

Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park

Trails and Roads Subcommittee



Terms of Reference

January 2005

Mandate of the Trails and Roads Subcommittee:

The purpose of the Trails and Roads Subcommittee is to identify roads and trails that are to be recognized as pre-existing roads and trails for the purposes of the *Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park Act, 2003*, excluding the proposed new access roads. The intent of this subcommittee is to develop and submit a draft plan of the recommended motorized trail and road systems to the Management Advisory Board for consideration as recommendations for the Minister on the approved road and trail system for appropriate motorized vehicle use.

Background:

The Kawartha Highlands is an approximately 37,500 ha area of Crown land that was recommended as a protected area in the Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy. As described in the LUS, much of this large, scenic area is undisturbed, with high quality natural and recreational values. The rugged bedrock landscape contains numerous small lakes and wetlands, the shorelines of which contain uncommon eastern and southern plant species.

Subsequent land use planning exercises ultimately led to the decision to designate the Crown lands in the Kawartha Highlands as a provincial park. A special Act (the *Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park Act, 2003*) and Charter were created for the area. A provision of the Act has allowed the appointment of a Management Advisory Board which will provide advice to the Minister of Natural Resources on planning and management of the park. The Board has the mandate to establish subcommittees when necessary to assist them in their roll.

The Kawartha Highlands will be regulated as a provincial park in 2005 at which time a management plan will be developed to provide strategic direction for the use and management of the park.

Primary Activities:

- Develop a Terms of Reference
- Define/classify "road" and "trail"
- Monitor completion of the road/trail data collection
- Review inventory and recommend appropriate roads/trails for Minister's approval to the MAB
- Ensure opportunities for public input
- Develop decision making criteria to be used in the trail approval process
- Identify trails outside the scope of this mandate that provide access to the park from outside the boundary through private property

Authority:

The Roads and Trails Subcommittee may call upon outside expertise to assist in achieving their mandate as required. The subcommittee will ensure that the strategies and agreements are outward looking and inclusive, and that all resource management interests are addressed. The subcommittee will follow direction highlighted in the following reference documents:

- Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Charter
- *Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park Act*
- Ontario Parks Operations Policies and Procedures
- *Provincial Parks Act*
- Management Advisory Board Code of Conduct

Time Lines:

This subcommittee is being struck with the clear intent to present a draft recommended trail system for motorized vehicle use to the Management Advisory Board within a period of 10 months from the proclamation of the *Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park Act, 2003*. The subcommittee is recommending that public meetings be held in both May and August at an east and west location on alternate weeks to ensure an open process. Once the mandate of the subcommittee is completed, the subcommittee will be dissolved and this Terms of Reference will expire.

Reporting/Approval Requirements:

The committees' process authority will reside with the Management Advisory Board. For issues requiring policy approval recommendations, the approval authority will reside with Ontario Parks. Approval of the subcommittees' recommendations will reside with the Management Advisory Board.

Communications:

No formal external communications will be produced by this subcommittee. Communications will be limited to providing updates to the Management Advisory Board at the direction of the Chair.

Committee Membership:

The Subcommittee will consist of one member from Ontario Parks and four members from the Management Advisory Board. Other expertise will be called upon and utilized as needed.

The subcommittee will consist of the following representatives:

- GIS Database Technician, Kawartha Highlands
- 4 members, Management Advisory Board

Kim Dunford, Chair of Management Advisory Board, will act as chair, and will:

- Co-ordinate and facilitate meetings
- Provide updates and final recommendations to the Management Advisory Board
- Arrange for other Ministry staff to provide the subcommittee with additional information and support as required

Committee Logistics:

Ontario Parks shall provide administrative support to the subcommittee. Meeting summaries shall be prepared and maintained by the committee.

Location of meetings will be mutually agreed upon by subcommittee members.

Frequency: The subcommittee will meet as required. The subcommittee will attempt to reduce travel time by utilizing electronic communications where appropriate. Face to face meetings will occur when required.

Agenda items: All materials, including any pre-reading and presentation slides, are to be submitted no later than 3 working days immediately before the scheduled meeting date. Approval of agenda items will occur previous to meeting.