



# Management Plan Review

Bulletin #2

**You are invited to share your views and give us your opinions on the future of Bruce Peninsula National Park.** Please take some time to review this summary of opportunities, challenges and vision elements that are being considered in the development of a new management plan for the park.

**Come to an open house on September 22<sup>nd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to discuss the future of the park. See page 3 for details.**

## About the park

**Bruce Peninsula National Park** lies at the tip of the 1700 km<sup>2</sup> Bruce Peninsula and the most prominent feature is the Niagara Escarpment that runs along the entire eastern edge. Within the park, the escarpment forms the Georgian Bay shoreline and is recognized as part of the core area of a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. The park was established by the federal government to protect a representative example of the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Lowlands natural region. Under a federal-provincial agreement, Cyprus Lake Provincial Park (established in 1966) and portions of provincial nature reserves were transferred to the federal government in December 1987 to form the core of the new national park. Lands are still being assembled to complete establishment of the park.

## State of the Park

The 2010 State of the Park Report for **Bruce Peninsula National Park** provides an overview of the condition of natural and cultural resources, visitor experience elements and public appreciation and understanding. Overall, the state of the park is 'good' to 'fair'. The report summarizes key issues that should be considered in the development of the park management plan. This report is available at:

[www.parkscanada.gc.ca/bruce](http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca/bruce)  
Click "Park Management" on the main page.



## Fast Facts

- The park is in the traditional territory of the Saugeen Ojibway Nations.
- The park could become 156 km<sup>2</sup> when fully established.
- Annual visitation at the park is approximately 215,000 visitors.
- Most popular attractions include Cyprus Lake Campground, the Grotto and Singing Sands.
- Over 3/4 of visitors to the park are from Ontario, almost all of which are evenly split between Central Ontario (includes Toronto) and Southwestern Ontario.
- The park is home to a large diversity of orchids, ancient cedar trees, a population of black bears and several species at risk, including the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake.

# Opportunities and Challenges

The following opportunities and challenges have been identified as considerations for the management plan review.

## Relationship with the Saugeen Ojibway Nations

A renewed focus on building a respectful relationship has begun as the park consults with the Saugeen Ojibway Nations during the management planning process.

Working together with First Nations will improve and diversify approaches to resource protection, visitor experience and public outreach education.

## Completing the Park

A legacy of a young national park with intermingled private property, inherited infrastructure, trails and roads creates a challenge to maintain ecological integrity. As property acquisition continues within the park boundary, opportunities are present for ecological restoration and improvement of visitor experiences.

## Improving the Experience for Visitors

Reviewing all aspects of a visitor's trip is an important way to identify areas for improvement. Visitor feedback has identified demand for better website and trip planning information, showers, cleaner washrooms, bike trails, a campground store, rental equipment, improved park roads and the simpler fee structure.

## Working with the Community and Our Partners

Our neighbours and partners share many common interests with the national park. By working together to maintain a healthy upper Bruce ecosystem, facilitate outstanding visitor experiences, and provide inspiring public education, the park will be more successful in achieving its mandate and contributing to community sustainability.

## Caring for Cultural Resources

Improving our understanding of cultural resources in the park presents an opportunity to work with the Saugeen Ojibway Nations and partners to protect these resources and better incorporate cultural heritage into public education and visitor experiences. Some known archaeological sites in the park have been damaged, therefore enhanced protection efforts are required.

## Peak Summer Visitation

A high number of visitors come to the park in the peak summer period. We strive to facilitate outstanding visitor experiences with improved information and infrastructure that contribute to protecting the ecological integrity of the park.

## Engaging New Audiences

With changing demographics and increasing urbanization, Parks Canada is reaching out to engage new audiences including youth and new Canadians.



# Creating a Shared Vision

The park management plan will contain a vision for the future of the park. The vision statement will be the inspiring foundation of the plan and should contain elements that are shared by Parks Canada, First Nations, partners and stakeholders. The following proposed elements have been put forward for review:

We envision Bruce Peninsula National Park as:

## **A world renowned protected wilderness area on the edge of southern Ontario.**

- The massive, rugged cliffs of the park are inhabited by 1000 year old cedar trees, overhanging the crystal clear water of Georgian Bay. The park is comprised of an incredible array of habitats from rare alvars to dense forests and clean lakes.
- The park is a core protected area of the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve, part of an international network of biosphere reserves.

## **A team player in a network of local, regional, First Nations and national partners who:**

- Share the desire for a protected place that can be enjoyed by visitors and appreciated by Canadians.
- Share knowledge and resources to contribute to regional conservation and sustainability.

## **A place where the partnership between Parks Canada and the Saugeen Ojibway Nations is founded on mutual respect and our common interest in protecting the land and water of the peninsula.**

## **A place where the stories of the Bruce Peninsula, traditionally known as the Saugeen Peninsula, are celebrated.**

- Stories of the Saugeen Ojibway Nations and early settlers living on this land are woven with park activities and research to build respect and understanding for the natural and cultural heritage of the peninsula.

## **A destination with unsurpassed opportunities for inspired discovery of the Bruce Peninsula.**

- The breathtaking rugged shoreline scenery with sparkling waters and massive cliffs contrasts with delicate orchids, gentle beaches and wetlands to provide visitors with a wide array of opportunities to enjoy.
- World class hiking trails are a foundation for exceptional experiences here.
- New activities that encourage a personal connection and enrich the appreciation of the Bruce Peninsula are welcomed.

## How can you provide input?

Please take time to review the opportunities, challenges and vision elements and let us know your opinions through the following ways:

### **Attend an open house**

**Thursday, September 22nd, 2011**

**Where:** Tobermory Community Centre

**Time:** 1:00 pm – 9:00 pm

**Format:** Drop in to talk with park staff or come to a 30 minute presentation at 2:30pm or 6:30pm followed by small group discussions.

OR

**Saturday, September 24th, 2011**

**Where:** Parks Canada Visitor Centre

**Time:** 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

**Format:** Drop in to talk with park staff or come to a 30 minute presentation at 9:30am followed by small group discussions.

### **Share your thoughts in writing**

**Email:** [plan.brucepeninsula@pc.gc.ca](mailto:plan.brucepeninsula@pc.gc.ca)

**Mail:** Management Plan Review  
Parks Canada

P.O. Box 189, Tobermory, ON N0H 2R0

**Comment Form:** Available on reverse side or on our website at: [www.parkscanada.gc.ca/bruce](http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca/bruce)

### **Request a meeting**

If your group or organization would like to meet with park staff to discuss the management plan, please contact us at [plan.brucepeninsula@pc.gc.ca](mailto:plan.brucepeninsula@pc.gc.ca)