

SKOOTAMATTA DISTRICT RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION INC.

** NEWSLETTER **

Dear Members:

This is a special newsletter to introduce you to "The Madawaska Highlands Regional Trust" which is being proposed in our area (see map below). Enclosed you will find excerpts from a 64 page discussion paper which explain in general terms what the proposal is all about. As this has the potential to affect all property owners in the area, it is important that we understand and have input into any final decision.

Please read the enclosed and if you wish, to obtain a copy of the full document send \$5.00 (cost of production and mailing) to:

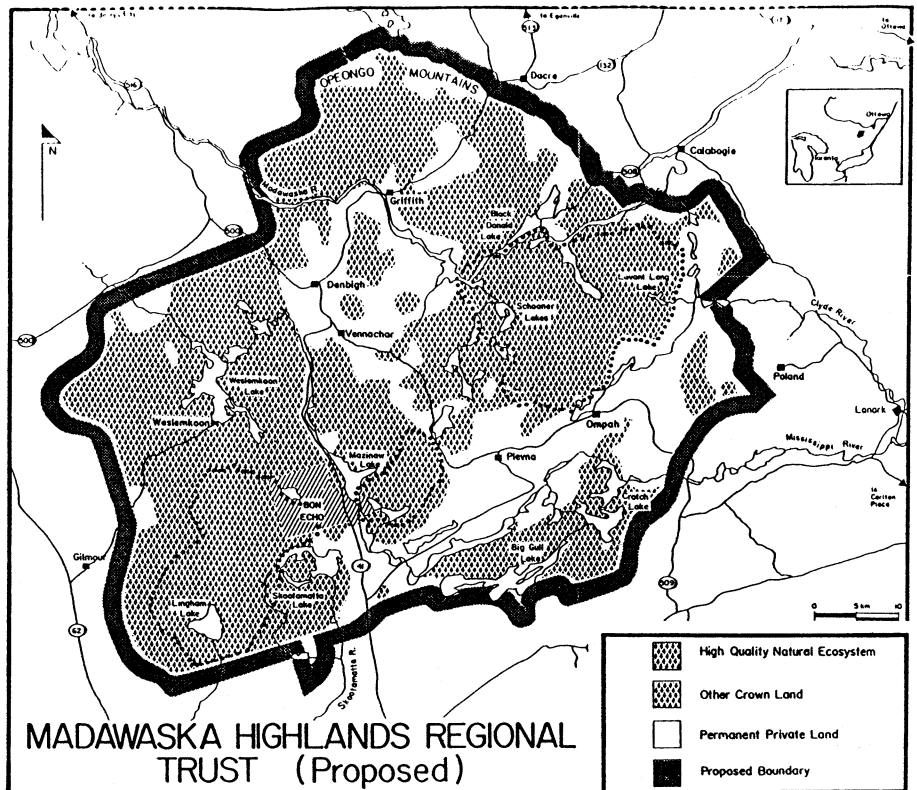
The Madawaska Committee,
Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society
Box 648, Perth, Ontario K7H 3K4

We will keep you informed of any additional information in the next newsletter (end of May) and at our annual meeting in July.

Regards,



Doug Jones
President, S.D.R.A.
(613) 336-2337 weekends
(416) 586-3785 weekdays
(416) 484-1906 weeknights





CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY

MADAWASKA COMMITTEE

Box 648, PERTH, Ontario K7H 3K4
January 25, 1988

Dear Reader:

This proposal, for the establishment of the Madawaska Highlands Regional Trust, has been prepared as a public discussion paper. It was researched and written by the Madawaska Committee, a small group of volunteers, recently established by the Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society.

The proposal is being circulated to people, municipalities, agencies of government and private organizations throughout the region of the proposed Trust for study, review and feedback.

In the months and year ahead, following initial public response to this proposal, the Madawaska Committee intends to hold small regional workshops to which interested people will be invited to review and discuss the details of the proposal, explore ideas for improvement, etc.

We see the public review process resulting in the submission of a final, more detailed concept to the government of Ontario, hopefully by late 1988 or, more likely, 1989.

You are invited not only to read this proposal but to study it carefully and thoughtfully and discuss it with family and friends. Consider especially the potential longer term economic and environmental benefits to the region.

The proposal contains some ecological ideas with which most people are not yet familiar but need to be if governments are to be influenced into taking much more seriously the challenging task of caring for and protecting the ecological integrity of the Madawaska Highlands.

Please send us your considered views and ideas for improving what is, in essence, an ecological strategy for multiple land use - the first of its kind in Canada.

The Madawaska Committee intends to get a telephone number as soon as finances permit. In the meantime, we can be reached at the above address.

Sincerely yours,

Theodore Mosquin, President,
Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a proposal for the creation of Madawaska Highlands Regional Trust. It presents a practicable ecologically based management concept for lands of this beautiful region.

The proposal was developed by the Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society because it was felt that the present-day Crown land management policies and practices of District Offices of the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) in the Madawaska Highlands were completely outmoded and not in tune with modern or future needs of the people in the region or of society in general.

What is proposed herein is an alternative to the Crown land planning process currently followed by MNR District offices in this region. Our concern was sparked by a Timber Management Plan released in November, 1987 by the Ministry of Natural Resources District Office at Carleton Place, Ontario and in anticipation of similar Timber Plans to be launched soon by District Offices at Pembroke, Tweed and Bancroft. The Carleton Place Timber Plan has an inexplicably intense and powerful focus upon timber depletion and exploitation while ignoring or brushing aside ecological, wildlife, natural beauty, recreation and other fundamental short and long term values of Crown lands.

The basic elements of this proposal are:

1. new provincial legislation (the Regional Trusts Act) establishing the Trust as a new agency of the Ministry of Natural Resources and transferring prime responsibility for the management of Crown lands within the boundaries of the Trust from District Offices to the Regional Trust;
2. a governing body or "Trust Authority" with shared regional and provincial responsibility and professional staff;
3. a mandate requiring the Trust Authority to protect the integrity of the region's life-sustaining landscape ecosystems, natural beauty and wildlife, and to institute land use and tourism development policies and strategies which diversify and strengthen local and regional economies and create opportunities for new kinds of businesses and employment in small towns and hamlets throughout the Trust;
4. a new voluntary mechanism (Trust Agreements) enabling private landowners within the boundaries of the Trust to maintain the ecological integrity of their properties;
5. freedom from taxation for private lands where the integrity of existing natural ecosystems is maintained by the owner;

6. anticipated increases in private property values;
7. a system of zoning Crown lands that recognizes economic needs of local communities for continuing resource exploitation but at the same time ensures that natural diversity, wildlife productivity, natural beauty, etc. of the most ecologically important areas are not destroyed;
8. logging as a major source of livelihood for people in the region to continue on most Trust lands but within new, mandatory environmental protection guidelines which recognize the absolute necessity of maintaining the ecological integrity of forested lands;
9. hunting and trapping to continue in most areas under guidelines sensitive to maintaining deer populations and wildlife diversity including native predators;
10. wilderness (natural ecosystem) values to be recognized through zoning in order to protect areas of great natural beauty and to maintain the ecological integrity of landscape ecosystems;
11. needs of species requiring special protected areas to be recognized - Marten, Red-shouldered Hawks, Eagles and possibly others;
12. the home areas of rare and threatened species to be located and their habitats placed under protection to ensure survival;
13. system of snowmobile trails to be planned or maintained and a new major system of summer and winter trails throughout the proposed Trust to be constructed to foster the growth of a tourism-related activities like ski touring, hiking, wilderness recreation;
14. major programs aimed at filling the large gaps in knowledge about the natural resources of the region; this knowledge is required for developing ecologically sound land use strategies, realization of tourist potential and increasing employment;
15. federal assistance in establishing the Trust and possibly with its management;
16. above all, through planning, zoning and cooperative arrangements with other agencies and property owners in the Trust, the long term ecological integrity of the entire region to be maintained.
