



Crowe Bridge Conservation Area



Management Plan

March 2009



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Acknowledgements

The Draft Management Plan was developed with input and feedback from the community at large with significant input and leadership from the executive and membership of the Friends of Crowe Bridge Park Association and staff of the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority. Meetings, site visits, interviews, questionnaires, electronic correspondence, and an open house were public consultation methods used to develop and review the Draft Management Plan.

Particular appreciation is given to the Campbellford/Seymour Community Foundation for their overall support and financial contribution in carrying out this project. Thanks to the following individuals for their assistance during the process:

Alan Appleby	The Heath Family
Terry Humphries	The Lisle Family
Tim Pidduck	The Petherick Family
Shirely Paterson	
Graham Wilson	
Lisa Winegarden	

The following individuals deserve recognition for their participation in the public consultation component:

Alan Appleby	Robert Herr	Shirley Patterson
Marian Aveson	Edward Hick	Bill Petherick
Katharine Bacarala	Terry Humphries	Clarke Petherick
Bob Bryans	Cheyenne Kack	Margaret Pirota
Ross Cotton	Claire Lisle	Judith Reid
Jean Cotton	Doreen Lisle	Pat Schadt
Anne Easby	John Lisle	Brian Schuette
Dave Easby	Dave MacDougall	Megan Spagnola
Betty Ellis	Hec MacMillan	Ted Stillman
Barbara Fairweather	Greg Miller	Tom Terentiew
Michelle Giles	Rae Miller	Garry Wilson
Al Graham	Irene Newington	Graham Wilson
Gayle Graham	Rita Oates	Lisa Winegarden
Lyle Heath		

Organization of the Management Plan

The Management Plan is developed as a document that may be used on a regular basis for planning improvements and implementation of short, medium, and long term goals over the 5 year planning horizon. Regular reference and update is suggested. The Management Plan is structured to describe how things came to be and provides a direction that the Crowe Bridge Conservation Area should take over the five year term, if not longer. The Management Plan is organized to highlight the findings and key recommendations followed by four (4) sections that describe the public and planning process, the context under which conservation areas and recreation trends are operating, a limited review of the physical resources, and options for management including the preferred option and implementation. This organization is listed below:

- Executive Summary
- General Recommendations
- Introduction (Purpose, Process, Public Consultation)
- Context Review (Background, Policies, Trends, Uses)
- Resource Review (Landform, Natural Heritage, Built)
- Management Options (Options, Recommended Option, Implementation)

The executive summary provides the key findings of the background/research work and public consultation process and forms the basis for a management plan initiative.

Recommendations are suggested actions that should be accepted and implemented in order to carry out the management plan initiative and are based and referenced to the technical component of the project as well as public input. Recommendations are system-wide facility and limited operational aspects that refer to the general operability of conservation areas.

Executive Summary

Overview

Crowe Bridge Conservation Area, also known as Crowe Bridge Park, has been closed by the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority since the summer of 2007 due to a reconsideration of funding and operations. Although the area is known locally as Crowe Bridge Park, the removal of the term 'park' should assist with, among other things, the perception of the area. Evidence of this occurs through the incorrect identification and classification of the area in the Trent Hills Recreation Master Plan as a private park, for example.

The Crowe Bridge Conservation Area Management Plan is a guiding document that combines: a brief review of the history and context of the area, describes past and existing uses and conditions, summarizes research, involves public consultation, and integrates the findings within a policy and planning framework to provide a five (5) year plan for the area. Furthermore, the Management Plan reviewed a number of options for the area and provides guiding principles for its operation over the five year planning period.

The focus of the management plan project was to collect existing information about the Crowe Bridge Conservation Area, develop site visit notes and observations, perform a research scan of recreational trends and operating plans and/policies and compile the results into a plan that addresses four possibilities: (1) return the area to its former use, (2) developing a day use only option, (3) maintain as a natural area, and (4) creating a specialty destination area.

Key Considerations

One of the issues that affected the Management Plan study process was the lack of data/information or the uncoordinated/disjointed sources and level(s) of data/information. This Management Plan brings together much of the information but can be viewed as a foundation to build upon as planning and management recommendations are carried out over the five year term.

Key points that provided the framework for the Management Plan include:

- Lands such as conservation areas are in the public domain and should be used as demand warrants with reasonable expectation for facilities to meet the demand.
- The mandate of conservation authorities is to conserve, provide, and protect physical resources, particularly those that are recognized in local, regional, and provincial plans and policies.
- Conservation areas, with reduced funding resources for increased programming demand, require partnerships in most cases to assist their functions.
- Improvements of infrastructure and programming should be based on the business-case model of planning and should not include administrative issues such as property tax assessment or issues of existing ownership/land tenure.

The Importance and Value of Conservation

The mandate and vision of conservation authorities is based on the conservation and preservation of public lands, and therefore, Crowe Bridge Conservation Area should be operated, maintained, and promoted as a public conservation area consistent with other conservation areas and conservation authorities.

It is particularly important to view Crowe Bridge Conservation Area as a physical and cultural community asset rather than an administrative liability or speculative opportunity.

Best and Highest Use Option

The Management Plan, under Option 5, recommends that the legal owner of the lands, the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority, reopen the area immediately to recreational use and interpretive programming and make improvements to facilitate these uses.

The recommended option is the optimum or highest and best use of the area and is also the most cost effective. The role of the conservation authority should not focus on revenue generation, whether regular or one-time, but operation on a revenue neutral basis. Cost recovery should be addressed for items such as special events or programming and can assist in budgeting and capital improvement.

Partnerships are recognized as a means of funding and constructing projects and gain more emphasis during difficult times. Government programs that assist or spur economic activity must be capitalized upon and be a continuous process even if projects or sources are not continuous. The recommended option provides an opportunity through the interest and commitment provided and demonstrated by the community, particularly educational groups.

The Management Plan recognizes the lack of funding for conservation authorities and has initiated partnership programs with the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board and Sir Sandford Fleming College to assist with activities such as:

- Spring and fall clean up efforts,
- Inventory of vegetation and habitats,
- Deconstruction and clean up of out-dated facilities,
- Construction of new facilities (sheds, washrooms, tables/benches, etc.)
- Trail design and construction,
- Baseline mapping, site analysis for management purposes,
- Educational programming including field trips, etc.

Recreational day use should focus on walking, hiking, cross country skiing, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, camping (tent), and nature appreciation. Interpretive programming activities such as education, field visits and tours, research, and personal enjoyment can be initiated this year (2009) and expanded over the next few years. Most of the key tasks and action items for Option 5 only require a reorganization or reallocation of existing resources, especially budget and staffing, and therefore, can be carried out as recommended in this Management Plan.

Recommendations

A key aspect to the Management Plan and its recommendations lies in the needs and circumstances of the local and regional community and how those can be met in a modern operating and legislative context, primarily economic restraint, legislation and policy, and recreation demand.

The following general recommendations pertain to the preferred option, Option 5, and are guiding recommendations that form the basis for long term planning and management of this option. Detailed action items are recommended under Section 4.5 - Recommended Option and provide the opportunity for the conservation authority to phase in recommendations.

General Recommendation 1

That the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority immediately re-open the Crowe Bridge Conservation Area to meet demonstrated recreation demand. Further, that the conservation authority make necessary physical improvements for 2009 as a recreation area and interpretive centre.

General Recommendation 2

Further to Recommendation 1, that the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority monitor and document uses, concerns, and issues that may arise during 2009 and make necessary improvements as part of updated and regular maintenance and budget programs.

General Recommendation 3

That the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority reaffirm its public vision to maintain the Crowe Bridge Conservation Area for public use by providing regular maintenance, marketing, promotion and planning as a conservation area only.

General Recommendation 4

That the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority develop a workplan to complete a resource inventory and baseline of technical information. The workplan should also identify programming opportunities that can contribute to the operation of the conservation area.

General Recommendation 5

That the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority seek and develop partnerships with educational institutions to assist with Recommendations 1, 2 and 4 and seek to establish and nurture longer term partnerships with public agencies and organizations.

General Recommendation 6

That the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority develop a recreation land use policy that will be applied consistently across the system and assign appropriate resources to support this policy.

General Recommendation 7

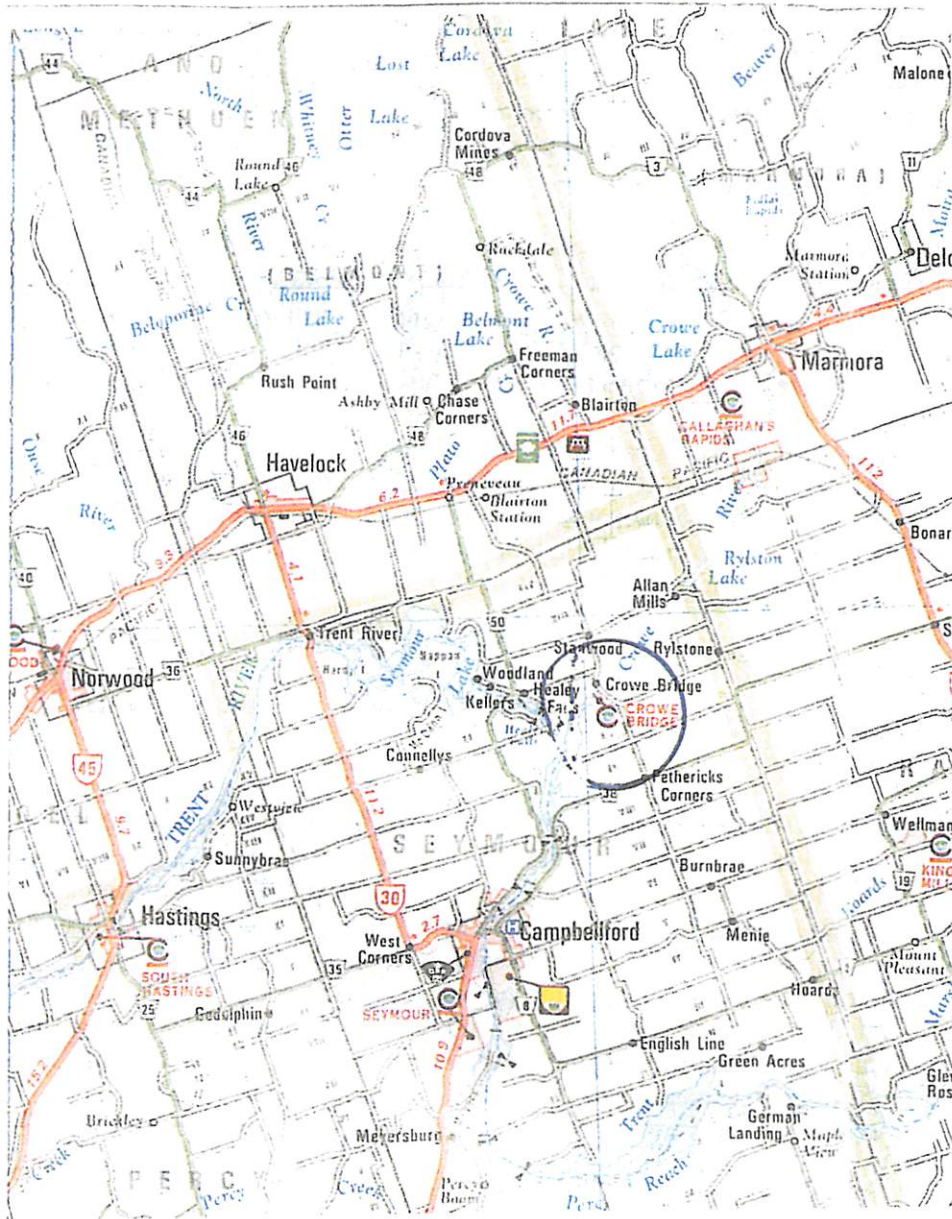
That the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority retain the lands for conservation and preservation purposes only, as originally intended in the acquisition of the lands, and as part of the conservation authority's mandate and service to the public under both the Conservation Authority Act and the Environmental Bill of Rights.



1.0 Introduction

1.0 Introduction

The Crowe River Bridge Conservation Area is located in the Municipality of Trent Hills, formerly the Township of Seymour as Part Lot 21, Concession 11 and just north of the Town of Campbellford. The subject property contains approximately 10.5 hectares (26 acres) of mixed woodlot in two separated portions along the Crowe River. See Map 1.



1.1 Background

The Crowe River Bridge Conservation Area is a 26 acre parcel of property that was in private ownership until it was sold in 1965 to the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority. Previous to 1965 while in private ownership, the area was used for agricultural purposes and to provide water-based access for recreation opportunities, mostly day use, and particularly as a swimming location. Since its establishment from 1965 as a conservation area property under the management of Crowe Valley Conservation Authority, the authority has made a number of physical improvements to address programming issues of the day.

Provincial funding changes in the 1990's and more recent administrative changes to agencies such as conservation authorities have caused authorities to review their mandates and objectives, review programming, take stock of capital assets, and essentially reposition themselves in the context of changing markets and times.

The area is highly popular with local and out-of-town recreation users. When this demand is combined with financial restraints that conservation authorities found themselves faced with, demands on maintenance and operations became difficult to the point that the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority when exploring options, including selling of the property or portions of, decided to close the area in 2007 to re-examine funding and operations options.

The local residents responded in part by forming a non-profit group, "Friends of Crowe Bridge Park" and together with the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority, sought and obtained funding to investigate use options and prepare and implement a management plan for the five year planning horizon that would result in a re-opening of the area as part of the local/regional recreation inventory of facilities.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to review the current status conditions of the Crowe Bridge Park Conservation Area including a baseline inventory of facilities, amenities, and operations in the context of four primary options: (1) returning the area to its full operational status including camping, picnicking, mini-golf, swimming, and concessions; (2) operating the park as a day use recreation area focused on activities that include swimming, boating, hiking, picnicking, and other compatible uses; (3) maintaining the park as a natural area for passive uses like hiking, nature study, and local water access (swimming and canoeing/kayaking), and (4) redeveloping the park as a speciality attraction (destination) based on its natural and/or recreational features alone or in conjunction with other areas, groups, agencies, or businesses.

1.3 Study Process

1.3.1 Phases and Key Tasks

The study process involved three (3) phases: public consultation, technical review, and research review. The compilation of the findings and results are discussed in appropriate sections of this report and were reviewed by both representatives from the “Friends of Crowe Bridge Park” and the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority before presentation to the general public and media. The process, major phases/key tasks, and timelines are shown below in Table 1:

Table 1: 2008 Study Process			
Source: Consultant, Friends of Crowe Bridge Park, CVCA			
Phase/Task	Time	Responsibility	Deliverable
File Review	August	Consultant/CVCA	Notes
Site Review	September	Consultant/Friends	Site Documentation
Research Review	August to October	Consultant	Tables/Reporting
Public Input	August to November	Consultant/Friends	Questionnaires/Workshop Summaries/Submissions
Technical Review	August to October	Consultant	Documentation/Reporting
Management Review	November to December	Consultant	Meetings, Partnerships, Research and Reporting
Report Preparation And Review	November to January	Consultant, Friends and CVCA	Working Draft Draft Report
Revisions/Final Report	February 2009	Consultant, Friends and CVCA	Final Report/Presentation

1.4 Public Consultation

The public consultation process was designed to develop a survey questionnaire that was posted online of the website of the Friends of Crowe Bridge Park and availability of the questionnaire in hard copy version. In addition, written submissions were invited and while forming only a small percentage of the overall findings, provided the public with another instrument for input and feedback. Written comments including those obtained from survey questionnaires are incorporated elsewhere in this report. A public workshop was conducted in early October 2008 and was well attended and received – results from this workshop are discussed in Section 2.5.

1.5 Technical Review

Technical review in this context reviews to the inventory and analysis of the physical site and its defining characteristics. Included in this project component is the review of files and information regarding the funding, operations, and maintenance of the area from the operator's perspective. Technical review also includes the research and discussion, where applicable, of technical design guidelines and standards for example.

1.6 Research Review

Research included the sourcing, tabulation, and discussion of issues and trends that affect recreation in a modern context and how these items factor into the four (4) primary options of the purpose of the study. Research included statistical information, reviews of plans and policies, public input, file information, and site conditions.



2.0 Context Review

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The following sections provide an overview of the history of the area, current and more recent uses, and a review and discussion of the plans, policies, and studies that affect management of Crowe Bridge Conservation Area.

2.1 History

History of the Crowe Bridge Conservation Area is, in part, provided by local residents and the following reference is credited toward those residents, particularly the Lisle family.

In 1965, the first conservation area that was acquired by the Crowe River Conservation Authority (CVCA) was a 10.5 hectare (26 acre) site of waterfront and hardwood forest in Seymour Township at Crowe River Bridge, known locally as Chard's Bridge. See Map 1.

The portion of land purchased was owned by a farm family named Petherick who had made available for all to enjoy since the time of the local settlement of the area. The areas popularity as a favourite place to "spend some down time" became very special to those who needed a break from a hard day's work on the farm.



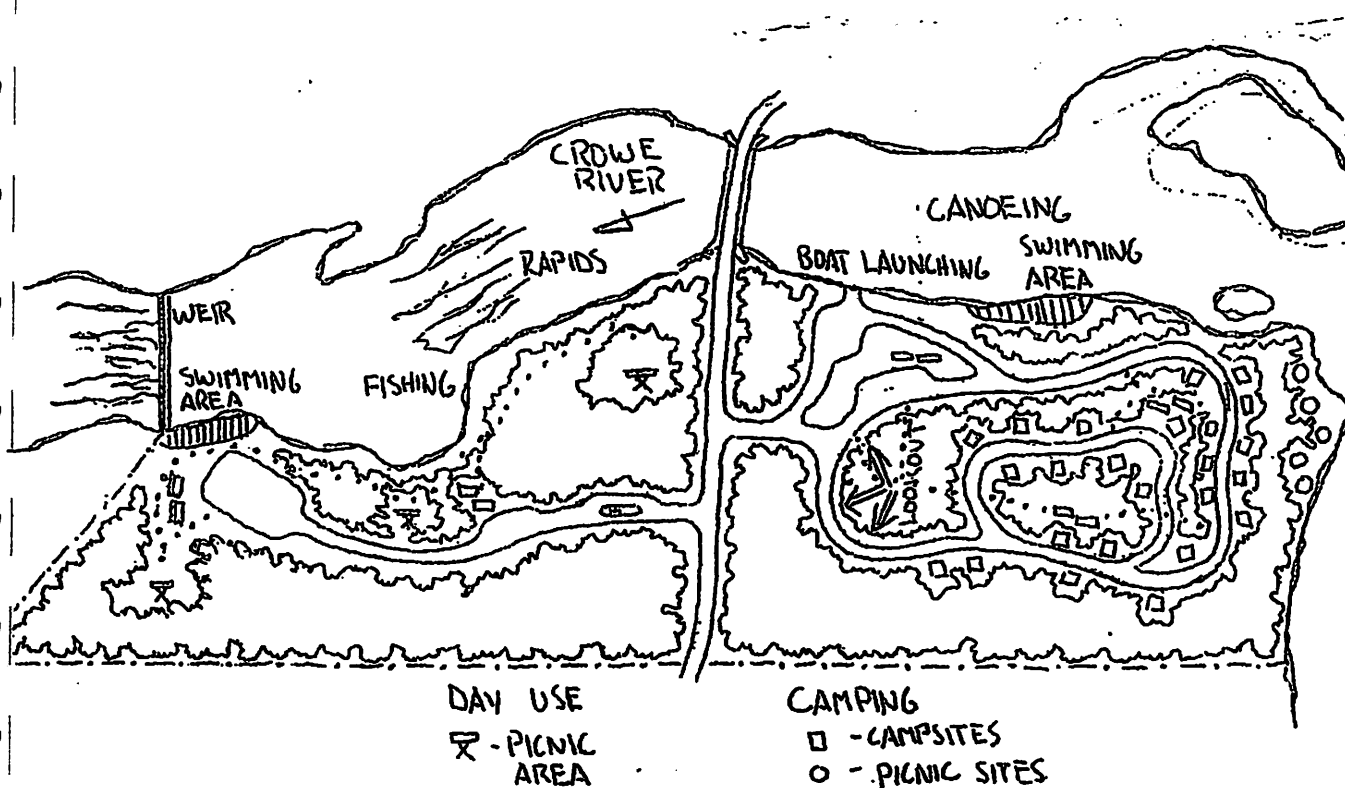
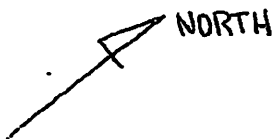
Those who enjoyed the challenge of swimming in deeper water chose the “big rock” site north of the bridge on the east shore. After the weir dam was constructed to measure the flow of the watershed from 1912 to 1946 by the Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario, this spot became the special place to relax, splash, puddle about or sit under the flow just letting the water shower over your body. It was said that the parents of the time were there to supervise their children as they searched for fossils in the limestone river bottom, splashed, played and learned to swim. Generations of families spent their days at the Crowe River Bridge in a wonderful, healthy and fun environment and usually ended the day with a picnic supper.



Aided by summer student programs it had approximately 40 campsites on the north side of the bridge, complete washroom facilities, a store, and a wilderness mini putt area, swimming and picnicking on the south side for day use (Figure 1).

CROWE BRIDGE CONSERVATION AREA

APPROX. SCALE: 1" = 300 FT.



The Lisle family leased the area from the CVCA for \$,1000.00 from May to September starting in 1978 for seven seasons. The family paid their liability insurance, cleaned the Park and took the garbage to the local landfill. The toilets pumped at additional, private expense. The first year of the lease (1978), the CVCA supplied wood for campfires. After 1978, the family provided wood for campers. Staff was hired and trained at additional and private expense and managed summer programs. Water testing was required of the two wells and application of treatment, if required. Water in the camping area was always deemed 'perfect'; however the well at the weir required treatment often. Water from the river was tested by the health department and at that time was advised that the Crowe River was one of the cleanest in Ontario.



2.2 Policies, Legislation, Studies

As part of the context review, a scan of applicable policies, plans, and acts was undertaken with the intent to review the factors affecting management of public lands and the attempt to clarify the ownership and potential stewardship models for Crowe Bridge Conservation Area.

The following plans and policies affect the Crowe Bridge Conservation Area, and therefore, have planning and management implications for the conservation authority.

2.2.1 Provincial Policy Statement

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) provides policy direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development. The PPS was approved in 2005 and is the upper level policy instrument when evaluating land development or redevelopment proposals. When development or redevelopment applications are filed, the baseline reference for compliance is the PPS and the regional or local level official plan. Depending on the nature of the proposal other legislation, regulations, policies, and programs will affect the project. As the provincial policy, all lower level policies must align with the PPS. The following applicable components of the PPS are summarized in the next section.

The primary direction of the PPS is the encouragement to build strong communities that are healthy, liveable, and safe and may be achieved by managing and directing land uses to achieve effective development and land use patterns. In order to achieve this in rural areas within municipalities, any development must be appropriate to the infrastructure which is available or planned and that recreational, tourism, and other economic opportunities should be promoted.

With respect to public spaces, parks, and open spaces, the PPS states that:

- Public roads/streets, spaces, and facilities should be safe and facilitate pedestrian and non-motorized movement including, but not limited to, walking and cycling,
- Provide a full range and equitable distribution of publicly accessible built and natural settings for recreation, including facilities, parklands, open space areas, trails and, where practical, water-based resources,
- Provide opportunities for public access to shorelines,
- Consider the impacts of planning decisions on provincial parks, conservation reserves, and conservation areas.

Section Two of the PPS discusses the “wise use and management of resources” with an emphasis on the long term protection of natural heritage features and areas; protection, improvement, and restoration of both the quality and quantity of water (primarily through watershed unit as ecological means); protection of agricultural lands and mineral resources, and finally the conservation of significant built heritage and significant cultural heritage landscapes.

2.2.2 *Municipal Official Plan*

An official plan is a guiding document that provides direction of land use for a local or regional municipality. Official Plans are updated every five (5) years and are revised to reflect the changes in the municipality with respect to population, growth management, socio-economic factors, environmental principles, land development patterns, legislation, infrastructure requirements, and political direction. Official plans provide vision statements, goals, and policies for the municipality and are the basis for reference when development or improvement applications are forwarded.

The review of the Official Plan for the Municipality of Trent Hills provides a policy framework for the Crowe Bridge Conservation Area.

The Official Plan sets out the course of policy direction in this regard by stating that an ecosystem approach that protects water and natural heritage features is the most rational and functional manner in which to proceed. Furthermore, the ecosystem approach is not only part of a larger system, but provides vital links between natural and cultural heritage thereby creating a sense of place and identity. In order to protect this direction, the Plan establishes goals for this, primarily:

- *Goal 2.1.1 To preserve and enhance the natural environment so that it will continue to sustain life, maintain health and provide a high standard of living.*
- *Goal 2.1.2 To ensure that the relationship between the natural and built environments, and the principle of preserving resources and protecting the natural environment for future generations, will form a basis for the planning and development of the area. (Official Plan: 5)*

Specific goals and policies are set out in the category of the Official Plan that discusses land use termed "Greenlands System." The Crowe Bridge Conservation Area is located within the designation of the Greenlands System of the Official Plan for the Municipality of Trent Hills (See Figure 1). The overriding aspect of this land use designation is the connectiveness of sustainable natural environmental systems that are based on the scientific understanding of the terrain, plant, animal and water systems (p.6).

Greenlands Systems lands include features such as, but not limited to: wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitat areas, areas of natural and scientific interest, flood plains, streams and valleys, lakes, and publicly owned lands and are of provincial, regional, and local interest.

The Official Plan Goal (2.2.2) refers to the “*identification, protection and restoration of the Greenlands System composed of natural areas and connecting links as an essential structural component*” (p. 6). In order to enact this goal, a series of policies are set out and are summarized:

- Classifying most natural features into one large, broad category for the purpose of establishing areas of limited development with certain permitted requirements,
- Identifying those areas that are significant natural features,
- Limiting activities on identified natural sites to primarily to educational, recreational, natural heritage appreciation, interpretive uses, or scientific study provided that permitted uses do not result in development, or site alteration activities as defined in the Provincial Policy Statement (for Provincially Significant Wetlands),
- Protection and enhancement of areas that are designated fish habitat, woodlands, valley lands, and wildlife habitat,
- Initiatives aimed at educating the public about woodlot management,
- Protection from development or site alteration that would negatively impact on [rivers] streams or their ecological function. As well, lands that are within or adjacent to these [river] stream corridors that are natural hazard areas which are prone to flooding and erosion, and where development will not be permitted,
- Buildings and structures of any kind are only permitted within stream corridors and floodplains under the regulations of the local conservation authority,
- Thirty (30.0 m) metre setbacks are required from all watercourses for development in rural areas. In flood prone areas, this area may extend beyond the 30.0 metre if the conservation authority has determined that the regulatory flood extends beyond this,
- The predominant use of lands within the Greenlands System shall be conservation, forestry, recreation, agriculture and farm-related uses. Note: The final two uses are directed at private landowners,
- Private and public landowners with lands containing any of the natural features identified within the Greenlands System will be encouraged to manage their lands in a manner that conserves and restores the area,
- Development of a multi-use recreational trail network through the Greenlands System for public use is encouraged. This trail should connect publicly owned lands within the system.

Particular attention in the Official Plan is paid to the Trent-Severn Waterway Corridor System. The Crowe River is identified as a “large tributary stream” of the Trent River and that a corridor has been designated along the Trent-Severn Waterway as part of the Greenlands System. The goal for this land use category is “*to protect and enhance the historic interrelationship between the natural heritage and the cultural heritage within the Trent-Severn Corridor.*” Supporting policies for development within the corridor are:

- Recognition of the Waterway as part of the Historic Canal System and its importance as a recreational, tourism, and heritage resource and consideration of the entire corridor as a significant cultural heritage landscape,
- Any development adjacent to or in proximity to the Waterway, particularly waterfront, will be expected to reinforce the recreation and tourism activities in the Corridor,
- The predominant use of land within the Trent-Severn Corridor shall be the existing shoreline residential uses, passive and active recreational uses, tourism, conservation and agriculture. Mixed use projects, such as resort/residential developments, are encouraged – Note: Residential and mixed use refers to lands within private ownership subject to development requirements as outlined by approval agencies,
- Development proposals within the Trent-Severn Corridor must (a) retain existing or provide alternate public access to the Waterway, (b) provide, where possible, new public access to the Waterway, (c) protect natural and cultural heritage features, and (d) ensure land use compatibility,
- No new development will be permitted in areas susceptible to flooding or natural hazards.

A review of the Official Plan also discusses the economic factors in land use planning and directs goals and policies to pursue activities including a tourism strategy that recognizes and protects plans and development proposals in the Trent-Severn Corridor; conserves, enhances, and promotes significant cultural resources; and directs investment in tourism toward five (5) areas or nodes: Campbellford/Ferris Park, Hastings, Percy Reach, Healy Falls/Trent River and County Roads 29 and 30/Warkworth. It should be noted that as of the time of this study and report, another study is underway that is investigating the existing and potential future options of the Warkworth Institute and its socio-economic impact of those options.

A recent trend in both recreation and land use planning is the notion of healthy communities and active living. Activities and facilities that afford the opportunity to participate in healthy and active lifestyles are receiving emphasis in capital and operating budgets as well as programming.

The Official Plan identifies this notion and outlines specific objectives to encourage and promote its implementation:

- To develop communities where people of all ages, backgrounds and capabilities can meet their individual needs for human development throughout the various stages in their lives by providing opportunities for employment, learning, culture, recreation and spiritual, emotional, physical and social well-being,
- To recognize, conserve and promote cultural heritage resources and perpetuate their value and benefit to the community,
- To promote an integrated community structure and design that ensures a broad mix and range of lot sizes, unit sizes, housing forms, types and tenures that will satisfy the needs of the residents and workers. (Official Plan: 28-29)

Infrastructure in the form of a transportation network is under a separate section of the Official Plan and provides policies that allow for the improvement of rural local and collector roads for satisfactory vehicular movement throughout the area (p.54). The Official Plan encourages scenic routes that: have attributes and views conducive to the roadway and enhanced through landscape plantings, are well signed, contain adjacent picnic areas, provide parking areas at points of interest with the possibility of connecting trail systems along the scenic routes.

2.2.3 Conservation Authorities Act (CAA)

A review of the *Conservation Authorities Act* was completed with major summary points regarding powers, projects and development, and ownership indicated in the following section.

According to legislation, the definition of land that, as a resource base for the carrying out of projects and programs for conservation authorities, is defined as those buildings and any estate, term, easement, right or interest in, to, over or affecting land (*S.1 Definitions 1, Land*) while projects are subsequently defined as “a work undertaken by an authority for the furtherance of its objects.”

The term “Objects” is further defined and clarified under Section 20, subsection (1):

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. (2) Despite subsection (1) and subject to any other legislation pertaining to these resources, authorities may enter into agreements to allow exploration, storage and extraction by others in order to share in the revenue from use of gas or oil resources owned by them if, (a) the use is compatible with the conservation, restoration, development and management of other natural resources; and (b) extraction occurs on land adjacent to, but not on, conservation authority land.

Conservation authorities have a number of powers that allow the authority to carry out works associated to “furthering its objects” and include the following:

- (a) to study and investigate the watershed and to determine a program whereby the natural resources of the watershed may be conserved, restored, developed and managed;
- (b) for any purpose necessary to any project under consideration or undertaken by the authority, to enter into and upon any land and survey and take levels of it and make such borings or sink such trail pits as the authority considers necessary;
- (c) to acquire by purchase, lease or otherwise and to expropriate any land that it may require, and, subject to subsection (2), to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of land so acquired;
- (d) despite subsection (2), to lease for a term of five years or less land acquired by the authority;
- (e) to purchase or acquire any property that it may require and sell it otherwise deal therewith;
- (f) to enter into agreement for the purchase of materials, employment of labour and other purposes as may be necessary for the due carrying out of any project;
- (g) to enter into any agreements with owners of private lands to facilitate the due carrying out of any project;
- (h) to determination the proportion of the total benefit afforded to all of the participating municipalities that is afforded to them
- (i) to erect works and structures and create reservoirs by the construction of dams or otherwise;
- (j) to control the flow of surface waters in order to prevent floods or pollution of to reduce the adverse effects thereof;
- (k) to alter the course of any river, canal, brook, stream or watercourse, and divert or alter, as well as temporarily or permanently, the course of any river, stream, road, street or way, or raise or sink its level in order to carry it over or under, on the level of or by the side of any work built or to be built by the authority, and to divert or alter the position of any water-pipe, gas-pipe, sewer, drain or any telegraph, telephone or electric wire or pole;
- (l) to use lands that are owned or controlled by the authority for purposes, not inconsistent with its objects, as it considers proper;
- (m) to use lands owned or controlled by the authority for park or other recreational purposes, and to erect, or permit to be erected, buildings, booths and facilities for such purposes and to make charges for admission thereto and the use thereof;
- (n) to collaborate and enter into agreements with ministries and agencies of government, municipal councils and local boards and other organizations;
- (o) to plant and produce trees on Crown lands within the consent of the Minister, and on other lands with the consent of the owner, for any purpose;
- (p) to cause research to be done;
- (q) to generally to do all such acts as are necessary for the due carrying out of any project.

The term 'development' under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, allows for the construction, reconstruction, erection or placing of a building or structure of any kind and any works associated with this type of development such as: (i) altering the use or potential use of the building or structure, (ii) increasing the size of the building or structure or increasing the number of units in the building or structure, or (iii) site grading, or temporary or permanent placing, dumping or removal of any material, originating on the site or elsewhere.

With respect to ownership and governance of lands by conservation authorities, the authority is permitted to make their own regulations that affect:

- (a) the use by the public of the lands and the works, vehicles, boats, services and things of the authority;
- (b) provide for the protection and preservation from damage of the property of the authority;
- (c) prescribe fees for the occupation and use of lands and works, vehicles, boats, recreational facilities and services;
- (d) prescribe permits designating privileges in connection with use of the lands or any part thereof and prescribing fees for permits;
- (e) regulate and governing vehicular and pedestrian traffic and prohibiting the use of any class of vehicle or classes of vehicles;
- (f) prohibit or regulate and govern the erection, posting up or other display of notices, signs, sign boards and other advertising devices;
- (g) prescribe terms and conditions under which horses, dogs and other animals may be allowed on the lands or any part thereof;
- (h) subject to the Forest Fires Prevention Act and the regulations made thereunder, prohibit or regulate and govern the use, setting and extinguishment of fires.

2.2.4 *Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) Act*

The Province of Ontario in the mid 1990's established the Environmental Bill of Rights to acknowledge that the people of Ontario recognize and have rights: (a) to the value of the natural environment, (b) to a healthful environment, (c) as a common goal, the protection, conservation and restoration of the natural environment for the benefit of present and future generations. Furthermore, the provincial government as a facilitator of this goal acknowledge that the general public have a mechanism for ensuring this goal and that the goal be achieved in an effective, timely, open and fair manner.¹

The Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) Act, 1993 (as amended) provides a procedure for individuals and groups to seek a due diligence process to meet the goals as stated above and in addition whose main three (3) purposes are to: (1) protect, conserve and, where reasonable, restore the integrity of the environment by the means provided in the Act, (2) provide sustainability of the environment by the means provided in the Act; and (3) protect the right to a healthful environment by the means provided in the Act.

¹ Adapted from the Environmental Bill of Rights

The basis for the general public to ensure the goals is predicated on the following:

- The prevention, reduction and elimination of the use, generation and release of pollutants that are an unreasonable threat to the integrity of the environment.
- The protection and conservation of biological, ecological and genetic diversity.
- The protection and conservation of natural resources, including plant life, animal life and ecological systems.
- The encouragement of the wise management of our natural resources, including plant life, animal life and ecological systems.
- The identification, protection and conservation of ecologically sensitive areas or processes.

Individuals and groups are entitled to initiate a review process based on three (3) primary types of reviews: (1) proposals for policies, (2) proposals for regulations, and (3) proposals for instruments. Each type of review can contain the operative of “make, pass, amend, revoke, or repeal” an action or ‘proposal’ and outline the definitions, types, classes, and detailed procedures of a review.

Proposals are defined as an activity that “*mean a program, plan or objective and includes guidelines or criteria to be used in making decisions about the issuance, amendment or revocation of instruments but does not include an Act, a regulation or an instrument.*”

While the Act provides a mechanism for the public, seeking counsel is advisable when other traditional due diligence forms of review and decision-making have been completed.

Summary

Conservation authorities have long reaching powers that address lands that affect the public realm with respect to watershed management, resource protection, conservation, and education. Recent public plans and policies such as the *Provincial Policy Statement*, *Places to Grow Act*, Municipal Official Plans, and Growth Management Studies ensure that conservation authorities direct their mandate to protection and conservation of publicly supported lands and provide opportunities for their use and enjoyment through legal, policy, and ethical means. The general public are further supported by the establishment of the Environmental Bill of Rights.

2.3 Community Profile

2.3.1 Local Profile

Research using Statistics Canada 2006 databases for demographic population summaries and projections were combined with current findings of reported trends from the field of recreation. Recreation is a widely defined term and ranges from leisure-type pursuits such as walking and nature viewing to more physically active pursuits such as participation in individual sports and organized sporting activities.

Recreation is influenced by a number of factors which, in turn, affect an individual or group of people and their ability to participate in an activity. The most significant of these influencing factors are generally recognized as: age, education level, income (both disposable and discretionary income), and current and/or emerging interests. The ability of Canadians to relocate to other areas provides a change in the local and regional patterns of both development (demography) and recreation not only from a demand perspective but from an expectation level, meaning that new residents that are accustomed to certain recreation services will be expecting similar provision in their new community.

Tables 2 and 3 below summarize the latest statistical make up of the local area, comparison against Ontario while Table 5 summarizes the population, number of households, and employment figures forecast for the County of Northumberland from 2001 to 2031.

Table 2: Population, Municipality of Trent Hills 2001, 2006
Source: Statistics Canada - 2006

Population Cohort (Age grouping)	2001	% of Total	2006	% of Total	% Change 2001 to 2006
0 – 4	515	4.1	480	3.9	- 0.2
5 – 14	1,590	12.7	1,300	10.6	- 2.1
15 – 19	845	6.7	795	6.5	- 0.2
20 – 24	570	4.5	520	4.2	- 0.3
25 – 54	4,655	37.0	4,435	36.2	- 0.8
55 – 64	1,545	12.3	1,950	15.9	+ 3.6
65 – 74	1,520	12.1	1,470	12.0	- 0.1
75 plus	1,330	10.6	1,310	10.7	+ 0.1
Total	12, 569	100.00	12,247	100.00	- 0.25

Note: The cohorts for 25 to 54 years of age were grouped together as these ages are generally recognized as having completed the formal education and are in gainful employment situations until approximately age 55 -60.

The population of the Municipality of Trent Hills is in a decline state for the reported period which contrasts with that of most of Ontario municipalities and Ontario as a whole. The decline,

however, is reported to be 322 people over a 5 year period, a population drop of approximately 64 individuals per year. The majority of the 322 are essentially those under 54 years of age with the largest drop occurring in the 5 – 14 age range, presumably youth whose families relocate. The drop is countered by the addition of new residents in the 55 and older age group, primarily those from ages 55 – 64. This may be attributed primarily to those adults that are termed “empty nesters” and/or those relocating or moving back for a variety of reasons such as lifestyle, family, business or other opportunities.

Table 3: Comparison of Population Trent Hills and Ontario 2006
Source: Statistics Canada - 2006

Population Cohort (Age grouping)	Trent Hills %	Ontario %	Difference
0 – 4	3.9	5.5	- 1.6
5 – 14	10.6	12.6	- 2.0
15 – 19	6.5	7.2	- 0.7
20 – 24	4.3	6.5	- 2.2
25 – 54	36.1	43.6	- 7.5
55 – 64	15.9	11.1	+ 4.8
65 – 74	12.0	7.1	+ 4.9
75 plus	10.7	6.4	+ 4.3
Total	100.00	100.00	

Note: The cohorts for 25 to 54 years of age were grouped together as these ages are generally recognized as having completed the formal education and are in gainful employment situations until approximately age 55 -60.

The population of the Municipality of Trent Hills when compared to Ontario for the 2006 statistical year, indicate that again, the population is in a general state of decline for residents to age 54 when a higher than provincial average increase occurs. The increase of the 55 – 64 age cohort, when compared against Ontario averages, is higher than the provincial average and totalled approximately 445 more residents in the municipality. The age cohort for those 65 and older is relatively stable in Trent Hills but higher than the Ontario average. It was noted that the older age profile is also similar to communities surrounding Trent Hills. When comparing the population of the “watershed communities” (Table 4), despite a noticeable (3.5% to 10.1%) increase in population for three of the townships or communities, the significant figure is the population portion of Trent Hills. Approximately one third (33.7%) of the watershed communities’ population reside in Trent Hills.

Typical implications from these figures usually result in a greater demand on health and wellness service provision and less disposable and discretionary income amounts overall.

Table 4: Population, Crowe Valley Watershed Communities
Source: Statistics Canada – 2001, 2006

Community	2001	2006	% Change
Township of Alnwick-Haldimand	5,846	6,435	+ 10.1 %
Township of Asphodel-Norwood	3,985	4,247	+ 6.6 %
Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen	4,479	4,637	+ 3.5 %
Township of Marmora and Lake	3,985	3,912	- 1.8 %
Township of Stirling-Rawdon	4,887	4,906	+ 0.4 %
Municipality of Trent Hills	12,569	12,247	- 2.6 %

Table 5: Distribution of Population, Households and Employment
for the County of Northumberland 2001 – 2031
Source: Ontario Ministry of Public Infrastructure, November 2005

Year	Population	Households	Employment
2001	80,000	30,000	29,000
2011	87,000	34,000	32,000
2021	93,000	39,000	33,000
2031	96,000	42,000	33,000

Notes: Numbers have been rounded off to nearest 1,000 for outer ring municipalities.
 Includes single tier municipalities that are located geographically within county.

The primary use of this data is to confirm the growth status of the immediate area, the Municipality of Trent Hills, provide a perspective of population patterns on the county, and assess this demographic information against current and emerging recreation trends. This is a prudent approach to assessing and predicting demand for recreation services and programs and will provide a more accurate and appropriate management option for Crowe Bridge Conservation Area.

A review of previous studies concluded that factors affecting local and regional economic development should be focused on positioning the local/regional area on five different tourism-oriented initiatives:

- (1) arts, culture, festivals and special events;
- (2) development of outdoor and recreational activities which take advantage of all aspects of the natural environment of Trent Hills;
- (3) revitalization of downtowns;
- (4) establishment and development of an “agri-tourism” sub-sector, and
- (5) small food operations.

Clearly initiatives 1 and 2 will determine what influence the Crowe Bridge Conservation Area will have upon and within this system.

2.4 General Trends in Recreation

Research has indicated many shifts are underway in the manner which individuals and groups pursue recreation and leisure, particularly youth, such that discernable trends have been identified.

In general terms and from a wide (provincial) perspective, interest and participation is decreasing in: many team sports, extreme physical/strenuous activities, highly or highly structured/scheduled (group) activities, extension of traditional activities in off season, and activities that limit social interaction.

While the above noted trends have been identified as declining, many activities are increasing with respect to interest and participation. Primary to these activities are: more individual and self-directed pursuits, activities that allow for convenience, flexibility, and scheduling, personal benefits (learning, informative, social), cultural, high quality/value, outdoor, women’s team sports, and wellness.

With respect to specific age groups, youth participation in recreation and sports particularly, has been noted to reduce what is viewed as anti-social behaviours and, in fact, can spur good citizenship including volunteering. Youth, especially in rural-based communities are always challenged with income and transportation issues. In addition, there are significant differences in the interests of today’s youth than in previous times primarily due to the availability, if not expectation, of the use of technology, particularly personal electronics. Further to this, more Canadian youth (and adults as well) are subject to problems of sedentary lifestyles and weight and ‘new’ health issues brought on by the accessibility and use of electronic entertainment.

Conversely, more adults are interested in activities that support a healthy, active and convenient lifestyle. Older adults are, in general terms, healthier and more aware of health issues and as a result, participate in activities that encourage physical exercise and an active lifestyle.

Given the general trends in recreation as well as trends of populations that are representative of a predominantly older and/or aging community, such as Trent Hills, the following specific

activities have been identified as increasing over the next number of years and therefore, have impact on the Crowe Bridge Conservation Area Management Plan:

- Walking, hiking, backpacking
- Nature appreciation/study
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Orienteering
- Gardening / horticultural activities
- Tours (garden, trail, architectural)
- Bicycling
- Fishing, hunting, camping
- Recreational swimming

Activities that have been identified that are also increasing with less perceived impact on the Crowe Bridge Conservation Area are generally those that are sport or culture specific and include:

- Attending events, festivals, shows
- Attending/visiting galleries, museums, exhibitions
- Bowling (“premium” package with other events)
- Cross country skiing (short, easy trails)
- In line hockey, recreational in line skating
- Lacrosse (box and field/school)
- Soccer including indoor
- Therapeutic pool/aquatic programs
- Wellness and holistic well-being

Review of tourism trends indicate that in Ontario, resources-based activities such as visiting parks, fishing, hunting, bird/wildlife viewing and other water-based sports, are popular tourist activities with motorized activities such as boating and snowmobiling enjoying an active participation level. The latter two, with opportunities and implications in the Trent Hills region, are also susceptible to market adjustments due to environmental legislation and the volatility of fuel costs. Additional tourism trends that are reported include the emergence of the sport tourism sub-sector; this trend impacts municipalities in the demand of concentrated, high quality, multiuse facilities that can accommodate tournament level competition for sports teams or even house league teams.

2.4.1 *Recreation Management Trends*

A number of corresponding management trends have been identified in recreation service provision, and while most are geared toward facilities, these trends indicate the overall change in management thinking about facilities and programs.

Communities are making changes in the manner in which they provide facilities and services mostly in response to the changes precipitated by a shift in demand. These changes include:

- Increased operational efficiency
- Development of business-case proposals
- Increased revenue generation and net revenues
- Improved programming and flexible registration
- Additional programming (enrichment, extended season, cross training)
- Facilities and schedules that allow families to do one stop/multi-activity
- Added value opportunities through complementary amenities/services
- Increased marketing, early and often
- Principles, such as ecosystem planning, to promote healthy living

While the points above indicate a shift in management, facilities are being developed that mirror these management changes. Facilities now tend to be grouped as part of a multi-use complex with high profile, full range of amenities, commercial components, sponsorship opportunities, complementary amenities such as library or day care, clustering of fields or buildings, allow for cultural displays or social gatherings, and are responsive to emerging activities by being adaptable to reconfiguration, for example.

A significant change in management practice centers on the establishment, development, and nurturing of partnerships and other types of alliances among public institutions and the private sector. In many cases, these partnerships are public/public where there is a working arrangement or relationship of similar-minded operational organizations that is often perceived as being stronger and more effective.

2.4.2 *Open Space and Park System Trends*

A research review of trends from leisure and sport organizations and plan reviews of other municipalities, with respect to park and outdoor facility development, indicates continued development of open spaces, greenways and trail networks, natural area protection of lands deemed or designated as: wetland, woodlot, valley, ESA's (environmentally significant areas), ANSI's (Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest), locally significant lands (smaller areas), increased desire to protect or restore lands along watercourses, development of parks and open spaces that are less sport facility oriented and which could be used for many uses, often spontaneous and individual activities.

A review of plans and studies for the Trent Hills and surrounding areas indicate that approximately 2% of all lands are dedicated to or designated as, open space.

2.4.3 *McGeachie Conservation Area*

The McGeachie Conservation Area is a 204 hectare (500 acre) site owned by the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority located near Bancroft. Recreational uses include multi-use trails and lake and beach activities. The area contains an older cottage property that abuts Steenburg Lake and is available for rental, including longer stays.

2.4.4 *The Gut Conservation Area*

The Gut is a wilderness-type conservation area of approximately 162 hectares (396 acres) located in the northern area of the Crowe Valley Conservation Area near Apsley. The area is a mixed forest with a significant physical feature, the gorge-like incision into the landscape that is described as 30 metres high and varying in width from 5 to 10 metres. It has been noted that artefacts from First Nations have been found on site and linked to a former battlefield site. Uses have included forestry and lumber operations.

2.4.5 *Lower Trent Conservation Authority Areas*

Seymour Conservation Area

Seymour Conservation Area is operated by the Lower Trent Conservation Authority as “*a natural setting in the face of urban development.*” Located south of Campbellford and east of County Road 30 (Map 1), the conservation area is approximately 82 hectares (203 acres) in size and contains a former limestone quarry and wetland complex. Recreational uses are focused on day use of three (3) trails in the form of walking, hiking, and cross-country skiing, and picnic and shelter areas while uses and activities such as overnight camping/open fires, hunting, and off-road vehicles are not permitted.

Goodrich – Loomis Conservation Area

The Goodrich – Loomis Conservation Area is located north of Highway 401 and west of County Road 30 (Map 1) and is similar to Seymour Conservation Area with respect to recreational uses focusing on hiking and skiing over an advertised 12 kilometres of varying trails. The area contains a conservation centre facility that serves programming, such as nature camp for children.

For Lower Trent Conservation Authority conservation areas, groups and special events are permitted and reservations are made through the conservation authority office with a fee of \$1.00 per person per event. Physical improvements are made through an assortment of partnerships, both community agencies and corporate sponsors or donations.

2.4.6 *Ferris Park*

The most recent Parks and Recreation Master Plan identified Ferris Provincial Park as being owned by the Province and operated by the Municipality of Trent Hills under a legal agreement which states that the Province cannot sell the park due to the 1964 legal agreement between the Province and Mr. Ferris, the previous owner of the property.

Ferris Provincial Park is described as having 200 hectares of woods and fields along the Trent River containing approximately 163 camp sites, a comfort station including showers and toilets, vault toilets and a larger day use area that provides hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, and picnicking. As inventoried in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Ferris Provincial Park does not provide swimming but encourages swimming at other local outdoor facilities including Crowe Bridge Conservation Area.

The Municipal Official Plan encourages the development of a tourism strategy for the municipality that includes a Campbellford/Ferris Provincial Park node as a destination for out-of-town residents and tourists.

Issues identified at Ferris Provincial Park that have implications for Crowe River Bridge Conservation Area include: the municipality as operator of a provincially-owned facility, capital improvements, maintenance, and programming. It is difficult for a municipality to operate a facility it does not own, and ultimately have no decision-making ability in its operations and any planned improvements. A facility that is provincially-owned, as part of many provincial parks in its inventory, may not receive the priority or ranking for marketing, programming, visitor operations, maintenance, or improvements as those provincial parks that are much higher in profile.

2.4.7 *Aquatic Trends*

As reported by others, there is no indoor swimming pools within the Municipality of Trent Hills with the nearest indoor aquatic facilities being located in the City Peterborough, Town of Cobourg, and City of Quinte West. Most of these municipalities are within 30 to 60 minutes driving time from Campbellford and Crowe Bridge Conservation Area. A seasonal outdoor pool and splash pad is located in Campbellford. Built in the early 1970's with addition and renovations over time, it currently houses a summer program operated by the YMCA. The use of the outdoor pool is high, and every survey of the community in the past has indicated that the demand for aquatic programs and activities, especially an indoor facility is high. The Crowe Bridge Conservation Area provides a natural recreational swimming area that is highly used and has been so since the area was developed in the late 1960's (Figure 1). Issues of supervision, maintenance, insurance, and liability are at the forefront and are discussed in the management options section of this plan.

2.5 Public Consultations

A workshop was held at Campbellford District High School on October 8, 2008 to identify community issues/concerns regarding the Crowe Bridge Park Conservation Area and suggest possible uses. This session was well attended by approximately forty eight (48) members of the public and received local newspaper reporting coverage. Participants were organized into five (5) groups and asked to firstly develop as many issues and concerns about the Park and secondly, suggest uses that would be supported. Groups presented their findings to the whole group and the results are summarized below.

Note: The issues and concerns were transferred from the workshop materials and represent the actual points noted by groups with clarification where needed. Ideas and opportunities are recorded as they appear from the workshop materials.

2.5.1 Issues and Concerns

Group A

This group identified the following issues: lack of access for both entry and parking, hours of operation particularly throughout the summer, portable washroom facilities, liability issues, new management, and protection from development.

The group believed that proper access was needed to arrive at the Park and to allow for facilitation of uses such as swimming or kayaking. The group also indicated that the park should be open all year to accommodate groups that could use the facility such as school groups, scouts and cadets, and similar youth-oriented organizations. The group acknowledged that while swimming was a popular activity, there are liability issues associated with this type of use. In addition, the group expressed concerns with what was termed 'new management' of the Park, although not expanding on the concern, but suggested that the Conservation Authority and their management practices were the concern for members of this group. The group clearly indicated that protection from development¹ was a concern for them.

¹ Development as referred to throughout the study is the pursuit of land development activity such as residential lot creation, commercial recreation, and similar privately-oriented activity.

Group B

This group identified the following issues: discussion about the park being sold for development purposes, lack of easement for the property, lack of parking on Crowe Bridge Road and general access to and around the park, lack of security, lost revenue potential, hours of operation particularly throughout the year, washroom facilities, and the identification of cultural artefacts.

With respect to the disposition of the Park for development purposes, this group suggested that all options be explored in order to retain the property and make it operational rather than sell the lands for financial return. The group indicated that barricades, gates, no trespassing signs and the closeness of their location to Crowe Bridge Road creates a lack of access and parking and deters from the security of the park (in as much as signs 'attract' vandalism). The group identified that potential revenue, such as donation boxes, were not available and that they would like to see more maintenance regarding particularly regarding toilets and washrooms.

Group C

This group identified the following issues: unavailable, unknown, and inconsistent financial information regarding operating budget for the Park, low budget apportionment, lack of priority in the conservation authority system, mismanagement, lack of expertise, questionable representation, neglect, maintenance procedures and costs, health and safety issues, generic regulations, lack of interest, and the potential sale of the Park.

This group was clearly concerned with the overall management of the Park and what was viewed as a lack of expertise, priority, and interest. Further to this, the group believed that opportunities such as swimming and conservation were reduced or eliminated when combined with management practices and that overall, the discussion of easements, sales, low priority in the conservation authority system were eroding at the Park's past, existing, and potential uses.

Group D

This group identified the following issues: ownership of the Park, purpose of the Park, how long will current closed status remain, who is responsible for the Park, follow through with plans, lack of facilities, and potential loss of a site of environmental and historical value.

Group D was concerned about the status of the park regarding current ownership and stewardship responsibilities, whether the Park will remain closed and for how long (and when or will it reopen), funding of the Park that contribute to its current status, how issues about the Park's uniqueness, and natural and historical values are being managed, what the ramifications of ownership and easements will be, and that any plans include public input and implementation.

Group E

This group identified several issues: maintaining water quality, ownership in the public domain, transparency and good communications regarding status of the property (decisions need to be made in the open), zoning – can good zoning help protect the conservation area), should a large area be considered for protection, what are the specific liability issues (are they the same on both sides of the road), apparent loss of community feel in the conservation authority – can things be more simple, conflicting message between ‘open’ vs. on site closed/no trespassing signs, sign removal waste, money as obvious issue, motorized vehicle use currently (ATV’s, motocross/dirt bikes), how to reconcile north and south sides, longer term vision required, involvement of Town of Campbellford, need to assess heritage values, educational use should be addressed, one of only three river-based recreation sites in a ‘rivertown’, old washrooms and septic tanks (and maintenance of new), creative ways to fund the operations aspect (events, sponsors, ‘sell-a-picnic table, etc.)

2.5.2 Ideas and Opportunities

Groups were asked in the second half of the workshop to develop ideas and opportunities that could suggest potential future uses. While the first session was a lengthy and healthy discussion, many groups commented justifiability so, that issues and concerns lead naturally to thoughts of uses. The purpose was to use the workshop to generate as much dialogue and discussion as possible and was deemed by many participants as quite successful in this regard. The following section summarizes the ideas and opportunities challenge placed before the groups.

Group A

This group identified the following opportunities: partnering with the boards of education, selecting a lease operator (other than the conservation authority), seek out funding opportunities (education structure, infrastructure), keep natural, and developing a marketing strategy (website, tourist magazines, and signs), dawn-to-dusk operating hours, camping, and the use of volunteers.

Group B

This group identified the following opportunities: fully explore all possibilities before considering selling, do not sell, open the gates, relocate the gate past the existing gatehouse and removal of no trespassing signs, install donation boxes, install new toilets, invite local elders to see if there is any cultural significance or value in ‘teachings’, compare operations to other parks, install new signs regarding “use at own risk” and “respect” for example, turn the camping area into trails and add interpretive signs, reduce overall costs including maintenance.

Group C

This group identified the following opportunities: use of volunteers, lease back from the conservation authority to an operator, hand over to local municipality, coordination with schools, camping, revenue through donations, fundraising, concerts, and kayaks.

Group D

This group identified the following opportunities: volunteers to help run the park, day programs (educational, school trips, historical programming), fundraising, open all year, events to draw in, educational centre, shelters to gather, keep it simple, day use/camping for affordable family fun, a park host, students to get their community service hours, playground equipment/entertainment/golf, washrooms (blue loos), start small – limit use and build out later, tap resources of schools, township (program developers), individuals, and businesses.

Group E:

This group identified the following opportunities: develop zoning areas (local, internal, external), an educational centre on north side (public-private partnership eg. universities, colleges), special events (kayaks, others), opportunities for fundraising, entertainment, sponsorship, local sponsorships – identify specific needs and get sponsor for that item, deal at the individual level for item of sponsorship, ensure that revenue from large sponsors do not get lost in general fund/pot, tie three areas (Crowe Bridge, Seymour, and Ferris) together for creating, cross promotion of active uses such as boating, trails, cycling, events, and education programs to develop a critical mass, some trail link is developed so map it, develop it, and promote geo-caching as recreational activity, inventory fossils, plants, and people stuff – educational programs to protect and capitalize on them, signage – how much, promotional and identification of stuff on site (i.e. can have interpretive walks where a series of signs tell a story).

2.5.3 Public Questionnaire/ Survey Instrument

A questionnaire to gather public input was developed and posted electronically on the website of the Friends of Crowe Bridge Park and in paper format. The purpose of the questionnaire was not only to identify issues and concerns about the area, but to start to establish an empirical baseline from which to justify optimum uses and final recommendations including recommendations. The full questionnaire is attached at the back of this report as Appendix B. The following section summarizes the results (34 responses).

General Findings

The following section provides a brief summary of the results of the questionnaire.

Question 1: Of the following, which is the most important issue regarding the park/conservation area?

A total of 19 (56%) of respondents to this question indicated that access was the most important issue with 10 or 29% responding that types of uses or opportunities were an issue. Four respondents (12%) indicated more than one issue from the list, most of who checked off all items.

Question 2: What is the most important challenge facing the park/conservation area?

An equal amount of respondents, 12 or 35% responded that management and ownership were the most important challenge. Five or 15% of respondents indicated that all of the above items were challenges while the same number of 5 (15%) indicated that budget/costs alone were the most important challenge. Marketing and programming were not identified as the single most pressing challenge, however, were indicated as part of the overall challenges by approximately five individuals.

Question 3: What is the most defining feature of the park/conservation area?

Question 3 raised the most controversy in the regard that most respondents did not believe that one item should be identified. The intent of the question was purposeful in this regard as the attempt was made to assist in decision-making. In other words, if faced with one option, what should that option be, in your opinion?

The spread in the simple tallies supports the viewpoint about the question. While it may not have been correct to develop this question as posed, most respondents took the opportunity to priority rank the choices. The following results are presented: 13 or 38% chose or rated the natural setting as most defining of the area, nine (26%) chose or rated all characteristics of the park as most defining while 5 (15%) and 4 (12%) respondents chose/rated recreational opportunity and uniqueness respectively. Three individuals (9%) chose/rated location and/or convenience as the most defining park characteristic.

Question 4: How often do you use the park/conservation area?

A majority of respondents, 13 (38%) use the park on a weekly basis, with 8 and 6 (24% and 18%) using the park on a monthly and daily basis, respectively. Five individuals indicated that they do not use the park because it is either located near them or too far to access (equal). Two individuals (6%) mentioned that they visit once a year when in the area

Question 5: When at Crowe Bridge, I/we stay for:

Nearly one third (29%) or 10 respondents indicated that when at Crowe Bridge, they use the park for approximately 2 – 3 hours while 21% (7 respondents) use the park between 1 and 2 hours or more than 4 hours. Three (9%) answered that they use the park for approximately 3 to 4 hours and two respondents (6%) use the park less than an hour. Five individuals noted that they do not use the park due primarily to location (viewed as distant/difficult to locate).

Question 6: In your opinion, what amenities should be located at Crowe Bridge? Check all that apply.

Question 6 allowed for the opportunity to list more than one amenity with respect to proposed improvements. Of the 34 completed surveys, 26 respondents or 76% indicated that washrooms were needed most while 23 or 68% indicated that informational items such as plaques, signs or trail markings were needed. No correlation analysis was made on the items; however it appears that most who checked more than one item (most respondents) indicated information and washroom or parking/circulation and washroom. Those that selected parking and circulation totalled 20 (59%) while resting areas such as opportunities for shade, seating, or seating at tables totalled 17 or exactly 50%. As many as 13 individuals (38%) checked off that specific areas or zones should be established and identified for different/specific uses. Only a few individuals provided ideas for other proposed uses and these included nature interpretation, picnic shelter, historical, resurrection of the mini-golf course, and gating.

Question 7: What do you believe is the best use for the park/conservation area? (Check one only):

This question also raised some controversy as in Question 3 with multiple replies, however, the results were easier to tabulate. More than half (18 of 34) indicated that some form of recreational use be established with an overwhelming majority indicating day use and only 1 - 2 indicating uses overnight or longer. Educational activities were noted by 5 respondents (15%) with three of those suggesting education as part of a combined or mixed use. The same number indicated multiple use that combined conservation/preservation, education, and interpretation/scientific uses. One individual indicated other but did not elaborate.

Question 8: Please tell us a little about yourself:

Nineteen (19) females and fifteen (15) males completed the 34 surveys (to date) with a vast majority over the age of 35. Twenty-three individuals identified themselves as being 50 years of age or older. Seven individuals are between the age of 35 to 49, with the remaining four being 18 years or under. Most astoundingly, no respondents from the 18 – 34 age group completed a questionnaire.

Of those that responded, 15 (44%) identified themselves as not working, mostly retired. Six individuals (18%) were employed full time at a workplace, twice as many as those who worked part time. Four students, one, at home individual, and three business owners completed the number answering this question.

Question 9: Is there anything we left out that you wish to comment on?

In summarizing these results, the verbatim comments are recorded and are noted in Appendix B.

2.6 Overview of Past Uses

A review of the administrative files indicated that the records for Crowe Bridge Conservation Area were not fully detailed as to the account of activities, budgets, planning, or programming at the conservation area. In fact, the information gleaned indicated sporadic and outdated document keeping in most respects which suggests a contribution to the current (closed) state of affairs.

Crowe Bridge Conservation Area was established in approximately 1968 to provide a number of recreational uses for both day use and camping (see Figure 2). From the illustration of the master plan prepared at that time, the uses included camping, canoeing, swimming, fishing, and picnicking while facilities included camp sites and picnic sites serviced by a traditional loop system roadway, a boat launch, and parking areas. The master plan outlines approximately thirty camp sites on the northern half of the conservation area with a small number of picnic sites adjacent or northeast of the camping sites. Remaining on this north portion of the conservation area are areas zoned for swimming, canoeing, and a boat launch near the bridge. Additional road loops provide access for the water side activities. The north portion is punctuated by an elevated rise in topography and is designated as a scenic lookout point toward the Crowe River and in the south and south-easterly directions.

With respect to the south half of the conservation area, a long trail/roadway is illustrated as leading to the south limits of the property and culminating in a large parking area with picnic areas to the east and throughout the woodlot. A swimming area is shown at the juncture of the property limit and weir while a fishing area is zoned slightly upstream from the swimming area but before the rapids (See Figure 1).

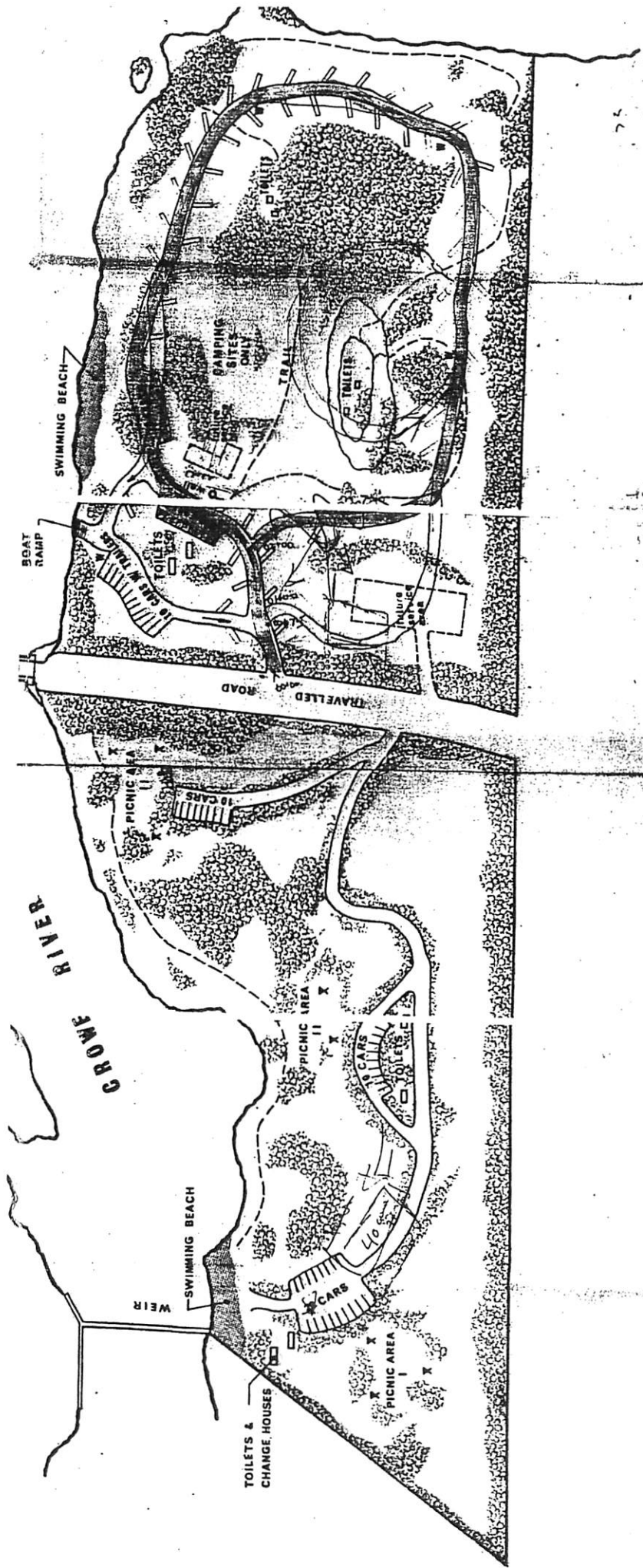
A revised and detailed master plan, Figure 2, (approximately 1972) is found after page 32 and indicates more intense use of both sides of the conservation area.

On the north portion, upon entering the conservation area, a larger single loop roadway again shows approximately thirty camping sites with three dedicated parking pods of ten vehicles each. Ten of these parking spots are dedicated to provision of parking with trailers used at the adjacent boat launch. Across from the cars and trailers parking for ten, are toilets, additional parking for ten and a well. Future service buildings are shown across from the well and east of the north portion main entrance (See Figure 3). Toilets are also located at the high point or lookout and accessed by a trail system. Another north/south trail crosses the site from the south parking pods to the north camping sites and roadway.

The south half of the conservation area property also illustrates a number of parking pods that are scattered throughout including the woodlot. Picnic areas are designated as part of the parking along with provision of toilets in the centre parking zone. At the south end of the property, toilets, changes houses, picnic, and parking are zoned with a swimming beach at the weir.

During the file review, an updated master plan was developed in 1987 which spoke to the physical improvements of the original master plan and uses over time. In 1994, an operations manual was produced and identified a series of issues: maintenance procedures, qualifications of maintenance workers, the casualness of temporary or summer staff, daily and routine maintenance items not being performed, trailers left on site (especially as winter storage), on site waste management, level of communications, and the enforcement of policies, duties, registrations, inconsistent hiring and training opportunities, and revenue control.

During the late 1990's, the conservation area was managed as a park but apparently not to any degree of consistent or procedural accountability. A number of revenue and/or spending initiatives were explored and implemented such as advertising, user surveys, marketing a day use fun park, trailers and overnight camping, long term stays, family passes, parking charges and other ad hoc initiatives. As with previous operations, concerns from residents, visitors, and others indicated a disconnected effort of programming, marketing, and operations. The issues that surrounded the conservation area prior were repeated, and therefore, appeared to only exacerbate the newer initiatives at that time. Particular efforts such as the fun park concept and mini golf indicated the lack of proper programming and procedures to determine optimum and best use. For example, the estimated start up cost of the mini golf operations in 1997 were approximately \$13,000 with no apparent tendering process, revenue control, or maintenance program in place. These type of examples were typical over a course of a number of years, however, due to a lack of proper documentation on file, are difficult to ascertain the costs and results of programs and capital improvements.



2.7 Overview of Current Conditions

The Crowe River Bridge Conservation Area has been closed for the better part of over one year and shows aspects of lack of maintenance and neglect. Overgrowth of groundcovers and understory vegetation are evident along many trails (Figure 4) while the main roadway (Figure 5) is more representative of the level of provision and maintenance of access and circulation.



Figure 4: Trail Overgrowth
September 2008



Figure 5: Existing Roadway
September 2008

More recently improved amenities such as the store and washroom facilities are well constructed and maintained (Figure 6). However, due to the current closed status of the conservation area, these structures could be susceptible to neglect and vandalism. With respect to the gatehouse (Figure 7, on left), the structure is partially open and may be better suited to relocation or removal. Older structures, such as Figure 8, indicate location and purpose according to previous master plans and should be incorporated into a renewed master site plan with a new function.



Figure 6: Current Store Building
September 2008



Figure 7: Existing Gatehouse
(Building on left)
May 2008



Figure 8: Old Stone Gatehouse
May 2008



Figure 9: Out-dated Signage
May 2008

Figure 9 illustrates out-dated signage during a site visit which has been since removed. Figures 10 – 12 illustrate other physical structures that were noted on site and which need to be addressed. These ranged from remnants of septic bed/tank, concrete slabs, exposed/protruding drain pipes, and sheds blown over by the wind.



Figure 10: On Grade Slab
September 2008



Figure 11: Drain Pipe
September 2008



Figure 12: Storage Shed
September 2008

Remnants of previous uses, such as mini-golf, remain and are non-functional, require repair or reflect an inappropriate use (See Figure 13) while some items such as picnic tables and sheds are out of place.

A number of amenities that were incorporated into the original master plan (Figure 1) and carried through to present include areas for gathering at picnic tables under shelter conditions. Figure 14 below illustrates how some users have organized what remains from structures and built items into a useable form and area. The shelters are non-existent and picnic tables are scattered randomly throughout the site.



Figure 13: Current Mini-Golf
September 2008



Figure 14: Picnic Tables at "Beach"
August 2008



3.0 Resource Review

3.0 Resource Review

Review of the files of the Crowe Bridge Conservation Area revealed that a significant portion of technical data such as physical inventory, documentation of natural features, and site characteristics are not in place. Most conservation authorities have detailed inventory of property and facilities and it is unusual that such a property does not have some baseline inventory. A significant effort by local researchers and residents contribute to the following section in order to assist in compiling some sort of a baseline inventory. The following information, save for Tables 5 and 6, was prepared by Graham Wilson, Ph.D. with permission given and should be acknowledged as such.

3.1 Natural Heritage

3.1.1 Landform and Physiography

The lower Crowe Valley is largely till moraine, a hummocky sheet of boulder-strewn glacial debris, dark green. To the south is a till plain with whaleback drumlins, their long axes oriented within the ice-flow direction - pale green; brown spots. There are also sand, clay and limestone plains - yellow, blue and pink, respectively (Figure 15).

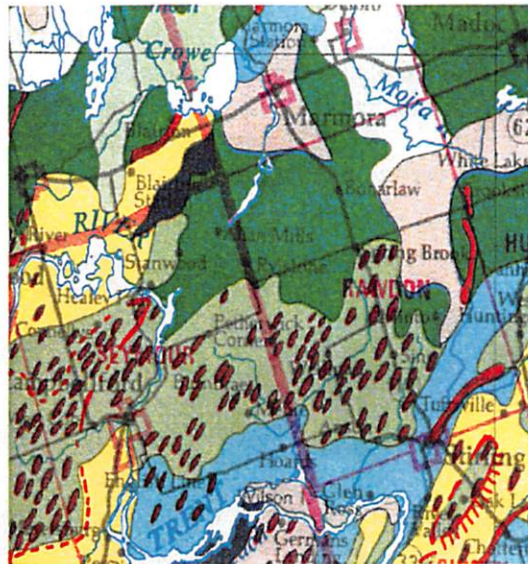


Figure 15: Surficial Features

Source: Canada Land Inventory

The left bank of the river, immediately upstream of the bridge, displays a gentle dome-like structure, which appears as arcuate traces of limestone beds. This is identified as a “pop-up.” Such neotectonic features are geologically youthful structures - a good local example occurs at King’s Mill Conservation Area in Rawdon Township. Photos from August 2007 (Figure 16) give some indication of the pop-up, which is tens of metres wide.



Figure 16: “Pop-up” Feature
(G. Wilson, Ph.D.)

The Crowe Bridge Conservation Area is underlain by “Dp:e3”, the shallow phase of the soil type known as the Dummerloam. Topography is irregular, 10-15°, and the soil is very stony. For these reasons, this soil (generally formed on limestone till, and so calcareous) is not ideal for agriculture. In contrast, the soils to the south near Petherick’s Corners are generally better suited for agriculture. An example is labelled “Os:c3”, Otonabee Sandy loam - the land is very gently sloping, 2-5°, the soil also very stony (Figure 17).

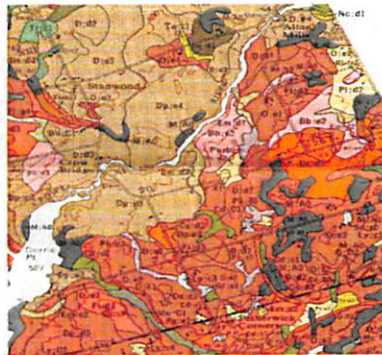


Figure 17: Soil Type – Sandy Loam
Source: Canada Land Inventory

Two inliers (windows into deeper, older rock units) occur in the Crowe Valley, at Crowe Bridge Conservation Area and upstream at Allan Mills. In each case, small areas of Precambrian rock (Pc) and limestone of the Ordovician Gull River Formation (1b) are overlain by limestone of the Bobcaygeon Formation (1c), which persists down the Trent Valley to the area of Ranney Falls, where it is succeeded in turn by the Verulam Formation. Local outcrop and glacial erratics, in and near Crowe Bridge Conservation Area indicate that the limestone strata are a thin cover on the underlying Canadian Shield.

Just upstream to the northeast is Allan Mills, itself 8 km southwest of the large, rich iron deposit of the former Marmoratonmine. A sample of old drill core from Allan Mills revealed a biotite-magnetite diorite, a magnetic igneous rock. This rock contains some 60% feldspar, 28% pyroxenes, 7% iron-titanium oxides, 4% biotitemica, 1% apatite plus trace sulphides.

Glacial erratics are boulders, often more or less rounded, transported under, within, or on top of the ice sheets and glaciers of the Ice Age. Numerous metre-scale examples, commonly weighing 1-10 tonnes each, are known in Seymour Township and the adjacent region. Each may have travelled many kilometres to its present location, and be composed of rock types unknown at its destination.

Limestone downstream of the bridge revealed as incipient solution cavities on vertical joints, forming upstanding "clints" separated by trench-like "grykes" (seen also in marble at Petroglyphs Park). Limestone ecosystems permit some mosses, wild flowers and even trees to grow and thrive on limestone blocks and the thin calcareous soil that forms on the rock slabs.

The Crowe Bridge Conservation Area is special in scientific terms, in addition to its local, cultural and social importance. Confirmed or suspected features include:

- Inlier of Canadian Shield and of overlying gull River Formation
- Bedded chert at or near the transition to the younger at Bobcaygeon Formation
- Fossils in the mid--Ordovician limestones, including fine , orthoceratite cephalopods
- Weathering of limestone forming clints and grykes
- Small scale limestone-based ecosystems with distinctive flora and fauna in thin soil, fractured rocks and cavities
- Glacial till, drumlins, and erratics from the Canadian Shield
- A neo-tectonic "pop--up" feature in the Crowe River.

3.1.2 Vegetation

The Crowe Bridge Conservation Area vegetation and list (Appendix A) was compiled by the conservation authority in the mid 1980's and at that time included 58 species of flowering and non-flowering plants and 18 trees and shrubs (Tables 6 and 7).

Table 6: Vegetation Inventory - Trees
Source: Crowe Valley Conservation Area, Dated approximately 1987

<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
Easter White Cedar	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>
Red Cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>
White Pine	<i>Pinus strobes</i>
White Spruce	<i>Picea glauca</i>
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
Bur Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
White Birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>
Ironwood	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>
Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>
Choke Cherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
Pin Cherry	<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>
White Elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>
Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>
Trembling Aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>
Shagbark Hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>

Table 7: Vegetation Inventory – Shrubs and Groundcovers
Source: Crowe Valley Conservation Area, Dated approximately 1987

Common Name	Scientific Name
Dwarf Juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>
Staghorn sumac	<i>Rhus typhina</i>
Flowering Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>
Red Osier Dogwood	<i>Cornus stoloniter</i>
Sensitive Fern	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>
Bracken Fern	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>
Common Fern	<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>
Hayscented Fern	<i>Dennstaedtia punctilobula</i>
False Solomon's Seal	<i>Amilaciana racemosa</i>
Ox-Eye Daisy	<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i>
Poison Ivy	<i>Rhus radicans</i>
Common Strawberry	<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>
Three Flower Bedstraw	<i>Galium triflorum</i>
Common St. Johnswort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>
Common Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>
Butter-and-eggs	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>
Wild Carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>
Sweet Cicely	<i>Osmorhiza claytoni</i>

3.1.3 *Habitat*

The habitat inventory currently is a summary of observed habitats by local residents and researchers. According to G. Wilson, Ph.D., Crowe Bridge Conservation Area contains the following:

- 58 species of flowering and non-flowering plants,
- 24 birds,
- 11 assorted mammals, reptiles, and amphibians,
- various insects and molluscs,
- 4 types of fungi,
- 35% of all species noted in Seymour Township.

To aid biological census-taking at Crowe Bridge Conservation Area, all species noted are presented in Appendix A. However, there are many gaps, for example grasses and mosses while fish are not indicated but not for lack of fish since sport fishing is a popular seasonal pastime at Crowe Bridge Conservation Area.

3.2 Cultural Resources

The Crowe Bridge Conservation Area falls within the Crowe River Corridor, a designated cultural resource under the Municipality of Trent Hills Official Plan and is part of the Trent-Severn System/Historic Canal System. While not officially identified as an archaeological site of significance, lands that are part of watercourse system tend to have moderate to high potential for archaeological significance.

The research provided by local residents and researchers, particularly G. Wilson, Ph.D. as reported in Section 3.1 above and in Appendix A – Natural History, illustrates significant presence of fossils (Figure 18). As a result, detailed study of the area is recommended as part of an overall strategy to complete a comprehensive resource inventory.



Figure 18: Fossil Found
(G. Wilson, Ph.D.)

Previous sections of this plan documented evidence of built heritage in the form of dams/weirs, farmsteads, fence lines, pillars, trails, and small structures for example. Proper identification and documentation of both cultural landscape and built heritage components are not available.

As indicated in the Plans and Policies review section, the dominating use of lands designated as “greenlands” is the connectiveness of sustainable natural environmental systems that are based on the scientific understanding of the terrain, plant, animal and water systems and include features such as, but not limited to: wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitat areas, areas of natural and scientific interest, flood plains, streams and valleys, lakes, and publicly owned lands and are of provincial, regional, and local interest.

Summary

The Crowe Bridge Conservation Area is a significant natural and cultural resource that requires comprehensive study to determine the extents of its resources and whether those resources and the area should be designated as a cultural heritage landscape.

Significant cultural features need to be protected from incompatible uses wherever possible and recreational activities that may impact or have the potential to negatively impact those resources must be restricted and/or mitigated. This takes on more significance for the Crowe Bridge Conservation Area since its resource inventory is incomplete. From a management perspective, some activities that can be undertaken as part of a comprehensive resource inventory can include preservation of existing conditions, research/study, minor (archaeological) excavation, and rehabilitation.

The combination of the presence of fossils, other geological evidence, existing vegetation and habitat inventories provide for an opportunity to preserve and conserve the area for current and future generations through adaptive management approaches.



4.0 Management Options

4.0 Management Options

When determining options for management purposes, factors such as policies, trends, and public input have been incorporated to identify opportunities, forecast use levels, and estimate capital and operating costs. The following section is a discussion and assessment of the option in the context of these factors.

4.1 Option 1 – Return to Former Park-Type Use

One of the identified options is the choice to provide facilities, services, and programming based on a previous use – development of the conservation area as a recreational park setting. The premise of this option is centred on “active” recreation uses with full and updated amenities such as change rooms, showers, parking, picnic tables and shelter, and programmed activities and events.

4.1.1 Overview of Policies and Plans

The policy framework as described in Section 2.2 - Policies, Legislation, Studies encourages residents and visitors to visit and use open spaces and facilities that foster environmental appreciation, allow for active participation in recreation, are part of an areas’ cultural history, is sustainable, and protects and promotes the characteristics of that setting as part of an ecological system. Development or redevelopment as an active recreation park setting goes against the policy directions that were reviewed.

4.1.2 Public Consultation

Public consultation indicated that of the five working groups, only one (1) group provided a majority of their preferred uses to fall under this option only and included opportunities such as educational, school trips, historical programming, events, shelters, day use/camping, playground equipment/entertainment/golf, and washrooms. The other groups suggested either a combination of uses more attuned to educational/interpretive programming and/or environmentally responsible or ecologically-based activities. The overriding public preference, much as policy, supports this option less so than other options presented during the consultation workshop and this plan.

4.1.3 Recreation Trends

General recreation trends across Ontario including the local Trent Hills area indicates that interests such as walking, hiking, nature appreciation, canoeing/kayaking, recreational swimming, bicycling, fishing, hunting, and camping are and will continue, to increase. Of these interests, fishing and particularly hunting are deemed inappropriate uses for a conservation/park area. It was noted during the study that fishing was an activity that was primarily pursued by small groups of identifiable ethnic communities and created incompatible uses and cases of conflict

during the pursuit of this activity. A resource inventory that is currently not in place for Crowe Bridge Conservation Area could assist in determining the presence and sustainability (carrying capacity) of providing outdoor recreation, particularly water-based recreation and forest recreation. Recreational activities traditionally deemed “passive uses” include walking, hiking and nature appreciation, as noted above, are well suited to this option, as are activities that are less resource or facility dependent. Most current recreation trends are supported in this option.

4.1.4 Past Uses and Issues

With respect to the local and provincial trend of increasingly passive-type uses, the conservation area/park can physically support most of these uses, have accommodated similar uses in some form previously, and appear to have the capability to do so again. Uses that were suggested such as playground equipment, entertainment, and golf appear out of context (inappropriate) and have specific concerns related to cost of implementation and maintenance. Playground equipment must be updated often to accommodate safety regulations, be properly constructed, inspected, and regulated or monitored. A modest playground “complex” can easily cost \$10,000 to \$20,000 for its purchase only. Entertainment was a use not expanded on by the workshop group suggesting it, however, it can be argued that some purchase and installation of some item would be required. A mini-golf purchase was made in the late 1990’s for approximately \$13,000 without going to tender and was installed and used. While some individuals rather than groups suggest re-opening this facility, the current condition of the amenity and appropriateness of its presence is questionable. If these uses are dismissed then the remaining uses such as walking, hiking, nature appreciation, canoeing/kayaking, recreational swimming, bicycling, and camping could be accommodated.

Particular uses such as bicycling would need to be further investigated as it was not clear what bicycling was defined as in the terms of using the park/conservation area for this use. Bicycling in the form of road touring or racing at/through Crowe River Bridge could occur as a meeting point or rest station during an event for example or a gathering spot for celebrating the start or finish of an event. Bicycling, in the form of BMX or mountain-biking is another topic altogether. If this latter use is the intended form for bicycling, then accommodating for this use would be needed through the construction of additional trails that are more challenging than hiking trails, for example. Trails in many cases, can provide incompatible uses due to the speed of movement of trail users and the amount and frequency of use.

Camping was a use that was identified as both a possibility and trend that is on the rise across the province including Trent Hills. Camping was a significant use during the establishment and growth of the Crowe River Bridge Conservation Area to the point where essentially the entire north portion was zoned for this purpose (see Figure 2). The original plan and documentation indicates that approximately 40 camp sites were in existence. The maturing of the camping phenomena eventually translated into the-year round leasing of camp sites and provided opportunities for trailers and recreational vehicle storage. While camping is noted to be increasing, camping requires significant infrastructure support. Ferris Provincial Park, as a local park ‘competitor’ is part of the Ontario Parks System and provides camping sites, support amenities, and is maintained to provincial standards and can be reserved electronically – a competitive advantage over private or basic campgrounds. Development of traditional tent-type camping may be accommodated into a renewed master/site plan if the choice to develop this use is supported, as all other choices, by a strong business case or plan.

4.1.5 Physical Improvements

Under this scenario, the return of the Crowe River Bridge Park/Conservation Area to operations as a full service recreational facility will require significant physical improvements to provide the above noted recreational uses and complementary uses such as special events in the form of social gatherings such as parties, birthdays, Earth Day, and similar celebrations.

Physical improvements required for these recreational uses will require at the minimum:

- Establishment of new buildings and structures, primarily for groups/gathering
- Maintenance of these new buildings/structures
- Regular and appropriate disposal of sanitary waste
- Disposal of recreation use/site generated waste
- Emergency protocols and procedures available
- Composting facilities
- Change rooms
- Washing and cleaning amenities
- Shower amenities
- Provisions for electrical
- Trails that have good access, ease of effort, well signed, and maintained,
- Reconstructed or new picnic tables and more of them
- Constructed shelters (open air) for picnics, shade, resting, etc.
- Fire pit construction
- Signage and information
- Improved road/lane access for camping
- Improved parking areas
- Maintenance of parking areas

4.1.6 Conclusion

Option 1 of developing the conservation area into a recreational park has some support but will require a number of physical improvements and programming and administrative initiatives. The overwhelming public preference is away from this option as a stand alone choice but identifies that some possibility exists to include some noted uses in another option.

Table 8 below summarizes Management Option 1 by including a range of anticipated costs to make physical improvements to accommodate uses under Option 1. The cost range represents a minimum, medium, and higher level of investment approach.

Table 8: Management Option 1 - Return to Former Park-Type Use

Rank Priority: Medium to Low

Timeline: 2009 – 2013

Considerations: Past uses have shown that difficulty arises in almost all aspects of operations particularly staffing, training, supervision, collection and accounting, bookings/reservations, capital improvements, major repairs, marketing and promotion, record keeping, and procedures.

Estimated Cost: \$ 59,000 to \$120,500

Components:	Item	Allowance / Estimated Cost
	Picnic Shelter	\$ 10,000 to \$25,000
	Picnic Tables (10)	\$ 2,500
	Two (2) additional washrooms	\$ 5,000
	Maintenance Building / Retrofit	\$ 15,000 to \$ 30,000
	Signage	\$ 1,000 to \$ 2,500
	Tent/Camping Sites (10 – Phase 1)	\$ 10,000 to \$ 30,000
	Restoration of Mini Golf	\$ 3,000
	Trail Improvements	\$ 5,000 to \$10,000
	Beach and Dock Improvements	\$ 5,000
	Clean up and Disposal Fees	\$ 1,500 to \$ 5,000
	Additional Litter / Composting Units	\$ 1,000 to \$ 2,500

Note: The components represent a minimum to moderate range of development.

4.2 Option 2 – Day Use Recreation Area

This option focuses on the notion of opening and operating the area as a day use recreation area and differentiates from Option 1 primarily on the basis of eliminating camping/fishing and programmed uses requiring equipment installations. It is yet to be decided whether the entire site should be designed and planned with this option in mind since the northern portion has constraints as to part of it lying within a floodplain. Development or redevelopment as a day use full recreation setting goes against the policy directions that were reviewed.

4.2.1 Overview of Policies and Plans

The location and setting of the Crowe Bridge Conservation Area is under the local and regional land use designation of “Greenlands System” and thus, is categorized as major open space. Research has shown that only 2% of lands in the municipality are designated as “open space” suggesting that adding the conservation area to the inventory would add to the 2% land base of open space and bring it closer in line with other jurisdictions.

In addition, as part of the Trent-Severn System, plans and policies indicate that the area should be utilized in manners that adhere to the protection and enhancement of the historic interrelationship between the natural heritage and the cultural heritage within the Trent-Severn Corridor furthering strengthening its ability to be implemented under Option 2.

4.2.2 Public Consultation

With respect to the public feedback obtained, there exists a strong preference for uses that this option would provide. A number of the workshop groups suggested ideas and opportunities such as:

- Maintaining the naturalness of the area,
- Providing trails with interpretive signage,
- Establishing walking or historical tours that provide “teachings”,
- Special events and entertainment, and
- Water-based recreation through swimming, canoeing, and kayaking.

One (1) group suggested that management zones be identified and mapped. Zoning assists in identifying, directing, and managing natural resources and addresses issues such as level and intensity of uses (physical and social carrying capacity). A number of the working groups suggested opportunities with an educational component but were not specific.

4.2.3 Recreation Trends

Most policies encourage the equitable access and distribution of recreation uses that are sustainable and contribute to an active and healthy lifestyle. Recreation trends indicate that uses that could be serviced by this option will continue to grow, and therefore, a facility that meets this current and forecasted demand be re-established and improved to meet that demand. However, portions of the entire property are as noted, susceptible to flooding, and would require improvement and monitoring with regulations to guide public use and liability. In this case, zoning and/or phasing is a possible instrument to direct and monitor use. Uses that are current, growing in demand, and appropriate to this option such as canoeing and kayaking will require work between the conservation authority and user groups to accommodate proper facilities for these “water trail” uses.

Conversely, making improvements at the area and developing and marketing it as part of a regional tourism opportunity may not be part of this option due to a number of factors including but not limited to:

- Competing or contrasting interests,
- Marketing budgets,
- Location and access,
- Modern amenities including parking and signage.

The research has also shown that tourism-related facilities benefit by the concept of synergy which is the total amount of facilities and experiences encountered by tourists – these are often grouped or clustered together to provide a number of opportunities and make use of economies of scale.

4.2.4 Past Uses and Issues

As in Option 1, there are recreation management trends that will affect how the conservation area is planned and managed under this option. Recreation management trends have indicated that for more intense and ‘commercial’ recreation uses, consideration is made for the business case model of planning and developing a facility for certain uses. Option 1 is more sensitive to this while Option 2 is less so. In addition, revenue generation and net revenues have proven in the past to be poorly planned, implemented, and monitored and further that significant discrepancies and inconsistencies have occurred. While it is not suggested here that this will occur again, it is more prudent to pursue a course of action that is revenue neutral, that is, raise enough revenue to maintain the use, including future improvements. This issue is addressed in the partnerships section of this management plan. Facility managers are also attuned to the fact that trends indicate that activities in general, should increase operational efficiency, allow for flexible and/or additional programs, provide complementary amenities/services while adhering to planning principles under an ecosystem approach that promotes health and sustainability.

4.2.5 Physical Improvements

As with Option 1, there is a need for physical improvements but not as significant as those found under Option 1 due to the omitted recreation uses that can be termed 'commercial' and refers primarily to camping. The term 'commercial' is used because there is a user fee/payment requirement inherent in these activities. Most items that would be eliminated under this option include:

- Road/lane access and parking for campsite,
- Showers (or a large reduction of shower amenities),
- Electrical plug-ins,
- Additional open shelters,
- Campsite fire pits,
- Waste removal and water provision for campsites,
- Parking areas and their maintenance.

This option will require the consideration of more intense use aimed mostly at the southern portion of the conservation area which, in turn, will increase the need for regular maintenance, extra parking, roadside improvements (with municipality), updated trails, signs, and communication for example.

4.2.6 Conclusion

Option 2 of developing the conservation area as a day-use only recreation area is strongly supported by both the research findings and the public consultation results. The issue of current and projected recreation demand affects this option in as much as the research indicates that some recreation trends, such as those that would be accommodated under Option 1, would also be acceptable and appropriate to Option 2. Development costs under this option will tend to vary or fluctuate largely, depending on the amount and type of redevelopment services chosen to develop.

Table 9 below summarizes Management Option 2 by including a range of anticipated costs to make physical improvements to accommodate uses under this option.

Table 9: Management Option 2 - Day Use Recreation Area

Rank Priority: High

Timeline: 2009 – 2013

Considerations: Current recreation demand and trends favour this option. Minimal cost involved as necessary improvements are part of regular operations and can be assisted by community/educational groups. This option will require monitoring and documenting to determine use intensity and impacts for following budget considerations.

Estimated Cost: \$ 27,000 to \$ 50,500

Components:	Item	Allowance / Estimated Cost
	Picnic Shelter	\$ 10,000 to \$25,000
	Picnic Tables (10)	\$ 2,500
	Two (2) additional washrooms	\$ 5,000
	Signage	\$ 1,000
	Removal of Mini Golf	\$ 2,000
	Trail Improvements	\$ 5,000 to \$ 10,000
	Clean up and Disposal Fees	\$ 1,500 to \$ 5,000

Note: The components represent a minimum to moderate range of development.

4.3 Option 3 – Natural Area

The focus of Option 3 is to maintain the area as a natural area for typical passive recreation uses such as hiking, nature study, and local water access for swimming, canoeing, and kayaking. Based on other conservation areas, research, and public consultation, the overriding programmed use would involve educational and interpretive opportunities.

4.3.1 Overview of Policies and Plans

Policies and plans, while encouraging open spaces, encourage facilities and spaces to provide a full range of opportunities, be accessible to all, ensure shoreline access, and be equitable in its provision. Emphasis in policies and plans is placed on the long term protection and securement of facility and opportunity for current and future generations as part of a healthy lifestyle. Municipal policies and zoning by-laws provide strong reference to the use of natural settings that are designated as significant lands to encourage their preservation and restrict development. This approach is further strengthened by the establishment of the *Environmental Bill of Rights*. As a result, Option 3 aligns strongly with the goals and directions of plans and policies more than the other four options.

4.3.2 Public Consultation

The public consultation received indicated a high preference for this option. The working groups provided comments and suggested opportunities that include trails and new interpretive signage, partnering with school boards for education activities including an educational centre, historical programming, nature-based activities such as geo-caching, fossil finding, and plant identification.

4.3.3 Recreation Trends

This option is the most consistent with general recreational and tourism trends and most governing policies and plans. In addition, the option represents the core value of what conservation authorities are formed to carry out, that is, the conservation, restoration, and management of public lands.

Recreation trends that are increasing include:

- Walking, hiking, and backpacking,
- Nature appreciation and study,
- Canoeing and kayaking, recreational boating,
- Orienteering,
- Nature tours,
- Bicycling,
- Fishing and hunting,
- Camping,
- Recreational swimming.

Most of these activities can be accommodated at the conservation area and appear to require the least amount of physical improvement - the "least cost approach." However, improvements are required and the recommended uses will need to be programmed, most likely in zones, to accommodate these uses. The extent of educational activities and programming as yet is unknown but can be suggested that significant educational and interpretive programming could occur.

Recreation management trends that have implications for this option include the need to open the area for access and enjoyment, provide safe and equitable distribution of opportunities, improve programming, provide amenities and services that are family-oriented, improve and increase marketing, and maintain the area based on ecological principles.

4.3.4 Past Uses and Issues

Although the Crowe Bridge Conservation Area is a 10.5 hectare (26 acre) parcel, one of its distinguishing characteristics is the separation of the site into two halves by a local collector road. This unusual condition provides much debate and discussion as to the approach or approaches that are or should be taken to the area. Uses such as camping, recreational boating, and long term stays are part of past recreational uses. File review, as noted under past uses in Option 1, indicated that administrative functions such as agreements, rents, leases, collection of fees, marketing, enforcement, and communications were often problematic and inconsistent.

4.3.5 Physical Improvements

Inventoried as a conservation area, the two portions are often discussed as one area, but recognized as two distinct units. Consideration must be given to proposing a long term management plan that addresses this issue. In light of the public input and natural history of the site, Option 3 as an *entire natural area* is less likely to be supported. There is overwhelming evidence that indicates a demand for more passively-oriented recreation uses typically found in day use or park-like locations, and in the context of Crowe Bridge Conservation Area, particularly the south portion. In addition, careful study and planning is required for the more sensitive north portion (floodplain) and as a result, this portion appears most appropriate for some, limited recreation uses with a more likelihood of educational/interpretive programming and use.

With respect to making improvements to accommodate this option, the following are suggested as a minimum:

- Constructed shelters (open air) for picnics, shade, resting, etc.
- Maintenance of these new buildings/structures
- Regular and appropriate disposal of sanitary waste
- Trails that have good access, ease of effort, well signed, and maintained
- Reconstructed or new picnic tables and more of them
- Coordinated and consistent signage, information, way-finding

4.3.6 Conclusion

There is strong support for this option, however, it is recognized that some physical improvements need to be carried out in order to support this option. Depending on the amount and type of educational/interpretive programming, a “zoning” approach to sustaining the sites’ resources is likely. However, without a completed resource inventory, it will be difficult to establish either educational programming or physical improvements for water-based recreation uses (based on current / projected trends) because uses determine impact and until an inventory is completed, it is problematic to plan for its management.

Table 10 below summarizes Management Option 3 by including a range of anticipated costs to make physical improvements to accommodate uses under this option.

Table 10: Management Option 3 - Natural Area

Rank Priority: High

Timeline: 2009 – 2013

Considerations: Lowest cost option, however, as an entire natural area, will not meet demonstrated recreation demand. This option will require further technical review in order to determine inventory of resources, mitigation and maintenance measures likely leading to management zones.

Estimated Cost: \$ 15,750 to \$ 25,500

Components:	Item	Allowance / Estimated Cost
	Picnic Tables (5) / Rest Stations	\$ 1,250 to \$ 2,500
	Two (2) additional washrooms	\$ 5,000
	Signage	\$ 1,000
	Removal of Mini Golf	\$ 2,000
	Trail Improvements	\$ 5,000 to \$10,000
	Clean up and Disposal Fees	\$ 1,500 to \$ 5,000

Notes: (1) The components represent a minimum to moderate range of development.
 (2) Rest station combines 2-3 benches and signage in a shaded area.

4.4 Option 4 – Specialty Destination

Option 4 is the consideration of developing the Crowe Bridge Conservation Area as a specialty attraction or destination based on its natural and/or recreational features alone or in conjunction with other areas, groups, agencies, or businesses.

4.4.1 Overview of Policies and Plans

As indicated in Section 2.2 Policies, Legislation, Studies, the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), which oversees all lower level policies and plans, directs management of land uses such as public spaces, parks, and open spaces toward publicly accessible settings for recreation, including facilities, parklands, open spaces areas, trails, and water-based resources. Furthermore, the PPS states that opportunities be provided for public access to shorelines and consideration be given to land planning decisions that impact conservation areas. With respect to conservation areas, most plans and policies designate these types of lands and emphasize their long term preservation and protection.

While development that considers tourism and/or economic opportunities are permitted under the PPS and consequently, local official plans, development activities must be effective and appropriate to the existing or planned infrastructure. Development of this option would appear to not be in line with planned municipal infrastructure improvements thereby indicating some lack of effectiveness as a specialty attraction or destination.

4.4.2 Public Consultation

Public feedback from one working group suggested ideas and opportunities that a lease operator and/or volunteers be used to operate the area from a dawn to dusk period with a nature-based attraction that requires a marketing strategy. Other groups suggested making physical improvements to essentially “clean up” the area and relocate gates, gatehouses, and update signs while other groups suggested special event programming and entertainment possibilities. It should be noted, as in Option 1, there is a history of past use that documents these types of uses and could be instituted in a management plan. However, previous uses were poorly implemented and would now require additional human and funding resources to implement and these are understood not to exist or be expected.

4.4.3 Recreation Trends

The research of current and emerging recreation trends revealed that, with specific reference to Crowe Bridge Conservation Area, those recreational activities that are increasing in participation and may have some potential on Option 4 can be summarized in Table 11:

Table 11: General Recreation Trends – Ontario and Local Compared Against Management Option 4: Specialty Attraction or Destination

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Potential Use</i>	<i>Note</i>
Walking, hiking, backpacking	Moderate to High	Depends on theme
Nature appreciation or study	Moderate to Low	Depends on theme
Canoeing and Kayaking	High	Facility / improvements needed
Orienteering	Moderate to High	Facility / improvements needed
Gardening/Horticultural	Low to None	Incorporate into tours
Tours	Moderate to Low	Incorporate horticultural
Bicycling	Moderate to High	Depends on theme
Fishing and Hunting	Moderate (Fishing)	Depends on theme
Recreational Swimming	High	Demand exists
Attending events, festivals, shows	High	Requires programming, amenities
Attending galleries, exhibitions	Low	Consideration of nature-based
Bowling	None	
Cross country skiing	High	Demand exists
In line hockey and skating	None	
Lacrosse	None	
Soccer	None	
Therapeutic pool/aquatic	High	Recreational swim as therapeutic
Wellness and holistic well being	Moderate	Individual definition

Those activities that have potential uses rated as “moderate” or “high” would be the most logical to investigate for development as a specialty attraction or destination. The selection of the preferred activity acts as the “theme” or foundation for development. Even with business-case planning, careful implementation of the option is needed to remain sustainable. The possibility of these activities (trends) that are showing increases must be tempered by the fact that by the time a specialty attraction or destination is fully developed, the activity or trend may have faded/passed or will be in decline.

4.3.4 Past Uses and Issues

Previous uses (and some current ones) such as recreational swimming, canoeing, kayaking, and skiing are uses that are increasing and could also act as a “theme” or foundation to development. Workshop participants indicated that these and other uses have occurred at one time or another at Crowe Bridge Conservation Area and could happen again.

Regardless of the type of specialty attraction or destination that would be chosen to develop and promote, there would be a need for infrastructure improvements. Depending on the type of use and anticipated level of attraction, a significant cost could occur with either: (a) establishing facility or (b) clean-up, maintenance, and repairs from large groups or crowds attending and/or participating. Specialty attractions or destinations often incur large investment and thus, in most cases, require large numbers of attendees/participants to support the attraction

Creating a facility attraction that ties in with other areas such as Ferris Provincial Park, for example, are significant tourism developments and require the support to work together as a tourism node. Ownership, infrastructure (distance and signage particularly), consistent marketing and promotion, travel trends, and emerging economic realities will affect the economy of scales for all facilities and appear to be a greater barrier than support. In addition, it is not known the number of tourists that would, for example, visit 2-3 specialty attractions as part of a single visit since often visitors to one attraction or destination are specific to that attraction or destination.

4.3.5 Physical Improvements

Development Option 4 – Specialty Attraction / Destination is premised on three components:

1. Utilizing / enhancing the existing physical resources of the site
2. Ability, expertise, and experience in operating and managing a specialty attraction or destination including marketing and promotion
3. Inclusive, coordinated, and consistent regional support of the proposed specialty attraction/destination area as part of a tourism development strategy which considers its feasibility and long term viability.

As with Option 1, significant site improvements are required and in addition, considerable expertise and organizational functioning is required in order to plan, schedule, implement, monitor, and evaluate a specialty or destination attraction. While it is recognized that user groups and the volunteer base can contribute to this and other options, problems can occur with priority, scheduling, maintenance, and associated costs that will need to be covered by generated revenue.

While arguments for providing, for example, a “Crowe Bridge Canoe and Kayak Centre” type of attraction is a possibility, this steers away from the fundamental premise of providing access and equitable distribution for all. As can be reiterated from previous discussion, facilities are more successful when they are multi-use and are clustered with similar, compatible uses rather than stand alone facilities. Finally, recreation management trends that are applicable to this option include the development of a business-case proposal and plan, strategies for revenue generation, scheduling of higher maintenance needs, increased marketing and promotion, and the ability to respond to the market and emerging issues and new trends.

4.4.6 Conclusion

The development of Option 4 for the Crowe Bridge Conservation Area has some merit and could be developed as a sustainable option for the longer term. However, there are a number of issues that require consideration:

- The mandate of conservation authorities for conservation, preservation and protection of publicly-owned lands
- Local and provincial plans and policies that affect land use,
- Lack of tourism infrastructure
- Demonstrated but varied recreational trends in the local and regional area
- The exclusion of many recreation participants
- The perception of catering to specialty groups
- The requirement of at least some physical improvements if not significant
- The required management and administrative resources to plan, design, implement, and manage the specialty attraction/destination

As a result, this option is not preferred as a stand alone option. Table 12 summarizes the key aspects of Option 4.

Table 12: Management Option 4 - Specialty Attraction or Destination

Rank Priority: Low

Timeline: 2009 – 2015

Considerations: Would require theme or focus and tie-in to similar and close-by facilities (currently a drawback) in order to achieve cluster effect desired in tourism approaches. Significant capital expenditure, especially for ancillary or support facilities (e.g. "Crowe Bridge Canoe/Kayak Centre" would require docks, buoys, maintenance facilities/sheds, parking, off-loading ramps, signage, showers and change facilities, shelters, etc.) This option received strong initial support, however, its long term viability or sustainability must be considered.

Estimated Cost: \$ 159,740 to \$ 361,750

Components:	Item	Allowance / Estimated Cost
	Change / Shower Facility	\$ 100,000 to \$ 200,000
	Maintenance Building / Retrofit	\$ 15,000 to \$ 30,000
	Picnic Shelter	\$ 10,000 to \$25,000
	Picnic Tables (15)	\$ 3,750
	Tent/Camping Sites (10 – Phase 1)	\$ 10,000 to \$ 30,000
	Beach and Dock Improvements	\$ 5,000 to \$ 20,000
	Parking / Ramps Improvements	\$ 1,500 to \$10,000
	Electrical Service	\$ 3,000 to \$ 20,000
	Signage	\$ 1,000 to \$ 2,500
	Restoration of Mini Golf	\$ 3,000
	Trail Improvements	\$ 5,000 to \$10,000
	Clean up and Disposal Fees	\$ 1,500 to \$ 5,000
	Additional Litter / Composting Units	\$ 1,000 to \$ 2,500

- Notes:
- (1) The components represent a minimum to moderate range of development.
 - (2) Change / Shower Facility would incorporate washrooms, shower stalls, change and locker space, meeting and kitchen space – minimum size: 1,000 to 1,200 s.f. and based on new construction costs of \$100 per square foot (s.f.)
 - (3) Does not include specific needs for special attraction.
 - (4) Requires development of a business plan.

4.5 Recommended Option

Option 2 – Day use recreation area and Option 3 – Natural area, are the two options that received the most support during the public consultation process. In addition, the research has shown that current uses, trends, and interests support both options equally strong and that choosing one or the other is not necessarily “a case of either or.” In this scenario, due to public input, trends, and the physical characteristic of Crowe Bridge Conservation Area, it is recommended that Options 2 and 3 be combined under what may be termed Option 5 – Day Recreational Use and Educational and Interpretive Programming.

In dismissing Options 1 and 4, it is rationalized that these two options would bring significant capital expenditure requirements in both establishment (construction) and maintenance (repairs, improvements, regular). In addition, coordinated and well developed regular marketing and promotion efforts would be needed to offset start-up costs for example. In addition, the research has shown that either of these options (1 and 4) is not necessarily demand-supported thereby, questions their feasibility and long term viability.

Option 5 - Recreational Use and Educational and Interpretive Programming

The recommended option is to combine the traditionally more intensive, south side use as a day recreation use, with appropriate physical improvements, while utilizing the north side as a natural area for interpretation, education, research, and general personal enjoyment uses.

4.5.1 Development Components

The following section identifies key uses/issues and briefly describes management approaches for implementation and operations of these uses/issues.

Access and Entrance

Currently, numerous, uncoordinated signs proliferate at the entrance and within the conservation area. These signs are warning and punitive signs that can do as much to attract curiosity, even vandalism, as much as prevent trespassing and unauthorized access and use. It is strongly recommended that these signs be immediately removed, access is granted and that new signs which are interpretive in tone, not punitive/warning, be designed and installed in a coordinated fashion. Local industries are strong sources for developing and constructing new signage, for example, and many may offer to contribute to offset costs.

Further, parking along the roadway is a responsibility of the municipality and it is recommended that the parking issue be addressed together with the conservation authority. The possibility exists to provide improved or upgraded, limited parking within the entrance points at either or

both south and north sides. The concept plan shows this possibility since it allows parking to be provided off road and therefore, avoid costs for additional road improvements.

The existing gates and gatehouses have been described previously as being in relatively good condition for the time being, however, are unoccupied and unsecured, and lack information opportunities. It is recommended that they be deconstructed with materials recycled for other construction projects and that information kiosks be installed at the entrance to south and north sides. These information kiosks can be designed to provide partial shelter as well as coordinated and interesting information. School technology programs are good sources to assist with graphic design, construction, or deconstruction/repair of small structures and can offset the manual costs. Recycling the materials where possible would reduce waste disposal fees.

Washroom Amenities

Public input indicated that washrooms were a significant issue and required component of any planned improvements. The condition of the conservation area requires that existing facilities be supplemented by additional facilities and that all facilities be properly and regularly maintained.

New technologies and updated and adhered to maintenance programs should address the issue of regular maintenance. Assistance for removal, construction, and installation can also be obtained from school groups as well as other user groups/associations.

Resting facilities, in the form of benches/seating, picnic shelter, and gazebo were identified during the public workshop. As a result of those findings and general research results, it is recommended that updated picnic tables, benches, and public shelter be constructed and should be located for optimum use/least obtrusive, well constructed, and function for the intended use.

Trails

Low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, cross-country skiing, wildlife viewing, fossil finding, and general "passive" recreation activities that encourage trails use are highly recommended and should be developed for both portions of the conservation area as part of a designed, planned, constructed, and well-maintained trail program.

Trails will require resting/viewing stations and interpretive signs that indicate and illustrate, if possible, the history and natural features of Crowe Bridge Conservation Area and should be consistent with all other conservation areas of the conservation authority. Trail design should be sensitive to natural features as well as terrain slope and should be accessible to all users. Trail resting/viewing stations should take advantage of natural and cultural highlights and have the potential to be viewed electronically (on-line) through website links.

Swimming

One of the most intensive and controversial issues of this study and management plan preparation revolved around swimming activities. The research has shown that swimming is a demand-supported activity in the local/regional area and that the Crowe Bride Conservation Area is a major facility for outdoor swimming. The issues around liability and risk management and the nature of conservation authority facilities and resources are directed to the *Occupier's Liability Act (as amended)* and similar legislation. Due recognition must be given to the operating policies and procedures that conservation authorities work within and that conservation area users be advised that they are participating in activities that are not monitored or supervised by the conservation authority. The conservation authority should demonstrate or continue to demonstrate that the conservation authority has fulfilled its duty to take reasonable care for the safety of all users. It is recommended that a more detailed site specific improvement plan be carried out for a beach/change/swimming area after determining the intensity and impact of use during the 2009 swimming season.

Canoe and Kayak

One of the original uses at Crowe Bridge Conservation Area was for recreational boating and canoeing. Water-based trails are often forgotten aspects of trail design and planning as most discussion revolves around multi-use trails, trail access/closure, and maintenance. Current recreational trends and public input support the establishment and maintenance of the conservation area for a canoe/kayak facility. Figure 1 is the original master plan for the Crowe Bridge Conservation Area and as can be seen, has a dedicated boat launching and canoe area. This area should be redesigned to accommodate canoe/kayak uses in partnership with the user groups.

Camping

As above, one of the original uses of the Crowe Bridge Conservation Area was tent camping and a number of sites (Figure 2) were dedicated to this use. The conservation area and recreation trends support re-establishment of this use. Improvements should be made in conjunction with site specific design and could occur initially on a smaller, but quality-based scale. The level of amenities for camping needs to be determined and could occur through questionnaires and surveys during the 2009 season. Redevelopment of camping sites can be phased based on demonstrated demand, length of anticipated stay, and level of use (amenities) rather than entire redevelopment at one time.

Interpretive Uses

A large portion of survey respondents and workshop participants indicated that an interpretive use or centre/facility be established and that education groups be involved through field trips, tours, community service hours or some form of partnership.

Typical programming includes information, interpretation, and outdoor recreation and often combines these through designed or programmed activities and is both formal and informal. Information, through coordinated and consistent signs, can provide historical descriptions, and scientific facts for example and not just directional information. Interpretation is more of a function of providing opportunities to understand and can take a number of forms or activities that describe and explain things.

Outdoor recreation fits in with both physical recreation and environmental awareness and appreciation through an assortment of programming initiatives. Research is a significant undertaking in of itself and most public land agencies encourage local/regional research projects. This would be particularly needed at Crowe Bridge Conservation Area as it has been noted that incomplete resource inventories exist and those that do, may be out dated. It is highly recommended that the conservation authority embark on a research/study programme that can assist in ascertaining exactly what resources are present at the area. Most, if not all, associated costs with this type of initiative are management effective to the conservation authority.

Table 13 provides a summary of the anticipated costs under this option. Components may be phased in over a two year period for example and Table 14 illustrates the cost of doing so.

Table 13: Management Option 5 - Day Recreational Use/Educational and Interpretive Programming

Rank Priority: High

Timeline: 2009 – 2013

Considerations: Lowest

Estimated Cost: \$ 38,000 to \$ 83,000

Components:	Item	Allowance / Estimated Cost
	Picnic Shelter	\$ 10,000 to \$25,000
	Picnic Tables (10)	\$ 2,500
	Two (2) additional washrooms	\$ 5,000
	Tent/Camping Sites (10 – Phase 1)	\$ 10,000 to \$ 30,000
	Signage	\$ 1,000 to \$ 2,500
	Removal of Mini Golf	\$ 2,000
	Trail Improvements	\$ 5,000 to \$10,000
	Clean up and Disposal Fees	\$ 1,500 to \$ 5,000
	Additional Litter / Composting Units	\$ 1,000 to \$ 2,500

Table 14: Option 5 – Estimated Expenses vs. Proposed Revenues and Sources

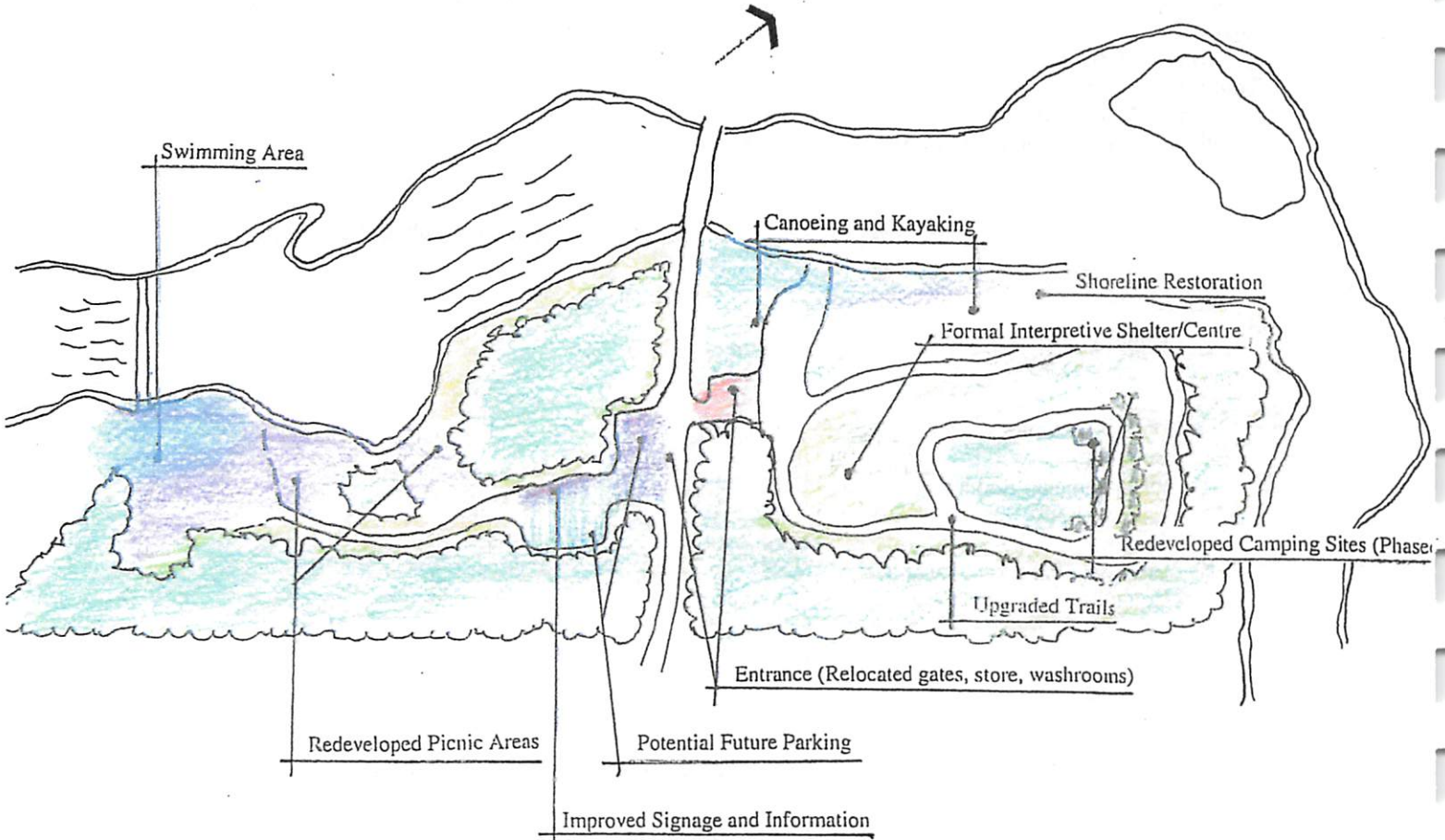
<i>Estimated Expense</i>	<i>Anticipated Cost</i>	<i>Potential Sources / Notes</i>
Picnic Shelter	10,000	Sponsor for Material/Student Construction Can defer/phase to 2010
Picnic Tables (10)	2,500	Student Constructed and Donated
Two (2) additional washrooms	5,000	Sponsor for Material/Student Construction Can defer/phase to 2010
Tent/Camping Sites (10 – Phase 1)	10,000	Sponsor for Material/Student Assistance
Signage	1,000	Corporate Donation
Removal of Mini Golf	2,000	Student Assistance
Trail Improvements	5,000	Sponsor for Material/Student Construction
Clean up and Disposal Fees	1,500	Community
Additional Litter / Composting Units	1,000	Community
	Total \$ 38,000	
	Adjusted \$ 23,000	(Includes deferred/phased projects)

<i>Program or Use</i>	<i>Proposed Revenue</i>
Day Use – Groups	500 *
Camping	1,500
Environmental / Education	1,800 *
Contributions	200 *
Grants	1,000 *
Corporate Sponsors/Donations	9,000
Community Partnerships	12,000
	Total \$ 26,000

Note: Current 2009 financial commitment of \$3,600 may be offset by item indicated by *

Revenue generation potential is discussed in Section 5.5

Conceptual Only
Not To Scale



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associates



5.0 Implementation

5.0 Implementation

This section provides an overview of the issues and steps required to move forward to re-open the conservation area and confirm its purpose and use as part of the public domain.

It is anticipated that Crowe Bridge Conservation Area will be used as a publicly-owned conservation area to meet local and regional recreation needs. This goal can be achieved by protecting and enhancing the area's unique characteristics through community stewardship and partnerships.

5.1 Ownership / Stewardship

The Crowe Bridge Conservation Area was purchased in 1965 in good faith to maintain an area for local and regional recreation and enjoyment in addition to watershed management.

Conservation areas are public lands that provide and preserve natural and open spaces for current and future generations. The operating context of conservation authorities centres on resource protection and enhancement, educational and recreational uses, and an ecologically-based, sustaining model of stewardship. These management and operational principles are protected through policy directives and legislation and are further strengthened through the process of appeal tribunals and an environmental bill of rights for citizens.

As a result, it is clear that public lands should remain public and that the conservation, protection, and enhancement of a conservation area is a management partnership between the conservation authorities and public interest groups as demonstrated in other conservation authorities.

The following section highlights the immediate key tasks that should be carried out with respect to re-opening the area and implementing the recommendations.

5.2 Getting Started

A number of recommendations have been made for the Crowe Bridge Conservation Area to be re-opened immediately for the 2009 season, permit day recreational use, monitor uses and intensity of uses, and provide minimal physical improvements that day recreational use requires. This will occur with the implementation of Option 5 and Key Tasks 1 – 5.

Key Tasks 1 – 5 establish actions that should begin in 2009 and depending on the level of development/improvement, including programming, extend beyond the current year into the 5 – 7 year range. Plan review will provide focus on programs, facilities, and uses that may change or evolve from this management plan and its recommendations. Changes, particularly with respect to major use or improvement, should be addressed in a business-case approach.

The majority of these recommendations require no capital funding and only minimal operating budget expenses, for example, provision of waste containers, removal of waste, and use of existing washrooms. The seasonal and regular maintenance associated with the conservation areas' re-opening can be offset by user and school groups, which have shown considerable interest to assist.

5.3 Key Tasks

The management plan is a guiding document that provides direction for the next five years for the redevelopment and enhancement of Crowe Bridge Conservation Area. Implementation of site specific facilities and programs should align with this document but also follow plans and policies from the conservation authority, municipality, and governing agencies.

The following key management actions are recommended for the immediate (2009) term while new, significant, and on-going actions and initiatives will occur in the 2009/2010 to 2013 timeline.

Major Task 1: Update Ownership Function and Stewardship Model

Level:	Administration
Rationale:	Public awareness, public lands/domain, transparency. Conservation area as conservation area not development or financing source.
Priority:	High (Immediate)
Timeline:	2009 – 2010

Major Task 2: Update Maintenance Plan

Level:	Administration
Rationale:	Outdated, inconsistent plan
Priority:	High (Immediate)
Timeline:	2009 – 2010

Major Task 3: Physical Improvements

Level: Administration, Partnership Groups

Rationale: Area to reopen, remove warning signs, develop interpretive sign program, establish working washrooms for current year – construct new facilities following year.

Priority: High (Immediate)

Timeline: 2009/2010 (Repairs), 2010 – 2015 (Construct New)

Major Task 4: Develop Education and Heritage Programs

Level: Administration, Partnership Groups

Rationale: Trends and public input demands for educational-type programming.

Priority: Immediate

Timeline: 2009 – 2015

Major Task 5: Resource Inventory and Classification

Level: Administration, Partnership Groups

Rationale: Incomplete inventory (mapping, physical, vegetation, habitat, cultural)

Priority: Moderate to High

Timeline: 2009 – 2013

5.4 Expenditures

Current expenditures are property taxes and insurance premiums and have been noted as \$3,600.00 for the current (2009) year. The purpose of a management plan is to develop the framework for long term operations of the area based on resource management principles. As a result, property owners are responsible for paying taxes and insurance.

Depending on the type and level of use, cost expenditures will vary but it is proposed that for 2009, the conservation area be re-opened to permit recreational use, a proven demand, and implement monitoring to determine other potential uses as well as impacts that can be addressed in the low or off-season. This approach represents a minimum expenditure for the conservation area and allows it to be used and enjoyed.

The management plan, however, does recognize costs exist and proposes revenue generation possibilities that can assist to plan and implement the recommendations and establish a revenue neutral management approach.

5.5 Revenue Generation

Pay vs. Free Entry

Many conservation areas are open to the public with no entry fee but will charge for larger groups that wish to use a portion of the conservation area for an event or programmed use. These fees vary and often depend on the location of the conservation area, resources and facilities available, and any associated event activity such as set-up, monitoring, and clean-up, for example. Nominal fees can be in the \$1.00 to \$5.00 range or be set as minimum or administrative charges, for example, \$10.00 and up. Groups and associations that use community facilities, such as community halls, schools, fire halls, senior's centres and other similar facilities are often charged small administrative rates for their booking and use.

Tables 13 and 14 below illustrate potential revenues for charging groups for booking and using the conservation area:

Table 13: Potential Group Use Fees
Note: Groups are defined as formally established and recognized groups or associations

<i>Fee per person per use</i>	<i>\$1.00</i>	<i>\$2.00</i>	<i>\$3.00</i>	<i>\$4.00</i>	<i>\$5.00</i>
	<i>Average (of 25 people)</i>				
Groups (1 – 50)	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$75.00	\$100.00	\$125.00
	<i>Range (1 person to 50 persons)</i>				
Groups (1 – 50)	\$1 - \$50	\$2 - \$100	\$3 - \$150	\$4 - \$200	\$5 -250

Table 14: Potential Group Use Fees by Average (25 persons)
Note: Groups are defined as formally established and recognized groups or associations

		<i>Fee per person per use</i>		
		<i>\$1.00</i>	<i>\$2.00</i>	<i>\$3.00</i>
Number of Monthly Uses	1	\$ 25.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 75.00
	2	\$ 50.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 150.00
	3	\$ 75.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 225.00
	4	\$ 100.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 300.00
	5	\$ 125.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 375.00
	6	\$ 150.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 450.00
Yearly Uses	2	\$ 50.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 150.00
	4	\$ 100.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 300.00
	6	\$ 150.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 450.00
	8	\$ 200.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 600.00
	10	\$ 250.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 750.00
	12	\$ 300.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 900.00
	14	\$ 350.00	\$ 700.00	\$1050.00
	16	\$ 400.00	\$ 800.00	\$1200.00
18	\$ 450.00	\$ 900.00	\$1350.00	

Since many conservation areas do not charge for individual entry but institute nominal charge for group use, it is recommended that this approach be utilized by the conservation authority. However, due to no entry fee, the group fee should be kept in line with this approach and therefore, be in the \$1.00 to \$3.00 range. School boards reserve, schedule, and administer a Community Use of Schools permitting system with approved fees, generally in the \$5 to \$ 20 range for typical bookings.

The conservation authority can institute a similar scheduling and permitting system, (Community Use of Conservation Area) in order to facilitate availability, scheduling, and accounting for formally recognized large group functions. Availability and bookings can be coordinated through the conservation authority offices and communicated electronically online through the website.

Using a \$2.00 per person rate scenario for large group functions, potential revenue from this source can range from \$50.00 upwards to over \$1,000.00. Revenues can be assigned toward expenditures of operations and against future improvements.

Table 15 below illustrates that a demand recreation use such as camping would bring additional revenue. The following example is based on re-establishing 10 camping sites and a range of fees.

Table 15: Potential Recreation Use Fees – Camping Example

		<i>Fee per campsite</i>			
		<i>\$5.00</i>	<i>\$7.50</i>	<i>\$10.00</i>	<i>\$15.00</i>
Total Visits/Year	50	\$ 250.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 750.00
	100	\$ 500.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,500.00
	200	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
	300	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,500.00

- Notes:
- (1) Assumes ten (10) campsites with no improvements or additional amenities.
 - (2) Additional campsites can be developed once demand is established and revenues generated to cover costs of additional sites.

The camping example is based on the re-development of a portion of the site from historical use and current trends favouring this activity. The intent would be to re-establish 10 sites for the 2009 summer season (May to September) and determine demand and impact of camping. The resource inventory should assist in determining impacts of uses and therefore verify management zones for all recreation uses. If warranted, additional sites could be added and phased in over 1-3 years with a more detailed implementation plan.

Environmental Programs

Environmental programs are those activities that focus on community awareness and environmental education. Establishing environmental educational programs are one of the cornerstones of what conservation authorities are known for and with well developed and coordinated programming, can provide numerous positive results including revenue.

The programs are different from group use activities or events mostly due to their specific theme and/or season that they are held within. Since environmentally themed programs are high in profile, they require considerable effort to organize and implement. College and university interns, secondary school students, and community volunteers assist with these programs thereby reducing additional staff cost. As a result, it is suggested that these formalized and higher profile programs be on a different fee schedule than the one proposed above.

Table 16 suggests a few monthly themes or activities that can be planned and promoted which can allow use of the conservation area and bring potential revenue to offset its operating and capital costs over the long term.

Table 16: Possible Environmental Programs - Monthly

<i>Month</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Number of visitors</i>	<i>Group Rate</i>	<i>Gross Revenue</i>
January	Celebrating Winter	50 - 200	\$3.00 pp	\$150 - \$ 600
March	March Break Madness	100 - 300	\$2.00 pp	\$ 200 - \$ 600
April	Earth Day	150	\$1.00 pp	\$ 150
May and June	Flowers and Things	50 - 200	\$2.00 pp	\$ 100 - \$ 400
	Bugs and Books	50 - 200	\$2.00 pp	\$ 100 - \$ 400
	Fossils and Friends	50 - 200	\$2.00 pp	\$ 100 - \$ 400
July/August	Summer Fun	will vary	no fee entry	not applicable
September	Groundwater Festival	50 - 500	\$ 5.00 pp.	\$ 250 - \$2,500.00
October	Trails and Tours	25 - 100	\$ 1.00 pp.	\$ 25 - \$100
Total Potential Revenue				\$ 1,075 - \$ 5, 150
Approximate Average				\$ 3, 100

Grants

Grants are often one-time funding sources and can be accessed through a number of agencies, mostly provincial and federal through a competitive bid process. Traditional sources of grants in the past have been primarily through municipalities including counties and regions and the Ontario Trillium Foundation and Federal Rural Secretariat for example.

Recent federal and provincial budgets have allocated considerable funding through the Building Canada and Infrastructure Ontario programs respectively. Although geared for infrastructure improvement projects that are “shovel-ready”, these grants should assist municipalities with their overall budget planning, potentially releasing funds for other projects. Another area of focus in federal and provincial budgets relates to training, education, and research. New budgets and funding initiatives should be reviewed for possible grant application purposes.

Contributions

Public consultation suggested that donation boxes be placed in Crowe Bridge Conservation Area for those who wish to donate – if implemented, these should require design to permit security and allow for ease of collection and be emptied on a regular/daily basis.

Direct donations are another means of contributing and can be directed by the donor for the program or service of their choosing. These donations should be formally acknowledged and accounted for in the records and minutes of the conservation authority. Contributions that take the form of cash-in-lieu, such as products or services, should also be acknowledged formally including documentation.

Contributions such as volunteering, cash donations, time, and other cash-in-lieu methods should be highly valued since the hiring and training of staff is usually a financial restriction on today's conservation authorities.

Partnerships

Seasonal and regular maintenance associated with the conservation areas' re-opening can be offset by user and school groups, which have shown considerable interest to assist. Longer term physical improvements and maintenance functions and costs can be offset by local and regional businesses (despite an economic downturn), community groups (Friends of Crowe Bridge Park) and educational institutions (Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board and Sir Sandford Fleming College). Appendices C and D indicate community interest and commitment to partnering with the conservation authority. There are other interested groups and potential partnerships that will require discussion and formalizing agreements respectively.

Marketing

Marketing is increasingly becoming important in the delivery of public services due primarily to increasingly complex financial projects and an awareness and understanding by the general public, particularly those that engage in activities or pursuits that affect facility or program or both. Moreover, as municipalities and public agencies move toward such practices as capital asset management for example, the overriding component is development and implementation of a 'business case model' for consideration and approval. These business cases contain a marketing component.

While not a typical function of conservation authorities, at least in a comprehensive manner, marketing in this sense at least, relates more to providing information of where the authority is and where it plans to go. This assists with identifying potential opportunities to support those initiative and projects.

Marketing includes a number of consistent components:

- Branding and Image – consistent use of logo, tag lines, colours to identify and reinforce.
- Programs and Services – services, programs, activities carried out by municipal unit.
- Promotion and Advertising – the distribution of information and intended message.
- Communications – the forms of distributing promotion and advertising.
- Evaluation – seeking feedback to make improvements.

A number of comments and observations were made during the course of the study including the number of related events, their promotion/feedback, and overall coordination.

With respect to carrying out these functions, it is not necessarily a matter of creating new work or new positions but reviewing and in some instances, reallocating resources. In cases where this may not occur, the potential of partnership opportunities can often fill the void.

It is recommended that the management plan be reviewed yearly and upon completion of the resource inventory, that an updated concept or site development plan be completed.

Summary

The Crowe Bridge Conservation Area was obtained for public recreation and should remain as a publicly-operated conservation area that focuses on meeting local and regional recreation demand. In addition, current trends, policies, and recreation management principles focus on developing partnerships for facilities and programs to meet demand and remain revenue neutral.

Key tasks have been identified and recommendations made that will facilitate the re-opening of the conservation area for 2009. The establishment of community-based partnerships, as in other conservation authorities, will assist in making physical improvements and generating revenues to offset improvement costs including commitments for the 2009 year. Facilities and programs should be phased in over the next 1-3 years and be based on local needs and circumstances.

Appendix A: Vegetation and Habitat Inventory

Note to readers:

The following links are recommended for further exploration of the natural history of the Crowe Bridge Conservation Area:

Local geology and natural history:
<http://www.turnstone.ca/local.htm>

Bird, Tree, Flower, and Animal Lists,
with Crowe Bridge Conservation Area entries made clear, "C":
<http://www.turnstone.ca/birdetc.htm>

The Save the Crowe webpage offers a viewing of a PowerPoint slide show dedicated to the Crowe Bridge Conservation Area (an updated version is available and will likely appear here very shortly):
http://www.savethecrowe.com/science_nature.html

A mostly geological bibliography of Seymour Township:
<http://www.turnstone.ca/cambib.htm>

Appendix A

Note: "C" designation indicates documented evidence at Crowe Bridge Conservation Area.

Yellow adder's-tongue	<i>Erythronium americanum</i>	trout-lily	C
Alfalfa	<i>Medicago sativa</i>		C
Hoary alyssum	<i>Berteroa incana</i>		C
Canada anemone	<i>Anemone canadensis</i>		C
Great angelica	<i>Angelica atropurpurea</i>		
Fringed aster	<i>Aster ciliolatus</i>		C
New England aster	<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>		C
Panicled aster	<i>Symphotrichum lanceolatum</i>	tall white aster	C
Hairy beard-tongue	<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	hairy penstemon	C
Nodding beggar-ticks	<i>Bidens cernuus</i>	sticktight	
Wild bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	a fragrant herb of the mint family	C
Field bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>		
Hedge bindweed	<i>Convolvulus sepium</i>	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	
Blueweed	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	common viper's bugloss	C
Bouncing Bet	<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>		C
Virgin's bower	<i>Clematis virginiana</i>	a twining vine	
Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>		C
Lesser burdock	<i>Arctium minus</i>		
Butter-and-eggs	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	toadflax	C
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	tall buttercup	C
Bladder campion	<i>Silene cucubalus</i>		C
Cardinal flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>		C
Catnip	<i>Nepeta cataria</i>	herb, source of tea	
Common cattail	<i>Typha latifolia</i>		
Common chicory	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>		C

Sulphur cinquefoil	Potentilla recta	yellow cinquefoil	C
Alsike clover	Trifolium hybridum		
Red clover	Trifolium pratense		C
Wild columbine	Aquilegia canadensis	attracts hummingbirds, butterflies, bumblebees	
Pink corydalis	Corydalis sempervirens	pale corydalis	
Purple crown-vetch	Coronilla varia		
Oxeye daisy	Leucanthemum vulgare	Chrysanthemum leucanthemum	C
Common dandelion	Taraxacum officinale		
Orange daylily	Hemerocallis fulva		C
Elecampane	Inula helenium		
Common evening-primrose	Oenothera biennis		C
Philadelphia fleabane	Erigeron philadelphicus		C
Bottle gentian	Gentiana andrewsii	closed gentian	C
Yellow goatsbeard	Tragopogon major		C
Canada goldenrod	Solidago canadensis		C
Frost grape	Vitis riparia	Wild grape	C
Harebell	Campanula rotundifolia		C
Orange hawkweed	Hieracium aurantiacum		C
Yellow hawkweed	Hieracium caespitosum	king devil	C
Sharp-lobed hepatica	Anemone acutiloba	sharp-lobed liverleaf	C
Water horsetail	Equisetum fluviatile		
Poison ivy	Toxicodendron radicans	poison oak	C
Boneset	Eupatorium perfoliatum		C
Spotted Joe-Pye weed	Eupatorium maculatum		C
Spotted knapweed	Centaurea biebersteinii		C
Prickly lettuce	Lactuca serriola		
Purple loosestrife	Lythrum salicaria		C
Marsh marigold	Caltha palustris	cowslip	
Mayapple	Podophyllum peltatum		

Swamp milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>		C
Common milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>		
Wild mint	<i>Mentha arvensis</i>	field mint	C
Great mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>		C
Wild mustard	<i>Sisymbrium altissimum</i>	tumbleweed mustard; tumble mustard; tall tumble mustard	C
Bittersweet nightshade	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	climbing nightshade	C
Wild parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>		
Common water-parsnip	<i>Sium suave</i>	fragrant water-parsnip	C
Wild pea	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	bird vetch; tufted vetch; cow vetch	C
Wall pepper	<i>Sedum acre</i>	stonecrop	
Blue phlox	<i>Phlox divaricata</i>		
Deptford pink	<i>Dianthus armeria</i>		C
Nodding plumeless-thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>		
Field pussytoes	<i>Antennaria neglecta</i>		C
Queen Anne's lace	<i>Daucus carota</i>		C
White rattlesnake-root	<i>Prenanthes alba</i>	white lettuce	
Dame's rocket	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	old-fashioned phlox	
Pasture rose	<i>Rosa carolina</i>		C
Veiny meadow-rue	<i>Thalictrum venulosum</i>		C
Smooth scouring rush	<i>Equisetum laevigatum</i>		
St. Johns wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>		C
Wild sarsaparilla	<i>Aralia nudicaulis</i>	member of ginseng family	
Self-heal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	heal-all	C
Perennial sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>		
Annual sunflower	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>		
Rough woodland sunflower	<i>Helianthus divaricatus</i>		C
Swamp sunflower	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	common sneezeweed	C
Black-eyed susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>		

White sweet-clover	Melilotus alba		C
Sweet-clover	Melilotus officinalis		
Common tansy	Tanacetum vulgare		
Bull thistle	Cirsium vulgare		C
Canada thistle	Cirsium arvense		C
Spotted touch-me-not	Impatiens capensis	spotted jewelweed	
Bird's-foot trefoil	Lotus corniculatus	member of the pea family	C
Red trillium	Trillium erectum	purple trillium; wake-robin	
Snow trillium	Trillium grandiflorum	large white trillium	C
Swamp vervain	Verbena hastata		
Common yarrow	Achillea millefolium	a fragrant herb	C
Grasses (1 species)			
Timothy grass	Phleum pratense		
Mushrooms and fungi (6 species)			
Fairy butter	Dacrymyces palmatus	one of the jelly fungi	C
Shaggy mane	Coprinus comatus		
Giant puffball	Calvatia gigantea		C
Winter mushroom	Flammulina velutipes		
Club-footed clitocybe	Clitocybe clavipes		C
Comb tooth fungus	Herichium americanum	Herichium coralloides, coral hydnum	C
Extra: seen at Petroglyphs park, in Peterborough county			
Northern blue flag	Iris versicolor		

Black ash	<i>Fraxinus nigra</i>		
Mountain ash	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>		
White ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>		
Red ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>		
Quaking aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	trembling aspen	C
Bigtooth aspen	<i>Populus grandidentata</i>	largetooth aspen	C
American basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>	a linden	C
American beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>		
Paper birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	canoe birch, white birch	C
Climbing bittersweet	<i>Celastrus scandens</i>		
Northern catalpa	<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>		
Western redcedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>		C
Northern white cedar	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>		C
Eastern cottonwood	<i>Populus deltoides</i>	a poplar	
Alternate-leaf dogwood	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	pagoda dogwood	
American elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>		C
Chinese elm	<i>Ulmus parviflora</i>		
Slippery elm	<i>Ulmus rubra</i>		
Eastern hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>		C
Shagback hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>		
Hobblebush	<i>Viburnum alnifolium</i>	clusters of small fruits on red stems	C
Honeylocust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>		
Honeysuckle sp.	<i>Lonicera</i> sp.	an imported variety (?)	C
Ironwood	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	eastern hophornbeam	
Common juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	dwarf juniper	C
Common lilac	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>		
Norway maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>		
Silver maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>		C
Sugar maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>		C
Manitoba maple	<i>Acer negundo</i>	boxelder, box-elder, ashleaf maple	
Bur oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>		C

Northern red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>		C
Red pine	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>		
Eastern white pine	<i>Pinus stroba</i>		C
Balsam poplar	<i>Populus balsamifera</i>		
Smokebush	<i>Cotinus coggygia</i>		
Blue spruce	<i>Picea pungens</i> Engelm.		C
White spruce	<i>Picea glauca</i>		
Staghorn sumac	<i>Rus typhina</i>		C
Black walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>		

The third table lists 18 mammals, six reptiles and amphibians, and a token start on the list of butterflies, moths and other insects (all of 7 species!), plus "an humble mollusc". The bat and salamander have been reported from the CBCA. The Monarch butterfly is a welcome seasonal visitor: look for it near milkweed plants in the late summer and autumn. Other species present in the area, but not yet seen by the compiler in the township include the black bear (*Ursus americanus*), which we have seen in adjacent Percy township.

<i>English</i>	<i>Latin</i>	<i>Notes / Alternative Names</i>	<i>List</i>
Mammals			
<i>Eastern small-footed bat</i>	<i>Myotis leibii</i>		C
Beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>		C
Porcupine	<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>		
Striped skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>		
Eastern chipmunk	<i>Tamias striatus</i>		C
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>	most often detected by its scat	
White-tailed deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>		
Ermine	<i>Mustela erminea</i>	short-tailed weasel	
River otter	<i>Lontra canadensis</i>		C
Mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>		
Red fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		
Eastern cottontail rabbit	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>		

Groundhog	Marmota monax	woodchuck	
Deer mouse	Peromyscus maniculatus		
Muskrat	Ondatra zibethicus		
Raccoon	Procyon lotor		
Grey squirrel	Sciurus carolinensis		
Red squirrel	Tamiasciurus hudsonicus		
Meadow vole	Microtus pennsylvanicus	field mouse	
Reptiles and Amphibians			
Common garter snake	Thamnophis sirtalis		
Milk snake	Lampropeltis triangulum		C
Northern water snake	Nerodia sipedon		C
Northern leopard frog	Rana pipiens		
Midland painted turtle	Chrysemis picta		C
Snapping turtle	Chelydra serpentina		
<i>Blue-spotted salamander</i>	<i>Ambystoma laterale</i>		C
Insects			
Monarch butterfly	Danaus plexippus		
White admiral	Limenitis arthemis arthemis		
Canadian tiger swallowtail	Papilio canadensis		
Eastern boxelder bug	Boisea trivittata		
American tent caterpillar	Malacosoma americana		C
Woolly bear caterpillar	Isia isabella	Isabella tiger moth	
<i>Dobson fly</i>	<i>Corydalis cornutus</i>		C
Black-winged damselfly	Agrion maculatum		
Molluscs			
Freshwater mussel	genus Unionidae	river mussels	C

The following is a token bird list for the CBCA - given time, it can surely be proved that most or all of the birds on the Seymour Township bird list are present here on a seasonal or year-round basis.

Preliminary bird list for Crowe Bridge Conservation Area

<i>English</i>	<i>Latin</i>	<i>French</i>	<i>Alternative Names</i>
<u>Great Blue Heron</u>	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Grand héron	
<u>Canada Goose</u>	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Bernache canadienne	
<u>Turkey Vulture</u>	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Urubu à tête rouge	Vautour à tête rouge
<u>Bald Eagle</u>	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	L'aigle à tête blanche	
Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	Gelinotte huppée	
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Goéland à bec cerclé	
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Pigeon biset	Rock dove; Domestic pigeon
<u>Belted Kingfisher</u>	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	Martin-pêcheur	Megaceryle alcyon
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	Pic mineur	Dendrocopos pubescens
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	Pic chevelu	Dendrocopos villosus
<u>Northern Flicker</u>	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Pic flamboyant	Yellow-shafted flicker; Pic doré
Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	Pioui de l'Est	Eastern pewee
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	Moucherolle phébi	
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	Tyran huppé	Moucherolle huppé
<u>Eastern Kingbird</u>	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	Tyran tritri	
<u>Cedar Waxwing</u>	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	Jaseur des cèdres	
<u>Grey Catbird</u>	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	Moqueur chat	Moqueur polyglotte
<u>American Robin</u>	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	Merle d'Amérique	Merle américain
<u>Black-capped Chickadee</u>	<i>Parus atricapillus</i>	Mésange à tête noire	

Red-eyed Vireo	Vireo olivaceus	Viréo aux yeux rouges	
Common Grackle	Quiscalus quiscula	Mainate bronzé	Bronzed grackle
<u>American Goldfinch</u>	Carduelis tristis	Chardonneret jaune	Spinus tristis
<u>Blue Jay</u>	Cyanocitta cristata	Geai bleu	
American Crow	Corvus brachyrhynchos	Corneille américaine	Common crow

APPENDIX B

Crowe Bridge Park Conservation Area Management Plan Questionnaire

The main purpose of the Management Plan Study is to determine the most appropriate and effective uses and implementation strategies that contribute to a long term management plan for Crowe Bridge Park Conservation Area. Parts of the Study objectives involve public input. We are asking that you complete the following questions in order to assist identifying issues, concerns, and ideas that can be incorporated as part of the Management Plan.

The responses will be tabulated and included in the Final Report scheduled to be released at the end of the year. Questionnaires are also posted on-line at www.friendsofcrowebridgepark.com, available in local papers, and at public meetings. Questions about the Study may be directed to the Friends of Crowe Bridge Park, Crowe Valley Conservation Authority or to the consultant, info@lakelandassociates.com.

(1) Of the following, which is the most important issue regarding the park/conservation area?

- Access
- Cost
- Hours of operation
- Maintenance
- Types of uses / opportunities

(2) What is the most important challenge facing the park/conservation area?

- Budget / Costs
- Management
- Marketing
- Ownership
- Programming

(3) What is the most defining feature of the park/conservation area?

- Location / Convenience
- Local history of use
- Natural setting
- Provides recreational opportunity
- Unique characteristics

(4) How often do you use the park/conservation area?

Daily

Weekly

Monthly

Annually

I don't use the park because: _____

(5) When at Crowe Bridge, I/we stay for:

Less than one (1) hour

1 - 2 hours

2 - 3 hours

3 - 4 hours

More than 4 hours

Does not apply

(6) In your opinion, what amenities should be located at Crowe Bridge? Check all that apply.

Informational (plaques, signs, trail markings, etc)

Specific areas or zones for different uses

Parking and circulation

Resting areas (shade cover, seating, tables, etc.)

Washroom

Other (Please indicate): _____

(7) What do you believe is the best use for the park/conservation area? (Check one only):

Recreational (Please indicate day, overnight, long stay)

Educational activities

Conservation/Preservation

Interpretation/Scientific

Commercial / Development

Other (please indicate) _____

(8) Please tell us a little about yourself:

Gender	Female	_____	Male	_____		
Age	Under 18	_____	18-24	_____	25-34	_____
	35 - 49	_____	50 - 64	_____	65 +	_____
Business Owner	_____	Not working	_____			
Employed full time	_____	Studying/school	_____			
Employed part time	_____	Homecare	_____			

(9) Is there anything we left out that you wish to comment on?

(10) May we contact you for clarification or additional information? Yes No

If Yes, my contact information is provided as:

Thank you for your interest and time.

Need to link Crowe Bridge with Ferris and Seymour and use all three together to make Campbellford/Seymour a destination for weekends and holidays.

Number 8 doesn't matter.

A wonderful natural gift – rich in fossils and environmental splendour in spite of mankind's degradation – still one of the most pristine waterways.

Great spot for teaching kids on school trips. Partner up with municipality to help with clean ups – high school students could use their community services for credits.

Funding – add a small amount to every taxpayer to subsidize or raise capital to run all three parks in Trent Hills.

Save the park for my children.

1 – conserve the site, no ATV, dirtbikes, etc.

2 – educational opportunities abound – special events, walking tours, etc.

I am not a native to Campbellford, as I am originally from Toronto. Moved here and Crowe was the first place I was taken. This property should remain public for all to use. Once it's gone or destroyed you can never go back or replace it. We need to focus on the environmental and affordable activities for all.

The first priority should be to protect the property by placing a conservation easement on to the title and then concentrate on finding an operator to open the park for the public.

Let's get the park open so people and their kids can enjoy it.

Family recreational – best swimming area, people come for miles for kayaking, open year around, biking, skiing, camping, remove the signs, school trips, fossils.

Need parking for kayakers.

How many conservation areas are in contention?

Try to make the park for everyone to enjoy.

Should be similar to Seymour Conservation Area – “self serve” conservation area with trails, use at own risk, swimming and basic picnic facilities.

Lack of property easement preventing the park to be used for development or commercial purposes.

The conservation area should not be used as a mini-golf park. The natural area should be preserved as much as possible. And should not cost much money.

It should be left as a conservation area and recreational area and not have mini golf or anything incorporated outside of what is there naturally i.e. water, trails, woodlands, fossils, and wildlife.

Opportunity at the workshop was provided for written submissions whether as part of the workshop session or afterwards. The following summarizes the comments provided from those written submissions.

There have been no liabilities with regard to the weir in the last 3 – 5 years.

Needs an easement to protect it from some zealous board member.

Why was the CVCA surprised when the Friends of Crowe Bridge wanted it opened. It was out in the public for a year for it to be opened.

*85% used to be funded by the provincial government – Harris isn't in government now – why hasn't the Liberals added money to the conservation areas around the province.
No motorized vehicles in the park.*

Open the park as soon as possible.

Improve off road parking area.

Need washrooms on site (Blue Loo)

Picnic shelter to hold at least a dozen tables.

Safety buoys for emergency.

Students to work in the conservation area as credit toward their 40 hour community service.

See if service clubs want to be involved in its operation or some other form of assistance.

Trent University involvement and school outing centre.

Easement to protect the area from future board members or politicians attempt to sell it.

*Will CVCA consider turning over the park to Trent Hills so citizens can have a closer view of discussions.
Must remain in public hands.*

Easements keep access to public.

Never be developed – remain as a park/conservation area.

Less facilities, less concerns.

How long will no access be kept?

Whose responsibility would it be? Contracts?

3 of 12 towns have interest in developing, conservation area in general.

How can this be funded? Who?

Historical/human history.

Improper spending.

Environmental.

400,000.000 year old river – once again natural history, geology.

Reopening camps, golf? Affordable.

Water cleanliness – "roughing in wilderness camping."

Town unofficially doesn't want to own it.

Crowe River Bridge would be more profitable than Ferris Park would ever get.

Park host/resident camper – some would willingly stay.

Vanadalism.

Benefits students, schools, teachers.

Too many Chiefs not enough Indians,

Education on running a park.

**Appendix C: Resource Inventory
Mapping Initiative
Sir Sandford Fleming College
Co-op Project**



Fleming College
Geographic Information Systems - Specialist
Co-op Project Request Form

Request Date: January 7, 2009

Completion requested for:

August 2009

Contact Name: Les Jagoda

Contact Phone Number:

905.435.0500

Contact E-mail: info@lakelandassociates.com

Company Name: Lakeland Associates Ltd.

Company Phone Number:

905.435.0500

Company Address:

Company Web Site:

569 Townline Road North
Courtice, Ontario L1E 2J4

www.lakelandassociates.com

Project Title: Landscape Analysis for Recreation Resource Planning, Crowe Valley Conservation Authority, Crowe Bridge Conservation Area near Campbellford Ontario

Project Description: Mapping, analysis, and communication outputs for establishment of physical landform units and sub-units used to determine management zones for recreational planning uses.

Field verification of units/sub-units from mapping sources required and enhanced by GPS locations and descriptors (attributes) of key locations in study area.

Ability to provide web-based search that illustrates and describes recreation opportunities and levels of difficulty for hiking, walking, canoeing, etc. at an existing conservation area.

Project Deliverables: *Please be specific.*

- (1) Provide digital and hard copy baseline mapping of landform features through single, overlay and composite methods. (i.e. terrain analysis/slope, aspect, floodplain, woodlot extent, etc.) that can be used to determine and update management zones.
- (2) Key attribute 'tagging' (i.e. GPS location, elevation, contour point, photo characteristic, etc.) at identified significant or key locations in study area.
- (3) Website links to key locations to illustrate and describe recreation opportunities and levels of difficulty where applicable (eg; hiking/walking trails with moderate slope, viewing points, resting areas, etc.)

Applicable Course Requirements: *Please indicate which of the following course requirements are satisfied by the Goals/Deliverables above.*

Data Acquisition/Preprocessing:	Hardcopy/paper mapping to be provided. Physical verification/GPS units
Spatial/Statistical Analysis:	Comparisons, correlations, GIS overlays
Programming:	Attribute tagging, contours/elevation points
Presentation:	Hardcopy maps – varying size formats
Web Technology:	Website links – ability to view key location attributes

Student Assets: *What are the desirable student qualifications in terms of education, experience, and/or skills?*

Education:	Some formal training/achievement in environmental studies and/or land use planning (diploma or degree)
Experience:	Some office experience (1 year, public or private – internship or cooperative education component acceptable)
Skills:	Interpersonal – verbal (clear, concise, decisive), personable, good sense of humour. Office/Technical – written (strong writing and editing), graphic (basic ability), and time management (organized)

Software Required: *(name and version)*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Data Provided: *Please list below all data sets you will be providing to the students.*

Description and format, (eg. dwg, shp, dbf, mdb, dgn, etc)

1. Base mapping in hard copy format for digitizing (NTS and OBM)
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Data Required: *Please list below all other data sets the students will need to obtain and sources*

1. GPS points of identified key locations.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Please state any confidential or intellectual property restrictions that affect the project data or deliverables:

This project is an extension (recommendation) of a current management plan that is being completed and has yet to be reviewed, accepted, and implemented by the contacts' client. It was discussed and presented as a pilot project and has the approval to be carried out. Until final acceptance and notification of the management report, confidentiality is required.

Similar Projects: *Are there any previous Fleming co-op projects that would be helpful in completing this project?*

Not aware at this stage.

Remarks: *Include any details regarding this project that are not mentioned above*

None at this time.

Please forward questions, comments, or submissions to:

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GIS Co-operative Project Liaison
Geomatics Institute @ Fleming
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K9V 5E6

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