,  
Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, Biologist

## Summary

### **Introduction –**

In order to provide a current view of the natural elements at PBCA to this master plan a resource inventory update was proposed. However, due to budget and time constraints this wasn't possible at this time; so an alternative system of evaluation was undertaken. Parrott's Bay has a number of background documents and resources to assist in an inventory update including air/satellite photos, Forest Management Plan compartment data, and a previous inventory from 1986.

### **Methodology –**

“Through air/satellite photo interpretation and a general tour of the property, distinguishable vegetation units were identified. Transects were developed that would ensure that all units would be bisected to ensure a thorough inventory could be compiled. A running tally of species encountered was completed for the property (limitations will be discussed later). The plant list was updated and compiled with the previous data; this updated list appears at the end of this report.

“Following the establishment of vegetative units, the Ecological Land Classification system was used to classify each vegetation unit. Data was compiled into GIS for spatial analysis and visual representation.

### **Limitations –**

“The inventory work was conducted during the late season (September). This late season observation would only provide a listing of plants readily observed in the field at that time. It is noted that a thorough multi-season inventory would be required to capture a greater representation of species.

### **Recommendations –**

- It is recommended that any future development that is proposed beyond the existing developed areas (existing trails, mown areas, etc.) be reviewed independently for potential impacts to sensitive areas/plant communities.
- Any development plans should be presented a year in advance so that biological assessments can be made through the following field season.
- So far as resources allow, the current inventory of species that use and rely on PBCA should be updated as required, to assist in determining further protection and retention measures.

## Ecological Land Classification

The Ecological Land Classification System (ELC) is a program to create a quantitative inventory of ecological units within Ontario. The ELC system provides a standard methodology and classification system that can be used to assess community structure within a region.

## Land Use History

The property is located within parts of lots 29 to 32, Concession 1 in the Township of Loyalist. The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority has undertaken a land acquisition program for Parrott's Bay with the first parcel being purchased in 1991.

The property has been used historically for agricultural practices. Soil depths are shallow over limestone bedrock which slows the regeneration rate. A number of forested and field communities exist on the property including the main feature of the property the Provincially Significant Coastal Wetland. The wetland has been evaluated using provincially accepted methodologies and has been recognized as being pristine in its characteristics when compared to other coastal wetlands along Lake Ontario (Durham Region Coastal Monitoring Project).

## Methodology

In the fall of 2008 Parrott's Bay Conservation Area was assessed using the ELC field guide. Air photos (2005 Quickbird) were used to determine areas of potential interest. Land units were created using GIS software to ensure a minimum patch size of 0.5 ha. The boundaries were defined based on changes in the characteristics of the topography and vegetation. Managed Forest compartment data was also used to assess and define the land units.

Through the identification of the land units, transects were established to ensure adequate coverage of the land units. Field investigations were conducted by following the transects and noting key vegetation types and soil characteristics. Using the keys and tables provided in the ELC guide the Ecological Land Classification was applied to the polygons. GIS mapping was prepared to represent the units visually.

Assessment of the Wetland was not conducted as the data for these units already exists.

## Results

A total of 23 polygons were identified for assessment using the ELC classification system. Through ground truthing assessment (transects) of the polygons a total of 16 Ecological Community Units were identified Table 1. The units were input into a GIS system to allow for future analysis (Figure 1).

Table 1 – Ecological Community Units found within Parrott's Bay

ELC Code	Community Unit	Natural Heritage Information Centre Listing
CU	Cultural	
CUM	Cultural Meadow	
CUM1	Mineral Cultural Meadow Ecosite	
CUM2	Bedrock Cultural Meadow Ecosite	
CUT	Cultural Thicket	
CUT2	Bedrock Cultural Thicket	
CUW	Cultural Woodland	
CUW 2-1	Red Cedar Cultural Woodland Type	
FOC	Coniferous Forest	
FOC1	Dry – Fresh Pine Coniferous Forest Ecosite	G5G5 – S5 Nationally and Regionally Common
FOD2	Dry – Fresh Oak – Maple – Hickory Deciduous Forest Ecosite	
FOM1	Dry Oak – Pine Mixed Forest Ecosite	G4G5 – S5 Nationally and Regionally Common
FOM2	Dry – Fresh White Pine – Maple – Oak Mixed Forest Ecosite	
FOM 2-1	Dry – Fresh White Pine – Oak Mixed Forest Type	G4G5 – S5 Nationally and Regionally Common
FOM 3-1	Dry – Fresh Hardwood – Hemlock Mixed Forest Type	
FOM7	Fresh – Moist White Cedar – Hardwood Mixed Forest Ecosite	



**Plant and Wildlife Species Checklist with 2004 and 2008 Observations**

**Wildlife Species**

**Birds**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Latin Name</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2008</b>
Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	●		
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	●		
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	●		●
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	●		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	●		
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	●		
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	●		
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	●		
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	●		
Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	●		
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea Herodias</i>	●		●
Green-backed Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	●		
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	●		
American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	●		
Least Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	●		
Sora	<i>Porzana corolina</i>	●		
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	●		
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferous</i>	●		
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	●		
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	●		
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	●		
Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	●		
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	●		
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	●		●
Barred Owl	<i>Strix varia</i>	●		
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	●		
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	●		
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	●		
Great-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	●		
Eastern Wood-peewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	●		
Tree Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	●		
Barn Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	●		
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	●		●
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	●		●
Common Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	●		●
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Parus atricapillus</i>	●		●
Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	●		

Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	●		
American Robin	<i>Turdus migatorius</i>	●		●
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	●		
European Starling	<i>Sturnis vulgaris</i>	●		
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	●		
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	●		
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	●		
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	●		
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	●		
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	●		
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molthrus ater</i>	●		
Northern Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	●		
Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	●		
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	●		
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	●		
White-throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	●		
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	●		
Swamp Sparrow	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>		●	
Virginia Rail	<i>Rallus limicola</i>		●	

### **Mammals**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b><i>Latin Name</i></b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2008</b>
Eastern Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	●		
Beaver	<i>Castor Canadensis</i>	●		
Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	●		
Deer Mouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	●		
Eastern Chipmunk	<i>Tamias striatus</i>	●		
Gray Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	●		
Red Squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>	●		
Groundhog	<i>Marmota monax</i>	●		
White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginiana</i>	●		

### Amphibians and Reptiles

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Latin Name</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2008</u>
Bullfrog	<i>Rana catesbeiana</i>	●		
Green Frog	<i>Rana clamitans</i>	●		
Northern Leopard Frog	<i>Rana pipiens</i>	●		
Chorus Frog	<i>Pseudacris triseriata/P. maculata</i>		●	
Spring Peeper	<i>Pseudacris crucifer</i>		●	
Midland Painted Turtle	<i>Chrysemys picta picta</i>	●		
Snapping Turtle	<i>Chelydra serpentine</i>	●		
Blanding's Turtle	<i>Emydoidea blandingi</i>	●		
Stinkpot Turtle	<i>Sternotherus odoratus</i>		●	
Northern Water Snake	<i>Natrix sipedon sipedon</i>	●		
Smooth Green Snake	<i>Opheodrys vernalis</i>			●

### Fish

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Latin Name</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2008</u>
Carp		●		
Northern Pike	<i>Esox Lucius</i>		●	
Central Mudminnow	<i>Umbra limi</i>		●	
Golden Shiner	<i>Notemigonus crysoleucas</i>		●	
Brown Bullhead	<i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>		●	
Banded Killifish	<i>Fundulus diaphanous</i>		●	
Rock Bass	<i>Ambloplites rupestris</i>		●	●
Pumpkinseed	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>	●	●	●
Largemouth Bass	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>		●	
Black Crappie	<i>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</i>		●	
Yellow Perch	<i>Perca flavescens</i>		●	
Johnny Darter	<i>Etheostoma nigrum</i>		●	
Round Goby	<i>Neogobius melanstomus</i>		●	

## Plant Species

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Latin Name</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2008</u>
Lady Fern	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	●		
Silvery Glade Fern	<i>Athyrium thelypteroides</i>	●		
Marginal Wood Fern	<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>	●		
Spinulose Wood Fern	<i>Dryopteris spinulosa</i>	●		●
Sensitive Fern	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	●		●
Common Polypody	<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	●		
Bracken Fern	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	●		
Marsh Fern	<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>	●		
Rattlesnake Fern	<i>Botrychium virginianum</i>	●		
Trout-Lily	<i>Erythronium americanum</i>	●		
True Solomon's-seal	<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>	●		●
Wild Lily-of-the-valley	<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>	●		
False Solomon's-seal	<i>Smilacina racemosa</i>	●		●
Hairy Solomon's-seal	<i>Polygonatum pubescens</i>	●		
Rose Twisted-stalk	<i>Streptopus roseus</i>	●		
Red Trillium	<i>Trillium erectum</i>	●		●
White Trillium	<i>T. grandiflorum</i>	●		●
Curled Dock	<i>Rumex crispis</i>	●		●
Mitrewort	<i>Mitella diphylla</i>	●		
Foamflower	<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	●		●
Dog Violet	<i>Viola conspersa</i>	●		●
Marsh Blue Violet	<i>V. cucullata</i>	●		●
Northern White Violet	<i>V. pallens</i>	●		
Common Blue Violet	<i>V. papilionacea</i>	●		
Downy Yellow Violet	<i>V. pubescens</i>	●		
Swamp Loosestrife	<i>Decodon verticillatus</i>	●		●
Purple Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	●		●
Enchanter's Nightshade	<i>Circaea quadrisulcata</i>	●		
Hairy Willow Herb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	●		
Long-leaved Willow Herb	<i>E. leptophyllum</i>	●		
Common Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera biennis</i>	●		●
Purple-leaved Willow Herb	<i>E. coloratum</i>	●		
Common St. Johnswort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	●		●
Spotted St. Johnswort	<i>Hypericum punctatum</i>	●		●
Marsh St. Johnswort	<i>Triadenum virginicum</i>	●		
White Baneberry	<i>Actaea pachypoda</i>	●		
Red Baneberry	<i>A. Rubra</i>	●		
Canada Anemone	<i>Anemone Canadensis</i>	●		●
Wood Anemone	<i>A. quinquefolia</i>	●		
Thimbleweed	<i>A. riparia</i>	●		●
Wild Columbine	<i>Aquilegia Canadensis</i>	●		

Marsh-marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	●		●
Sharp-lobed Hepatica	<i>Hepatica acutiloba</i>	●		
Round-lobed Hepatica	<i>H. americana</i>	●		●
Kidney leaf Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus abortivus</i>	●		●
Common Buttercup	<i>R. acris</i>	●		●
Bristly Buttercup	<i>R. pensylvanicus</i>	●		
Creeping Buttercup	<i>R. repens</i>	●		
Globe Flower	<i>Trollius laxus</i>	●		
Wild Ginger	<i>Asarum canadense</i>	●		
Bloodroot	<i>Sanguinaria Canadensis</i>	●		●
Viper's Bugloss	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	●		●
Water Parsnip	<i>Berula pusilla</i>	●		●
Water Hemlock	<i>Cicuta maculata</i>	●		●
Wild Carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>	●		●
Wild Parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	●		●
Grove Sandwort	<i>Arenaria lateriflora</i>	●		
Mouse-ear Chickweed	<i>Cerastium vulgatum</i>	●		
Deptford Pink	<i>Dianthus Armeria</i>	●		●
Bouncing Bet	<i>Saponaria officianalis</i>	●		●
Sleepy Catchfly	<i>Silene anthirrhina</i>	●		
Lesser Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	●		●
Larger Blue Flag	<i>Iris versicolor</i>	●		
Blue-eyed Grass	<i>Sisyrinchium montanum</i>	●		
Helleborine	<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	●		
Common Plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>	●		●
Blue Cohosh	<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>	●		
Mayapple	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	●		●
Charlock	<i>Brassica kaber</i>	●		
Yellow Cress	<i>Rorippa islandica</i>	●		
Purple-flowering Raspberry	<i>Rubus odoratus</i>	●		●
Wood Strawberry	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	●		●
Common Strawberry	<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	●		●
Rough Avens	<i>Geum virginianum</i>	●		
Silverweed	<i>Potentilla aserina</i>	●		●
Common cinquefoil	<i>P. canadensis</i>	●		●
Rough-fruited cinquefoil	<i>P. recta</i>	●		●
Yellow wood-sorrel	<i>Oxalis stricta</i>	●		●
Wild Geranium	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	●		
Herb-robert	<i>G. robertianum</i>	●		●
Spotted Touch-me-not	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	●		●
Vetchling	<i>Lathyrus palustris</i>	●		
Birdsfoot Trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	●		●
Black Medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	●		●
Yellow Sweet Clover	<i>Metilotus officinalis</i>	●		●
White Sweet Clover	<i>Metilotus alba</i>	●		●

Hop clover	<i>Trifolium agrarium</i>	●		●
Red Clover	<i>T. pratense</i>	●		●
Smaller Hop Clover	<i>T. procumbens</i>	●		●
White Clover	<i>T. repens</i>	●		●
Cow Vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	●		●
Fringed Loosestrife	<i>Lysimachia ciliata</i>	●		
Moneywort	<i>L. nummularia</i>	●		
Yellow Loosestrife	<i>L. terrestris</i>	●		
Starflower	<i>Trientalis borealis</i>	●		
Swamp Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	●		
Common Milkweed	<i>A. syriaca</i>	●		●
Field Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	●		
Blue Phlox	<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	●		
Blue Vervain	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	●		●
Narrow leaved vervain	<i>V. simplex</i>	●		
White Vervain	<i>V. urticifolia</i>	●		●
Motherwort	<i>Leonurus cardiaca</i>	●		●
Cut-leaved Water-Horehound	<i>Lycopus americanus</i>	●		
Bugleweed	<i>L. virginicus</i>	●		
Wild Bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	●		●
Catnip	<i>Nepeta cataria</i>	●		●
Common Marsh Skullcap	<i>Scutellaria epilobiifolia</i>	●		
Rough Hedge-nettle	<i>Stachys tenuifolia</i>	●		●
Heal-all	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	●		
Nightshade	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	●		
Common Nightshade	<i>S. nigrum</i>	●		
Spreading Dogbane	<i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i>	●		
Butter-and-Eggs	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	●		●
Square stemmed Monkey Flower	<i>Mimulus ringens</i>	●		
Hairy Beard tongue	<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	●		
Common Mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	●		●
Long-leaved Speedwell	<i>Veronica longifolia</i>	●		
Northern Bedstraw	<i>Galium boreale</i>	●		
White Wild Licorice	<i>Galium circaezans</i>	●		
Fragrant Bedstraw	<i>Galium triflorum</i>	●		●
Small Bedstraw	<i>Galium trifidum</i>	●		●
Teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	●		●
Marsh Bellflower	<i>Campanula aparinoides</i>	●		
Harebell	<i>C. rotundifolia</i>	●		
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	●		●
Field Pussytoes	<i>Antennaria neglecta</i>	●		●
Purple Stemmed Aster	<i>Aster puniceus</i>	●		●
New England Aster	<i>A. novae-angliae</i>	●		●
Heath Aster	<i>Aster ericoides</i>	●		●

Hairy Aster	<i>Aster pilosus willd</i>	●		●
Oxeye Daisy	<i>Chysanthemum leucanthemum</i>	●		●
Chicory	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	●		●
Canada Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	●		●
Bull Thistle	<i>C. vulgare</i>	●		●
Daisy Fleabane	<i>Erigeron annuus</i>	●		●
Common Fleabane	<i>E. philadelphicus</i>	●		●
Lesser Daisy Fleabane	<i>E. strigosus</i>	●		●
Spotted Joe-pye weed	<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	●		●
White Boneset	<i>E. perfoliatum</i>	●		●
Orange Hawkweed	<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>	●		
Canada Hawkweed	<i>H. canadense</i>	●		●
Yellow Hawkweed	<i>H. pratense</i>	●		●
Elecampane	<i>Inula helenium</i>	●		●
White Lettuce	<i>Prenanthes alba</i>	●		●
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia serotina</i>	●		●
Common Dandelion	<i>Taravacum officinales</i>	●		●
Yellow Goats-bread	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	●		●
Coltsfoot	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	●		
Stinging Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	●		●
Canada Goldenrod	<i>Solidago altissima</i>	●		●
Zigzag Goldenrod	<i>Solidago flexicaulis</i>	●		●
Devil's Beggar-tick	<i>Bidens Frondosa</i>	●		●
Wild Basil	<i>Satureja vulgaris</i>	●		●
Gray Stemmed Goldenrod	<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	●		●
Wild Rhubarb	<i>Rheum rhabarbarum</i>	●		●
Poison Ivy	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>	●		●
Giant Ragweed	<i>Ambrosia trifida</i>	●		●
Dog-strangling vine	<i>Cynanchum rossicum</i>	●		●
Wild Grape	<i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>	●		●
Giant Puffball	<i>Calvatia gigantean</i>	●		●
Early Meadow Rue	<i>Thalictrum dioicum</i>	●		●
Garlic Mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	●		●
- unknown	<i>Peziza vesiculosa</i>			●
White Coral Jelly Fungus	<i>Tremella reticulata</i>			●
Worm-Like Coral	<i>Clavaria vermicularis</i>			●
- unknown	<i>Alboleptonia sericella</i>			●
Vermilion Mushroom	<i>Hygrophorus miniatus</i>			●
Common White Coral	<i>Ramariopsis kunzei</i>			●
- unknown	<i>Bankera violascens</i>			●
Wild Rice	<i>Zizania aquatica</i>		●	

*1986 Species identification from:* Dupuis, K. 1986. Resource inventory and wildlife management recommendations for the Parrott Bay wetland area. Unpublished report for the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority.

*2004 Sampling/Observations from:* Environment Canada – Ontario Region (Canadian Wildlife Service), Central lake Ontario Conservation Authority. 2004. Durham Region Coastal Wetland Monitoring Project: Year 2 Technical Report. Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada, 2004.

*2008/9 Species list supplement is based upon observations of CRCA staff T. Beaubiah and J. Hynes.*

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