

# Conservation Area Management Statement

## Warsaw Caves Conservation Area



**Resolution #:**

**Approval:**

**Issue Date:**

**Date of Last Revision:**

# Table of Contents

1. Purpose.....	1
2. Property Description.....	1
2.1. Legal description.....	1
2.2. Biophysical description.....	1
2.3. Cultural description.....	2
2.4. Additional Background information.....	2
3. Ownership Objectives Objectives.....	2
4. Management Policies.....	3
4.1. Land Acquisition.....	3
4.2. Property Tax Incentive Programs.....	3
4.3. Third Party Agreements.....	3
4.4. Permitted Activities.....	3
4.5. Stewardship Activities.....	3
5. Infrastructure & Services .....	3
5.1. Infrastructure.....	3
5.2. Services.....	3

## **Appendix A: Property Management Summary**

## **Appendix B: Property Map**

## 1. Purpose

This Management Statement describes the long-term ownership objectives for the Warsaw Caves Conservation Area and sets out the broad management policies for the property.

## 2. Property Description

### 2.1. Legal Description

Township	Lot(s)	Concession	Roll Number	Size (ha)
Douro Dummer	289 Caves Road Pt Lots 16 & 17	Concession 2, Dummer Ward	15 22 020 003 30000	75.99
Douro Dummer	Pt Lot 15, Pt Lot 16, Pt Lot 17 W, Pt Lot 15 S of Rd Lot 16 S of Rd Lot 17	Concession 3, Dummer Ward	15 22 020 003 32500	56.28
Douro Dummer	Pt Lots 13-15 includes RP 45R482 Parts 2 to 9	Concession 2, Dummer Ward	15 22 020 003 28300	98.02
Douro Dummer	Lot 13	Concession 2, Dummer Ward	15 22 020 003 26900	10.72
<b>Total hectares:</b>				<b>241.01</b>

### 2.2. Biophysical Description

Warsaw Caves Conservation Area possesses both geologically and biologically unique features. The Warsaw area was shaped by the Wisconsin Glaciation. The entire area is comprised of 500 million year old Ordovician Limestone and the deposits are a part of the Dummer Moraine which extends across the southern edge of the Canadian Shield. The property is an excellent representation of karst topography and is considered to be the best in the region. Outcroppings of limestone bedrock can be seen throughout the property. This bedrock contains many kettles, caves, underground streams and potholes. A particularly unique feature of the property is the section of the Indian River which flows underground as if the river has disappeared. This has been caused by the chemical erosion of the limestone.

The vegetation in the area has had to adapt to the conditions caused by the topography and shallow soil conditions which has created a unique assemblage of plant species. The property contains a rare old growth hardwood forest. There are many large White Pine trees that were spared from logging in the 1850's, which is quite rare for southern Ontario.

The property provides foraging and nesting sites for a variety of bird species. Approximately 200 different bird species likely migrate through or nest within the conservation area, including some interior species that require large natural areas to survive. Mammals and reptiles also depend on the habitat that is provided. No rare or at risk species have been observed on the property, but it has been reported that two significant bat species, the Eastern Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus subflavus*) and the Keen's Bat (*Myotis keenii*), may hibernate in one or more of the caves. The property supports the provincially significant species Smooth Cliff Fern and the regionally significant species Slender Cliffbrake and Walking Fern. Many other plant species of local significance can be found on the property. In total, approximately 370 species of vascular plants grow within the conservation area.

The geological and biological unique and sensitive features of Warsaw Caves Conservation Area have led to its designation as a Provincially Significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest.

### **2.3. Cultural Description**

The overall goal of Warsaw Caves Conservation Area is to provide a multi-purpose recreational and educational facility with access to the Indian River. The park draws from a large population base. There is high demand for outdoor recreation opportunities in the Peterborough area, especially with water access. This demand will likely increase as the population grows and Warsaw Caves Conservation Area will play a role in accommodating this. Visitors have and can continue to participate in day-use activities such as picnicking, hiking, swimming, canoeing, spelunking, fishing, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Overnight camping is also available.

The unique geological features provide the opportunity for park users to experience and study the effects of glaciation. Both children and adults can learn about how this process has shaped the landscape by seeing the features it has left behind. The conservation area features seven different caves with a total length of 800 metres. There are also four trails that visitors can use to explore the property and take in the scenic views of the Indian River. The natural setting of the park is one of the main features that attract users. For this reason, the majority of the property has been left undeveloped. The management of Warsaw Caves Conservation Area is guided by the desire to balance the provision of quality outdoor recreation opportunities for the public with the protection and conservation of the natural environment.

### **2.4. Additional Background Information**

Warsaw Caves Conservation Area was acquired by Otonabee Conservation through several different purchases between 1962 and 1995. The majority of the property was purchased with provincial funding as well as general levies. In 1995, the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Otonabee Conservation Foundation contributed to the purchasing of one portion of the property. The entire property is enrolled under the Conservation Lands Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP). The property is within the Otonabee Conservation regulated area and is therefore subject to Regulation 167.

## **3. Ownership Objectives**

There are several objectives associated with the continued ownership of Warsaw Caves Conservation Area. These objectives align with Otonabee Conservation's **Management of Authority Owned Lands Policy**. Through the continued ownership of the property by Otonabee Conservation, these objectives will continue to be met.

There are two primary objectives for this property. One is to provide public access and outdoor recreation. Warsaw Caves Conservation Area serves the community by addressing the growing demand for outdoor recreational opportunities. The property provides a setting for both water and land-based recreational activities. Through their continued ownership, Otonabee Conservation can ensure the property remains accessible to the public so visitors can continue to experience the unique natural features found at Warsaw Caves Conservation Area.

The other primary objective is to protect and conserve the natural heritage of the area. Warsaw Caves Conservation Area contains many unique geological and biological features. The property provides important habitat that supports a diverse assortment of plant and animal species. The property is also a Provincially Significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest. These natural features and functions are protected under ORCA's ownership.

## **4. Management Policies**

### **4.1. Land Acquisition**

Otonabee Conservation will acquire additional adjacent land as the opportunity presents itself, particularly land that enhances the protection of natural heritage features and/or supports the protection of that portion of the property designated as being a Provincially Significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest.

### **4.2. Property Tax Incentive Programs**

Warsaw Caves Conservation Area is enrolled in the Conservation Lands Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP). That Authority will continue participate in this program.

### **4.3. Third Party Agreements**

An agreement is s in place between Otonabee Conservation and Environment Canada for the establishment and operation of a Canadian Air and Precipitation Monitoring Network (CAPMoN) Station.

### **4.4. Permitted Activities**

Permitted activities at Warsaw Caves Conservation Area are hiking, camping, swimming, picnicking, environmental study, non-motorized boating, spelunking, fishing, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

### **4.5. Stewardship Activities**

Warsaw Caves Conservation Area will continue to be managed for its intended purposes of public access and outdoor recreation and to protect and conserve the natural heritage of the area.

## **5. Infrastructure and Services**

### **5.1. Infrastructure**

Infrastructure at Warsaw Caves Conservation Area includes roads, parking lots, trails, swimming area, canoe launch, gatehouse, workshop, comfort stations, water treatment system, 4 drilled groundwater wells, 2 septic systems, picnic shelter, equipment storage area, and the Warsaw Outdoor Education Centre.

A site development plan will be prepared for Warsaw Caves Conservation Area. The purpose of the plan will be to delineate that portion of the area that contains natural heritage features that require protection and the portion of the area where outdoor recreation activities and supporting infrastructure will be allowed to continue.

### **5.2. Services**

Services provided at Warsaw Caves Conservation Area include marked hiking trails, interpretive signage, parking, canoe rentals, full service washroom and shower facilities, laundry facilities, retail sales for firewood and other camping supplies and overnight family and group camping facilities. Potable water is available at the campground area. Online campsite reservations are accessible through Otonabee Conservation's Website.

## Appendix A: Property Management Summary

<b>Property Summary: Warsaw Caves Conservation Area</b>	
<b>Property Description</b>	
Legal Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Township/Municipality – Douro-Dummer</li> <li>- Total size- 241.01</li> <li>- Acquisition Date – 1962-1995</li> </ul>
Biophysical Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provincially Significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest.</li> <li>- Excellent representation of karst topography.</li> </ul>
Cultural Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Day-use and overnight camping.</li> <li>- Unique opportunity to study the impact of glaciation.</li> </ul>
Additional Background Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Subject to Regulation 167.</li> </ul>
<b>Ownership Objectives</b>	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide public access and outdoor recreation.</li> <li>- Protect and conserve the natural heritage of the area</li> </ul>
<b>Management Policies</b>	
Land Acquisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Yes as the opportunity presents itself</li> </ul>
Property Tax Incentive Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to be enrolled in the Conservation Lands Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP).</li> </ul>
Third Party Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agreement with Environment Canada for an atmospheric monitoring station.</li> </ul>
Permitted Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hiking, swimming, camping, nature study, spelunking, picnicking, fishing, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.</li> </ul>
Stewardship Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Warsaw Caves Conservation Area will continue to be managed for its intended purposes of public access and outdoor recreation and to protect and conserve the natural heritage of the area.</li> </ul>
<b>Infrastructure &amp; Services</b>	
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Warsaw Caves Conservation Area includes roads, parking lots, trails, swimming area, canoe launch, gatehouse, workshop, comfort stations, water treatment system, 4 drilled groundwater wells, 2 septic systems, picnic shelter, equipment storage area, and the Warsaw Outdoor Education Centre.</li> <li>- A site development plan will be prepared to delineate natural heritage and recreational areas of property.</li> </ul>
Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Marked hiking trails, nature and wildlife viewing, interpretive signage, parking, general property maintenance, canoe rentals, serviced washroom and shower facilities, laundry facilities, retail the sale of firewood and other camping supplies and overnight family and group camping facilities. The campsites are serviced with a supply of potable water is available at campground area. Online campsite reservations are accessible through Otonabee Conservation's Website.</li> </ul>

# Appendix B: Property Map

