

Conservation Area Management Statement

Selwyn Beach Conservation Area



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1. Purpose

This Management Statement describes the long-term ownership objectives of Selwyn Beach Conservation Area and sets out the broad policies for its management.

2. Property Description

2.1. Legal Description

Township	Address	Lot(s)	Conc.	Roll Number	Size (ha)
Selwyn	2251 Birch Island Road	21, 22	13	151602000421600	29.1

2.2. Biophysical Description

Selwyn Beach Conservation Area is 29.1 hectares (72 acres) comprised of relatively undeveloped land and approximately 2 kilometers of useable shoreline. The soils consist of sandy and stony till and there are several outcroppings of Ordovician limestone. These outcroppings occur very close to the surface in the low lying areas of the property, especially along the shoreline. The property contains pockets of unevaluated wetlands, forested areas and open fields. This diversity creates an aesthetically pleasing landscape while providing a wide range of habitats that make the property capable of supporting many different species.

The northern portion of the site contains a mature hardwood forest with the dominant species being Sugar Maple, Beech, White Birch, Ironwood, Trembling Aspen and Green Ash. Smaller White Cedar stands can be found along the beach area. Approximately one-third of the property is forested which creates opportunities for hiking while providing excellent habitat for species that prefer wooded areas.

The small areas of unevaluated wetland are comprised of Cattail marshes and Cedar-elm swamps. These areas act as breeding, resting and feeding areas for birds during migration. They also supply a more permanent habitat for local species of waterfowl. Species that are commonly found in wetlands similar to those at Selwyn Beach Conservation Area include Wood duck (*Aix sponsa*), Great Blue Heron (*Ardea Herodias*) and Red Winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*).

The open areas with long grasses provide habitat for ground nesting species such as the Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), which is considered threatened in Ontario. Overall, approximately 70 species of birds and waterfowl have been identified at Selwyn Beach Conservation Area. The marsh areas also provide important spawning and feeding areas for warm water fish. All three of the different land types provide suitable areas for a variety of wild flowers including the rare Cardinal Flower. Overall, the habitat diversity found at Selwyn Beach Conservation Area makes this property truly unique.

2.3. Cultural Description

Previous to Otonabee Conservation (ORCA) owning Selwyn Beach Conservation Area the property was owned and farmed by the same family for at least three generations. Due to the substantial amount of lakeshore cottage and commercial property development, the Peterborough area lacks good quality access to water facilities. ORCA purchased the property in order to ensure that this stretch of Chemong Lake waterfront remains available for public use. This property is intended to meet public demand for quality swimming and water access facilities. It is one of the largest parcels of undeveloped frontage in the area.

Selwyn Beach Conservation Area is a multi-use property that provides both local and out of town visitors with recreational opportunities such as hiking, organized group camping, swimming, boating, skiing and snowshoeing. In the past, the property has also been available for hosting events and children's summer camps.

ORCA has left the property relatively undeveloped in order to protect and preserve the natural beauty and features of the site while providing opportunities for nature study and outdoor environmental education. The diverse flora and fauna provide visitors with the opportunity to enjoy and study a wide variety of species in a relatively small and accessible area.

2.4. Additional Background Information

Selwyn Beach Conservation Area was acquired by ORCA in 1973. It was purchased with funding from the provincial government, the Township of Smith and the Otonabee Region Conservation Foundation (ORCF). The shoreline of the property and the buffers surrounding the pockets of unevaluated wetlands are subject to Regulation 167 which means no development can occur in these areas.

3. Ownership Objective

The primary management objective for Selwyn Beach Conservation Area is to continue as a multi-purpose recreational day use facility with access to Chemong Lake for water-based activities while protecting the natural features of the site including the 2 kilometers of undeveloped waterfront.

4. Management Policies

4.1. Land Acquisition

Properties directly adjacent to the east of Selwyn Beach Conservation Area would be considered if they become available as they would expand the protection of the wetland area within the boundaries of the conservation area.

4.2. Property Tax Incentive Programs

Selwyn Beach Conservation Area is currently enrolled in both the Conservation Lands Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP) and the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP). Otonabee Conservation will continue to have Selwyn Beach Conservation Area enrolled in the CLTIP.

The MFTIP for Selwyn Beach Conservation Area is due for renewal in December 2018. Otonabee Conservation will review the objectives and requirements of the MFTIP and determine the feasibility for continued participation of Selwyn Beach Conservation Area in the program.

4.3. Third Party Agreements

In 2011, the Otonabee Conservation entered into a lease agreement with Nexicom which allows the company to access an area of the property where a transmitter tower is located.

4.4. Permitted Activities

Group camping, swimming, picnicing, fishing, boating, hiking, nordic skiing and snowshoeing are all permitted activities. A boat launch is also provided.

4.5. Stewardship activities

Selwyn Beach Conservation Area will continue to be managed for its intended purposes of providing a recreational area and conserving the shoreline that it possesses.

5. Infrastructure and Services

5.1. Infrastructure

Built infrastructure at Selwyn Beach Conservation Area includes two picnic shelters, a boat launch, public parking areas, two vault privy washrooms, change house, gatehouse, and maintenance garage. Soft infrastructure consists of beach area, group camping area, hiking trails and roads. Entrance signage, and liability and permitted uses sign will be installed and maintained at known points of entry and along property boundaries. Gates and fencing will be installed and maintained to control unauthorized access on property.

Property management activities such as regulations enforcement, lawn cutting, garbage collection, and general grounds and facilities maintenance will continue on the property. Additionally the annual installation and removal of the designated swimming area buoy line. Testing of water at the beach area will be conducted by Peterborough Public Health.

5.2. Services

Selwyn Beach Conservation Area includes a beach area, picnic shelters, boat launch, hiking trails and a group camping area. Historically visitors have paid an admission fee to access the services provided on the property. Collecting admission fees requires a staffed gatehouse operation which in the past was subsidized with admission fee revenue. More recently in the past several years the cost to provide this service has exceeded the revenue from admission fee.

Otonabee Conservation will consider the discontinuation of gatehouse operations which may result in the admission fees being waived. All previous services offered will continue to be provided. Group camping and special event permits will be administered through the Otonabee Conservation administrative office; a fee will be charged for these services.

Appendix A: Property Management Summary

Property Management Summary: Selwyn Beach Conservation Area	
Property Description	
Legal Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Township/Municipality – Selwyn - Total size- 29.1 hectares - Acquisition Date – 1973
Biophysical Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 kilometers of undeveloped shoreline. - Permanent habitat for local species of waterfowl.
Cultural Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides access to multi-use recreational opportunities both local and out of town visitors.
Additional Background Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The shoreline of the property and the buffers surrounding the pockets of unevaluated wetlands are subject to Regulation 167 which means no development can occur in these areas.
Ownership Objectives	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide a multi-purpose recreational day use facility with access to Chemong Lake. - Preserve the natural features of the site.
Management Policies	
Land Acquisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, potential to expand existing property boundary by acquiring lands adjacent to the east when it becomes available to further protect the wetland within the property boundary.
Property Tax Incentive Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conservation Lands Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP) - Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP), Under review continued enrollment, Renewal 2018
Third Party Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2011, lease agreement with Nexicom for access through property to their transmitter tower.
Permitted Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group camping, swimming, picnicking, fishing, boating, hiking, nordic skiing and snowshoeing.
Stewardship Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To provide a recreational area for public access and preserve the section of undeveloped shoreline.
Infrastructure & Services	
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Picnic shelters (2), boat launch, public parking areas (2), vault privy washrooms (2), change house, hiking trails, roads, gatehouse, and maintenance garage.
Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintenance, picnic shelters, boat launch, beach area, hiking trails, group camping area, parking

Appendix B: Property Map

