

Fort Willow

Management Plan 2003-2008



Prepared by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority



FORT WILLOW
IMPROVEMENT GROUP



THE FORT WILLOW MANAGEMENT PLAN

2003 - 2008

Prepared by: The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

\$5.00

**All proceeds from the sale of this document will be used for the ongoing
management of Historic Fort Willow Conservation Area**

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FOREWORD

The Management of the Fort Willow Conservation Area contributes valuable educational experiences of historical events, while providing an area for low impact recreational activities. The Fort Willow Management Plan is designed to be a concise plan, which identifies and provides actions for specific management issues, and indicates agencies and public responsibility for the implementation of recommended actions. The Management Plan is not intended to be an extensive resource management document. It is intended to be a working plan that will require annual review to ensure that the actions, which are taken, continue to meet the management needs of the Fort Willow Conservation Area users and adjacent landowners.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority would like to express their gratitude and appreciation to the following individuals and groups for their ongoing, valuable contribution to the development of the 2002 Fort Willow Management Plan.

•Harold Parker, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Past Chair, •Wayne Wilson, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority •Byron Wesson, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority •Charles Burgess, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority • Tim Salkeld, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority • Greg Bray, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority • Jillian Fairchild, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority •Keith Bacon, Fort Willow Improvement Group •William Cormode, Fort Willow Improvement Group • Harold McMaster, Fort Willow Improvement Group/ Landowner • Bernie Longson, Fort Willow Improvement Group/ Landowner •Gord Hanson, Fort Willow Improvement Group •Lynn Brennan, Friends of Minesing Swamp • Andy Gibson, Friends of Minesing Swamp • Lynn & Brian Gibbon, Brereton Field Naturalists • Lyn Downer, Royal Newfoundland Regiment • Monica Goodfellow, Simcoe County Museum • Keith Bradley, City of Barrie •Tony Guergis, Springwater Township •Doug Hamilton, Simcoe County Historical Association •Ford & Nancy Lake, Landowners • Peter & Lisa Mayer, Landowners • Ross Money General Public •George Jones, Sno Voyageurs Snowmobile Club • Bill Caswell, Barrie Canoe Club • Natalie Nolan, Georgian College, •Nigel Ward Paige, Georgian College

The Fort Willow Management Plan was accomplished through the combined efforts of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority staff and concerned individuals; Management Plan Coordinator, Katherine Alderson.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Fort Willow Conservation Area is a 3.6 hectare (9 acre) piece of land located in the southeast half of Lot 14, Concession 11 Springwater Township in Simcoe County. The Site is located 13 kilometers (8 miles) west of Barrie. The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority purchased the property in 1973 from the Barrie Chamber of Commerce.

Located in the heart of Simcoe County, on a promontory overlooking the Minesing Swamp, the Fort Willow Conservation Area is considered a significant Wilderness Fort Site. As the North Western terminus of the historic Nine Mile Portage, the site played an important role in the history of the First Nations, the French Missionaries / Explorers, the Fur Trade, the British military during and following the War of 1812, the British Naval presence on, and Hydrographical Survey of the Upper Great Lakes, Arctic Explorers, International Boundary Commissioners, and Settlers.

When complete the site consisted of nine buildings; the Commandants House, the Visiting Officers Quarters, the Officers Kitchen, the Barracks/Cookhouse, the Barracks/Storehouse, the Stable and Yard, and two blockhouses. In addition, Wilfred Jury of the University of Western Ontario discovered a brick kiln just east of the Fort's perimeter during exploratory archaeological excavation in 1959.

The decision to create the Fort Willow Management Plan was in accordance with the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority land management protocol coupled with increased interest and use of the Fort and its facilities. The plan stresses the need to provide balance between preservation and promotion of the Fort's value as a tool to educate the public on a piece of local history.

GOALS

To preserve, protect, and enhance a sustainable Heritage Site and Conservation Area for present and future generations, in order to maintain a responsible balance between ecological and heritage functions and human activities.

OBJECTIVES

1. To preserve and maintain the ecological complexities of the Fort Willow Conservation Area through sound management practices.
2. To preserve and maintain the historical and cultural integrity and spirit of the Fort Willow Heritage Site through wise use practices.
3. To promote compatible educational and recreational opportunities.
4. To generate sufficient revenues to cover management and maintenance costs.
5. To demonstrate positive aspects of partnership and the benefits of public involvement in long term resource management.

All activities undertaken to achieve the above goal and objectives are to be in strict compliance with the Ontario Heritage Act,¹ under which The Fort Willow Heritage Site is designated.

Through the development of Table 2: Action Matrix by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority and the Fort Willow Advisory Team recommended actions from Table 1: Issue Analysis have been broken down into two categories: short term priorities, and long term priorities.

SHORT TERM

There are many important actions, which need to be taken to ensure the success of the Management Plan and the long term functioning of the Fort Willow Conservation Area. During discussions with the Fort Willow Advisory Team actions have been identified as

¹ Province of Ontario, () Heritage Act. Ontario, Queens printer for Ontario

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short-term priorities to be accomplished within twelve months approval of the Fort Willow Management Plan. They include:

- Develop appropriate entrance signage, and pricing schedule.
- Support the development of the Nine Mile Portage Heritage Trail.
- Annual reports and operating budgets that ensure progress is enduring.
- Establish the Fort Willow Management Committee.
- Improve Landowner and user group relations.
- Promotion of the site as a passive recreational area.
- Safety Issue: C.P. Rail Crossing.

LONG TERM

The management of the Fort Willow Conservation Area will require long term commitment from partnerships to ensure the success of the Management Plan. The duration of certain initiatives will require no predetermined time frame and are considered long-term needing greater than twelve months. These are:

- Monitoring of the Monarch Butterflies.
- Develop additional educational programs.
- Follow up archaeological investigations.
- Create and expand partnerships.
- Undertake species inventory of local flora and fauna.
- Finding new and creative sources of funding.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Context

1.2 Purpose

1.3 Planning Process

1.4 Planning Advisory Team

1.1 CONTEXT

The Fort Willow Conservation Area is a 3.6 hectare (9 acre) piece of land located in the southeast half of Lot 14, Concession 11 Springwater Township, Simcoe County. The Fort is 13 kilometers (8 miles) west of Barrie; the site address is 2714 Grenfel Road formerly known as Concession 11 Vespra Township.

Regionally, the Fort Willow Conservation Area is in the heart of Simcoe County. Access is provided from the major population centers of Southern Ontario by the north/south principle transportation routes of Highways 400, 11 and 27, and the east / west secondary linkages of Highways 26 and County Road 90.

1.2 PURPOSE

A Conservation Area Management Plan is a document that serves as a detailed policy guide for the planning, preservation, development, and management of a site within a specific time frame. The decision to create a management plan for the Fort Willow Conservation Area developed from the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Area land management protocol coupled with the increased interest and use of the Fort and its facilities.

The Fort Willow Management Plan identifies and provides actions for specific management issues, and indicates agencies and public responsibility for the implementation of recommended actions. It provides recommendations that address specific activities known or suspect to have negative impacts on the preservation and integrity of the Fort Willow Conservation Area. The Management Plan also encourages and addresses activities having beneficial or neutral effects on the natural and heritage site features. Finally, the plan suggests means for monitoring or evaluating adopted policies, guidelines and directives.

The following list provides the steps taken in development of the Management Plan.

- 1) The identification of the Conservation Authority's objectives for management, future development, and recreational use of the Fort Willow Conservation Area.
- 2) A complete evaluation and inventory of the area's components, i.e. biological and aesthetic resources, current uses, facilities, etc.
- 3) The review and assessment of current conservation area user demands.
- 4) Recommendations for development policies to provide optimum use of the area's resources, and where appropriate provide a variety of recreational opportunities that are complimentary to ecological growth and protection.

1.3 PLANNING PROCESS

The management of the Fort Willow Conservation Area is the responsibility of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, with valuable assistance being provided by the Fort Willow Improvement Group. The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority committed one contracted and one permanent staff, as well as additional permanent staff as required to assist on the preparation of the Management Plan.

The Management Plan process was conducted in the following format:

- 1) A list of potential stakeholders was developed, and subsequently informed of the intent to create the Fort Willow Management Plan.
- 2) An information session was held where interested participants formed the Fort Willow Advisory Team, which then identified the list of issues to be addressed by the Management Plan.
- 3) A schedule of meetings was developed by the NVCA in partnership with the Advisory Team to further define and make recommendations on the best course of action pertaining to the list of issues displayed in Table 1- Issue Analysis.
- 4) An Action Matrix was developed from a list of recommended actions in Table 1 and distributed to potential stakeholders to assign responsibility for implementation of each action displayed in Table 2 – Action Matrix.

- 5) The review of all drafts of the Fort Willow Management Plan by the Advisory Team.
- 6) The final draft of the Fort Willow Management Plan is to be reviewed by the NVCA Full Authority Membership for final approval.
- 7) The Fort Willow Management Plan is to be distributed to interested stakeholders, and made available to the public at large.
- 8) The NVCA is to organize a schedule of meetings in accordance with the five-year revision detailing the Management Plan progress.

1.4 PLANNING ADVISORY TEAM

The Fort Willow Advisory Team (FWAT) was formed to involve landowners and other interested stakeholders in the decision making process of the Fort Willow Management Plan. The team consists of members from local municipality, private organizations, landowners, and other concerned individuals.

The following groups were represented on the Advisory Team:

- Barrie Canoe Club
- Brereton Field Naturalists
- City of Barrie
- Fort Willow Improvement Group (FWIG)
- Friends of Minesing Swamp (FOMS)
- Local landowners and residents
- Minesing Swamp Old Timers Club
- Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA)
- Royal Newfoundland Regiment
- Simcoe County Historical Association
- Simcoe County Museum
- Springwater Township

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 NVCA Mandate

2.2 Origins

2.3 Flora

2.4 Fauna

2.5 Hydrology

2.6 Soil

2.7 History

2.8 Recognition

2.9 Permitted Use

2.1 NVCA MANDATE

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority was established in 1960 under the Conservation Authorities Act. Its jurisdiction is comprised of watersheds of the Nottawasaga River, Pretty River, Black Ash Creek, Silver Creek, and Batteaux Creek, an area totaling 3,391 square kilometers (1,297 square miles).

The objectives of a Conservation Authority are to establish and undertake, in an 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 R.S.O. 1980, c. 85, s. 20. As such, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority has adopted the following objectives:

- To ensure that good watershed management planning practices prevail in our areas through the establishment and enforcement of Fill, Construction, and Alteration to Waterways Regulations, and through the evaluation of, and input into planning and development proposals, to accommodate conservation related concerns while recognizing, and where appropriate, overcoming environmental limitations.
- To alleviate the problems associated with, and the consequences of, erosion and sedimentation, flooding and drainage, pollution and other natural and man-made hazards, and to establish an environmental-societal balance through the implementation of a program of capital projects and technical/financial assistance.
- To improve the quality of the watershed environment and the life of its residents through the implementation of programs including reforestation, fish and wildlife habitat improvement, stream bank protection and water quality monitoring and enhancement.

- To protect, in perpetuity, environmentally significant and unique lands and resources through a program of land acquisition.
- To establish an on-going program of information and education thereby fostering a greater appreciation, knowledge and understanding of our environment and its natural resources and our efforts to manage and preserve it.
- To make available for public enjoyment and recreation, all lands acquired in conjunction with conservation projects, and to develop, manage and maintain these lands in a manner consistent with the demands made on them by public use, while preserving their environmental quality and natural integrity.

Given these objectives, a major area of interest is the twelve conservation areas in which management, conservation, education, development, and use can be implemented directly by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority consistent with, and integrating each of its objectives.²

2.2 ORIGINS

Glaciers that acted as tremendous forces of deposition and erosion, which eventually helped to shape our landscape, once covered great portions of the continent. The most recent of the glaciers was the Wisconsin, which acted as a plough as it moved. It pushed and scraped the bedrock, spreading the resultant pulverized material. As this ice sheet receded, meltwater created spillways and glacial lakes. Fort Willow is located at the shoreline of glacial Lake Payette. This shoreline rises to a maximum height of 312 meters (1025 feet) above sea level, which is 130 meters (425 feet) above the Minesing Flats. Fort Willow overlooks the Minesing Swamp on this elevated ground at a height of 213 to 221 meters (700 to 725 feet) with the northern boundary dropping off sharply to the swamp floor about 100 feet below.

² NVCA. (1996). Nottawasaga Valley Watershed Management Plan. Angus, ON: NVCA

The bedrock within this area is sedimentary, being composed of fine materials laid down in water. Through the process of cementation and compaction, the sediment became rock. The bedrock underlying the Fort Willow Conservation Area is Trenton-Black River limestone of the Ordovician Period that occurred at least 300 million years ago.

2.3 FLORA


The Fort Willow Conservation Area is within the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence forest region. The three distinct vegetation zones existing at the Fort Willow Conservation Area include: open space, deciduous bush, and mixed bush.

Open space is found in and around the Fort area. Through the process of natural succession, this open area is gradually diminishing in size. The dominant tree species are Trembling Aspen, Largetooth Aspen, and Balsam Poplar. Ground cover within this area consists of woody annuals, grasses, and mosses.

The deciduous bush partially encircles the open space area. This vegetation zone is a result of advanced primary succession where by the open space is filled in by deciduous trees. Trembling Aspen, Balsam Poplar, Largetooth Aspen, Red Oak, White Birch, and Cherry species are the dominant cover of this zone. The majority of these trees are immature with a high density.

The mixed bush zone comprises the largest portion of the Fort Willow Conservation Area. Extensive tree planting of conifers has resulted in a well-established stand that is interspersed with deciduous species. Planted evergreens include White, Red, and Scotch Pine. The deciduous trees are at various stages of growth, and include LargeTooth Aspen, Trembling Aspen, Balsam Poplar, Red Oak, White Birch, and a few Maple and Cherry species.

2.4 FAUNA

The Fort Willow Conservation Area supports a diverse variety of wildlife. Animals and birds associated with the Minesing Swamp and the surrounding forestland may be found at the site, depending upon the species' seasonal  habitat requirements.

The recent documentation of the Monarch Butterfly at the Fort Willow Conservation Area provides the opportunity to illuminate the complex flora and fauna relationships that exist at the site. Small Monarch eggs are laid on Milkweed plants in August where they hatch into caterpillars, which travel from the Milkweed to the Fort's palisade walls. The caterpillars pupate and produce their chrysalis on the palisade. Once the metamorphosis is complete, the emergent butterflies head south to over-winter in Mexico. The Monarch Butterflies habitat is threatened in both Canada and Mexico, increasing the importance of conserving Fort Willow in a manner that will provide for long term habitat requirements.

Common species to the area include Wild Turkey, Porcupine, White tailed Deer, and garter snakes. For further details pertaining to the Flora and Fauna of Fort Willow and surrounding area refer to the 2003 Minesing Swamp Management Plan species listings.

2.5 HYDROLOGY

The Fort Willow Conservation Area is a dry, sandy area up gradient of Minesing Swamp. It provides the hydrological functions of a recharge zone for Minesing Swamp. Cold calcareous springs can be found pecculating out of the surrounding glacial shorelines, these waters are considered essential to the fen areas of Minesing Swamp.

2.6 SOIL

The Fort Willow Conservation Area is composed of two soil series: the Sargeant and the Tioga-Vasey Complex.

The Sargeant Series is a gravelly sandy loam that is associated with comparatively narrow beaches of glacial age or existing lakes. This soil is in the Brown Forest Great Soil Group and is characterized by gently undulating slopes, low fertility and drought conditions.

In certain areas, in patches too small to map separately, two or more soils occur in close association. These areas are called soil complexes and are given the names of the principle soils occurring in them. The Tioga-Vasey complexes are loamy sand and sandy loam soils respectively. This complex belongs to the Podzol Great Soil Group because it is developed from well drained till material. These soils are characterized by low natural fertility and are very susceptible to erosion on steeper slopes.

2.7 HISTORY

Fort Willow and The Nine Mile Portage

On a promontory overlooking the Minesing Swamp, the Fort Willow Conservation Area is considered to be a significant Wilderness Fort Site. As the North Western terminus of the historic Nine Mile Portage, the site played an important role in the history of the First Nations, the French Missionaries / Explorers, the Fur Trade, the British military during and following the War of 1812, the British Naval presence on, and Hydrographical Survey of the Upper Great Lakes, Arctic Explorers, International Boundary Commissioners, and Settlers. Archeological excavations at Fort Willow have determined the various user groups through historical objects such as Indian pottery, clay pipes, broken crockery, brick, iron nails and chain, along with small Military and Naval artifacts.

In order to understand the history of Fort Willow, we must study the Nine Mile Portage Trail. The Nine Mile Portage Trail was originally a vital link in the First Nations water route up from Lake Ontario via the Humber River, the Carrying Place, the Holland River, Lake Simcoe, the Nine Mile Portage, and the Nottawasaga River: to Lake Huron. It is assumed that the French Missionaries and local fur traders used the Nine Mile Portage Trail as a link to outlying Huron villages, and as an established trade route. The North West Company adopted it in 1812, due to American interference on the lower Great Lake route.

Following the peace in Europe and the ending of the War of 1812, the British initiated a military build-up in Canada and a naval build-up on the Upper Great Lakes. The Nine Mile Portage was improved to accommodate ox carts and Fort Willow became one of four supply depots built in Simcoe County. When complete the site consisted of nine buildings; the Commandants House, the Visiting Officers Quarters, the Officers Kitchen, the Barracks/Cookhouse, the Barracks/ Storehouse, the Stable and Yard, and two blockhouses displayed in Figure 3. Wilfred Jury of the University of Western Ontario discovered a brick kiln just east of the perimeter during exploratory archaeological excavation in 1959.

It was a significant establishment, as supplies and provisions tended to build up awaiting onward shipment north by water. The build up was of supplies and provisions for the establishment of the Penetanguishene Naval Base and the shipbuilding operation there, as well as, supplies and provisions for points further west, which all passed this way. Troops and naval personnel, including those engaged in the Hydrographical Survey of the Upper Great Lakes, all came through Fort Willow.

Over the years pioneer settlers and famous people such as the Arctic explorer, Captain John Franklin, RN; and David Thompson, the explorer and International Boundary Commissioner, stayed overnight, presumably in Fort Willow's Visiting Officers Quarters. With the improvement of the Penetanguishene Road, the building of the Old Sunnidale

Road in 1833, and the coming of the railway, the Nine Mile Portage, Fort Willow and the small hamlet that had grown up around it, faded into history.

For further information see Appendix A. Historical Chronology.

2.8 RECOGNITION

The Ontario Archaeological and Historic Sites Board recognized the Fort Willow site as provincially significant and designated it the Willow Creek Depot. Located inside the Fort's enclosure a plaque commemorating the site was erected in 1961. In January 1999, the Fort Willow Conservation Area was acknowledged in the Official Plans of Springwater Township as a Heritage Site and an additional plaque was erected just outside the Forts enclosure.

The Fort Willow site is protected under Part VI of the Ontario Heritage Act, which states that all work done at the site must be carried out with minimal disturbance to the area. Any disturbance of the ground is to be monitored by a licensed archaeologist in accordance to requirements of the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture, and Recreation requirements.³

2.9 PERMITTED USE



Through the efforts of the Fort Willow Improvement Group, and volunteers working with the NVCA the site has been vastly improved, and now provides an appealing venue for visitors. The Fort Willow Conservation Area has become a popular place to hold meetings, gatherings, and other activities. The functions held at Fort Willow provide an excellent opportunity for learning about the historic aspect of the site through tours and reenactments.

³ Province of Ontario. (). Heritage Act. Ontario. Queens printer for Ontario

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The location of the Fort Willow Conservation Area adjacent to the Trans Canada Trail provides the opportunity for interested groups to tour the Fort as they pass through the area. Informative kiosks are provided at a variety of places within the Fort enclosure that note the Forts historical use as well as the flora and fauna of the area. A large shelter / interpretive kiosk will be completed in the fall of 2002, and will provide detailed information on the local flora and fauna with specific information on the Monarch Butterfly. Picnic tables and public washrooms at the site allow families to enjoy an afternoon learning about this important piece of Canadian history.

3.0 BASIS OF THE PLAN

3.1 PLAN BOUNDARY AND ACCESS POINTS

3.2 PRINCIPLES

3.3 POLICY CONTEXT

3.3.1 PROVINCIAL POLICY STATEMENT

3.3.2 TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGWATER OFFICIAL PLANS

3.1 PLAN BOUNDARY AND ACCESS POINTS

Figure 1 illustrates the Fort Willow Conservation Area boundary within the regional context of the Nottawasaga Valley Watershed.

The Advisory Team agreed upon the planning or study area for this management plan, illustrated in Figure 2, at the start of the planning process.

Public access to the Fort Willow Conservation Area is provided via the road allowances of George Johnson Road (County Road 28) and Portage Trail Road, or by County Road 90 and Grenfel Road. The Minesing Swamp Poster Map indicates the preferred access point to the Fort's enclosure, as well as, access to both the Trans Canada and Ganaraska Hiking Trails.

Adjacent landowners should sign property in order to designate private lands, and deter people from trespassing. Individuals have a responsibility to determine whether they are on public or private land, and should obtain the appropriate permission where necessary.

3.2 PRINCIPLES

The Fort Willow Management Plan has been based on the following principles:

- Public involvement in the development of the Fort Willow Management Plan is an integral component to its success
- The communication of information and the sharing of knowledge on the Fort Willow Conservation Area and its attributes is essential

3.3 POLICY CONTEXT

3.3.1 PROVINCIAL POLICY STATEMENT⁴

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) was issued under the authority of Section 3 of the Planning Act in 1996 (Revised 1997). It provides policy direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development. The conservation of features of significant architectural, cultural, historic, archeological or scientific interest is a matter of provincial interest.

The Fort Willow Conservation Area is identified as a cultural heritage and archeological resource. This conservation area is therefore subject to section 2.5 of the PPS.

3.3.2 TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGWATER OFFICIAL PLAN⁵

The Township of Springwater recognizes the historic value of the Fort Willow Conservation Area and as such has designated the subject lands as Institutional. Section 27 of the Townships Official plan states that “Council realizes that the maintenance of the Municipality’s cultural heritage resources will contribute to the preservation of the Township’s character by balancing the potential impact of new development and redevelopment, with the integrity of existing heritage resources. Consequently, it is the intent of the Plan that the Township’s cultural heritage resources be conserved and preserved wherever possible and that all development should occur in a manner, which respects the Township’s physical heritage. The cultural heritage resources of the Township generally include, but are not limited to archaeological sites of historic and prehistoric origins including cemeteries and unmarked burials; buildings and structural remains of historical and architectural value; rural, village and urban areas of development which are of historic and scenic interest; identified heritage districts and cultural heritage landscapes. The specific objectives of this policy are the following:

27.1.1.1 To prevent the demolition, destruction, inappropriate alteration or use of cultural heritage resources.

⁴ Province of Ontario. (revised 1997) Provincial Policy Statement. Queens printer for Ontario

⁵ Springwater Township (2000) Official Plan, Township of Springwater

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27.1.1.2 To encourage development which is adjacent to significant cultural heritage resources to be of an appropriate scale and character.

27.1.1.3 To consult and seek the advice of the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee when making decisions regarding the conservation of cultural heritage in the Township.

27.1.1.4 To encourage and foster public awareness, participation and involvement in the preservation, improvement and utilization of cultural heritage resources.

27.1.1.5 To support the creation of a heritage resource information base, resulting in comprehensive heritage site inventories and heritage master plans

The Fort Willow Conservation Area is subject to these cultural heritage policies.

4.0 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 GOALS

4.2 OBJECTIVES

4.1 GOALS

The following goals and objectives were developed through the collective efforts of the Advisory Team and the NVCA during the initial stages of the planning process.

To preserve, protect, and enhance a sustainable Heritage Site and Conservation Area for present and future generations, in order to maintain a responsible balance between ecological and heritage functions and human activities.

4.2 OBJECTIVES

1. To preserve and maintain the ecological complexities of the Fort Willow Conservation Area through sound management practices.
2. To preserve and maintain the historical and cultural integrity and spirit of the Fort Willow Heritage Site through wise use practices.
3. To promote compatible educational and recreational opportunities.
4. To generate sufficient revenues to cover management and maintenance costs.
5. To demonstrate positive aspects of partnership and the benefits of public involvement in long term resource management.

All activities undertaken to achieve the above goal and objectives are to be in strict compliance with the Ontario Heritage Act, under which The Fort Willow Heritage Site is designated.⁶

The goals, objectives, and recommendations of the Fort Willow Management Plan will be implemented through land use planning documents and local agency policies and programs. They will take into account the inputs of the Fort Willow Advisory Team, which consists of local landowners, residents, and other special interest parties. The need for revisions to the plan will be determined by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation

⁶ Province of Ontario. () Heritage Act. Ontario. Queens printer for Ontario

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Authority through the review of information gathered by the Advisory Teams members and general public at large. A schedule of meetings will be developed in accordance to a five-year report that will ensure the review process is regular and ongoing.

5.0 ISSUE IDENTIFICATION

5.1 ISSUE IDENTIFICATION

5.2 TABLE 1: ISSUE ANALYSIS

5.3 IMPLEMENTATION

5.4 TABLE 2: ACTION MATRIX

5.1 ISSUE IDENTIFICATION

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority in partnership with the Fort Willow Advisory Team identified the following issues.

1. The need for recognized guidelines that address the day-to-day use of the Fort Willow Conservation Area.
2. The need for recognized guidelines addressing Special Event Coordination at the Fort Willow Conservation Area.
3. The promotion of educational awareness of the local flora and fauna, with emphasis on the Monarch Butterfly.
4. Developing educational programs and forming partnerships with school groups, naturalists, hikers, and history enthusiasts
 - The Historical interpretation based on the First Nations, Fur Traders, Voyagers, Military, Explorers, and Settlers who used the Fort Willow Conservation Area throughout history.
 - The ecological interpretation of the Fort Willow Conservation Area's landscape and local flora and fauna.
5. The support of efforts in identification and development of the Nine-Mile Portage Heritage Trail.
6. Develop self-sustaining funding and fundraising initiatives.

5.2 ISSUE ANALYSIS

Table 1: Issue Analysis Recommended actions and measures of success associated with the Fort Willow Conservation Area issues and management objectives

Issue: 1	The need for recognized guidelines that address the day-to-day use of the Fort Willow Conservation Area.
Management Objectives	Maintain the FWCA as a passive recreational area geared towards low impact activities. Devise appropriate signage to direct permitted activities at FWCA.
Recommended Actions	Appropriate signage to address guidelines for activities at FWCA, to include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The site is a Natural Hazard Area, use at your own risk. ▪ The site is for day use only; no camping or overnight activities ▪ No barbeques, or hibachis on this site or in the parking lot. ▪ No alcoholic beverages ▪ All dogs must be leashed. Please adhere to poop and scoop procedures. ▪ No fires without NVCA approval. ▪ In the event of an emergency call 911. The site address is 2714 Grenfel Road. ▪ For non-emergency calls please contact the NVCA at (705) 424-1479.
Measures of Success	The FWCA is classified as a Heritage site under the Official Plans of Springwater Township. Current Zoning: Institutional / Proposed Zoning: Institutional Appropriate signage in development The installation of a steel gate at the parking entrance, and a rail fence around parking enclosure, provided by the FWIG. The Neighborhood Watch Program is in effect for this area
Issue: 2	The need for recognized guidelines addressing special events coordination at the Fort Willow Conservation Area (FWCA). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety Issue: Rail Road crossing hazard.
Management Objectives	Maintain the FWCA as a passive recreational area geared towards low impact activities. Devise appropriate signage to direct permitted activities at FWCA. The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) is to be responsible for the organization of special events at the FWCA. See Appendix b. Special Events Checklist
Recommended Actions	Appropriate signage to address guidelines for activities at FWCA. Additional signage required at the main line rail crossing on Grenfel Road.
Measures of Success	The FWCA is classified as a Heritage site under the Official Plans of Springwater Township Current Zoning : Institutional Proposed Zoning : Institutional The Fort Willow Special Event Check List

Issue: 3	The promotion of educational awareness of the local flora and fauna, with emphasis on the Monarch Butterfly
Management Objectives	Provide information of the flora and fauna of the FWCA.
Recommended Actions	Volunteer monitoring of the monarch butterfly to be included in the annual report of the FWCA Assess future potential for classification as a Butterfly reserve
Measures of Success	Approval and funding acquired for the building of an interpretive kiosk at the FWCA, which will incorporate interpretive signage, providing information on the local flora and fauna. A panel of the kiosk will include specific information pertaining to the Monarch Butterfly, completion date fall 2002.
Issue: 4	Developing educational programs and forming partnerships with school groups, naturalists, hikers, and history enthusiasts.
Management Objectives	Provide the means for self-guided tours including informational kiosks where visitors may educate themselves. Passive utilization of the site as an outdoor classroom venue for teaching the local history of the First Nations, Fur Trade, Voyageurs, Military, Settlers, and Explorers.
Recommended Actions	Encourage and provide for the utilization of the FWCA. Encourage additional partnership with the Simcoe Museum and other interested parties to promote the FWCA. Develop pricing schedules to apply to the FWCA.
Measures of Success	The initiative by the Simcoe County Museum and NVCA to provide tours and educational programs at the FWCA
Issue: 5	The support of efforts in identification and development of the Nine-Mile Portage Trail.
Management Objectives	Support the identification of the Nine Mile Portage Trail, from Barrie to the FWCA. Assist where appropriate the development of the Nine Mile Portage Heritage Trail from Barrie to Fort Willow as a low impact hiking trail.
Recommended Actions	Install historical plaques marking the locations where the Nine Mile Portage Heritage Trail crossed the various concession roads. Follow up archaeological investigations in the field will be necessary to verify the information provided in the Fort Willow Improvement Group research information package.

Fort Willow Management Plan

Measures of Success	<p>The initiative by the City of Barrie, NVCA, and the Township of Springwater to develop the Nine Mile Portage Heritage Trail.</p> <p>The FWIG research into the history of Fort Willow and the Nine Mile Portage from Kempenfelt Bay to Willow Landing establishes the Nine Mile Portage Concession line intersections and the location of Fort Willow.</p> <p>The FWIG is represented on the planning group for this initiative.</p>
Issue: 6	Develop self sustaining Funding and Fundraising Initiatives.
Management Objectives	<p>Generate sufficient funds to cover ongoing management costs.</p> <p>A management and Funding/ Fundraising Committee shall be appointed to advise and prepare recommendations to the NVCA in the areas of maintenance, funding, and fundraising initiatives that directly apply to the FWCA.</p>
Recommended Actions	<p>Prepare in detail the operating budget for the fiscal year, to include the direction of all monies received.</p> <p>Development of a pricing schedule to accommodate school groups and other interested parties.</p>
Measures of Success	<p>Voluntary Entrance Fee of \$2 is requested. Fee stations are located at both entrances.</p> <p>The initiative by the Simcoe County Museum and NVCA will potentially increase funding for the FWCA, through tours, and donations.</p>

5.3 IMPLEMENTATION

The goals and objectives of the Fort Willow Management Plan will be met through a variety of methods and techniques. Table 2: Action Matrix provides a summary of the key recommended actions and indicates the stakeholder responsibility for implementing those options. The Advisory Committee worked to develop a comprehensive action matrix, which addresses the issues discussed throughout this plan. The matrix presents a condensed list of the issues identified in the previous section as well as designating various levels of responsibility to stakeholders.

The **Lead** stakeholder(s) is the one who is responsible for implementation and coordination of actions. **Direct** involvement means that input would be required, and **Advisory** means that a particular stakeholder could provide input.

The matrix also indicates whether the action is within the time frame of a short term, or a long-term project. A section is provided to indicate which actions are high, medium, or low priorities. Finally a funding status is given to each action as being within current budget, or requires additional funding. Sources of funding will vary, but may include Fort Willow Improvement Group initiatives, government grants, and assistance from various local organizations.

Inevitably, constraints exist that will often hinder the implementation and success of certain options. Most significant are the constraints of funding and human resources. Reduced funding to local Ministries, Conservation Authorities, and Municipalities, directly impedes the ability to effectively manage resources such as the Fort Willow Conservation Area. Nevertheless, the conservation and management of the Fort Willow Conservation Area is a top priority with the NVCA, FWIG, local residents, and interested groups. As a result, these key stakeholders will utilize all resources available to ensure that the Fort Willow Conservation Area will continue to provide historical and recreational activities to the general public.

In addition to the action matrix, recommended actions can be implemented through a variety of other ways. They may include:

- Through Ontario land use planning system by providing input into municipal planning documents (e.g. Official Plans, Comprehensive Zoning By-Laws)
- The preparation of sub-watershed plans
- Local agency policy, programs and procedures.
- The NVCA's and MNR's land stewardship initiatives
- The establishment of partnerships, including agreements with various government Ministries and local Municipalities.
- Through appropriate land acquisition with the Nature Conservancy Canada
- Through stakeholder interest and actions

It is important to note that all stakeholders have an important role in the implementation of this Plan. With cooperation from all stakeholders the resources and interest in the Fort Willow Conservation Area can be managed effectively and consistently.

SHORT TERM ACTIONS

It is quite clear that there are many important actions, which need to be taken to ensure the success of this Plan, and the long term functioning of the Fort Willow Conservation Area. During various discussions with the Advisory Team membership actions have been identified as key short-term priorities to be accomplished within twelve months.

They are:

- Develop appropriate entrance signage, and pricing schedule.
- Support the development of the Nine Mile Portage Heritage Trail.
- Annual reports and operating budgets that ensure progress is enduring.
- Establish the Fort Willow Management Committee.
- Improve Landowner and user group relations.
- Promotion of the site as a passive recreational area.
- Safety Issue: C.P. Rail Crossing.

LONG TERM ACTIONS

There are also various actions, which will continue to be under way for sometime, and will be reviewed in accordance to the recommended five year report which will contain detailed information on the progress of on-going and future concerns to be addressed by the Fort Willow Management Plan. These include:

- Monitoring of the Monarch Butterflies.
- Development of additional educational programs.
- Follow up archaeological investigations.
- Create and expand partnerships.
- Undertake species inventory of local flora and fauna.
- Finding new and creative sources of funding.

5.4 ACTION MATRIX

Table 2 Fort Willow Action Matrix- Responsibilities for Implemented Actions

Legend

Stakeholder Role	Priority	Time Frame	Fundraising Requirements
Lead=L	High=H	Short Term=ST	Within current budget=✓
Direct=D	Medium=M	Long Term=LT	Requiring Funding= \$
Advisory=A	Low=L		

FORT WILLOW CONSERVATION AREA ACTION MATRIX RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	KEY PLAYERS IN IMPLEMENTATION										STATUS			
	NVCA	SPRINGWATER TOWNSHIP	CITY OF BARRIE	FWIG	BRERETON FIELD NATURALISTS	SIMCOE COUNTY MUSEUM	FOMS	SIMCOE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASN	LANDOWNERS / RESIDENTS	OTHER INTERESTED GROUPS	FORT WILLOW MANAGEMENT	PRIORITY	TIME FRAME	FUNDING REQUIREMENTS
1. Develop appropriate signage	L	A	A	D	/	/	/	/	D	/	/	H	ST	✓
2. Develop a pricing schedule to accommodate interested parties	L	/	/	A	/	/	/	/	/	/	A	H	ST	✓
3. Monitor Monarch Butterflies	A	/	/	A	L	/	/	/	/	A	/	L	LT	✓
4. Develop educational program for the Fort Willow Conservation Area	L	A	A	/	/	/	/	A	/	A	A	H	LT	\$
5. Follow up archaeological investigation	L	A	A	A	/	/	/	/	A	/	A	L	LT	\$
6. Create and expand partnerships	L	A	A	L	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	M	LT	✓
7. Development of the Nine Mile Portage Heritage Trail	A	A	A	A	/	/	/	/	/	L	/	H	ST	\$
8. Identification of local flora and fauna		/	/	A	A	/	/	/	/	A	/	M	LT	✓
9. Prepare annual operating budget	L	/	/	A	/	/	/	/	/	/	A	H	ST	\$
10. Establish a management committee	L	A	/	A	/	A	/	/	A	/	/	H	ST	✓
11. Finding new and creative sources of funding	L	A	/	A	/	/	A	/	/	A	/	H	LT	\$
12. Improve landowner and user group relations	L	A	/	D	/	/	/	/	A	/	L	H	ST	✓
13. Retain the site as a passive recreational area	L	A	/	A	/	/	/	/	/	/	A	H	ST	✓
14. Self policing	L	L	/	A	/	/	/	/	A	/	A	H	ST	✓
15. Safety issue: C. P. Rail crossing	L	D	/	A	/	/	/	/	/	/	A	H	ST	\$

6.0 MONITORING

6.1 EVALUATION

6.2 MONITORING PROGRAMS

6.3 PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATE

6.1 EVALUATION

In order to evaluate the success of the Management Plan, the implementation of actions must be monitored and reviewed annually. Two types of monitoring programs are necessary in order to evaluate the actions outlined in Section 5.0 and implement successful monitoring programs.

6.2 MONITORING PROGRAMS

1. PROGRAM TO MONITOR USERS AND THEIR IMPACTS

- Monitor the use of the Fort Willow site and its facilities. Encourage activities that have minimal negative impact to the site.

2. PROGRAM TO MONITOR SIGNIFICANT FLORA AND FAUNA COMMUNITIES

- Volunteer monitoring to be accomplished by the FWIG, on the monarch butterfly and included in the annual report for the FWCA
- Continually assess future potential for classification as a Butterfly reserve

6.3 PLAN AND REVIEW UPDATE

The Fort Willow Management Plan has been developed for a five year planning period. An annual report will be produced by the NVCA to indicate the actions implemented over the last twelve months. The report will also show the effects of these actions on the Fort Willow Conservation Area. It will also include the progress made on short term actions outlined in Section 5.3.

By 2008, a major review of the plan should be conducted to ensure the goals, objectives and implemented actions are still meeting the needs of the Fort and its users. Until this time, the Fort Willow Management Committee will meet annually to discuss the status of the Fort's management programs and make recommendations as required. Stakeholders and other groups will be required to update the Fort Willow Management Committee on the status of the particular action(s) they were required to help implement.

GLOSSARY

This glossary is a summary of common terms used throughout the Fort Willow Management Plan. These definitions are in the context of this Management Plan. Many of these definitions were obtained from the glossary of the Nottawasaga Valley Watershed Plan.

Biodiversity –The diversity of life on earth, consisting of genetic diversity, species diversity, and ecosystem diversity

Conservation – The protection, improvement, and wise use of natural resources according to principles that will assure their highest economic or social benefits for humans and their environment, now and in the future.

Corridor – The naturally vegetated or potentially re-vegetated areas that link or border natural areas and provide ecological functions such as habitat, passage, hydrological flow, connection, or buffering from adjacent impacts. They can also occur across or along uplands, lowlands, or slopes.

Crown Land –Lands owned by the Province

Ecosystem – An ecosystem consists of the air, land, water, and living organisms, including humans, and their interactions among them. It includes the community of living things and the complex of physical and chemical factors forming the environment.

Environmental Impact Study – A study prepared in accordance with established procedures to identify and assess the impacts of development on a particular significant natural heritage feature.

Erosion – The removal of weathered materials from their source area.

FWIG – Fort Willow Improvement Group

FOMS – Friends of Minesing Swamp

Goal – The aim or vision of stakeholders towards an ideal state of Fort Willow.

Groundwater – Water found in the region below the surface of the ground.

Habitat – The place or type site where an animal or plant naturally or normally lives.

Land Stewardship – Actions and attitudes taken by landowners and residents, which demonstrate awareness of environmental issues and concerns.

Low-impact – A trail or recreational development that is created with minimal disturbance/impact to the local flora and fauna

MOEE – Ministry of Environment and Energy

MNR – Ministry of Natural Resources

MWV – Motorized Wheeled Vehicles

Natural Heritage – Natural heritage is a concept used across North America as framework and context for initiatives to conserve and steward natural areas, species, and ecosystems at risk. Natural heritage includes geological features and landforms; associated terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems; their plant species, populations and communities; and all native animal species, their habitats and sustaining environment.

NVCA – Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

Objective – A quantifiable target to be achieved.

Partnerships – a working relationship between the NVCA, government agencies, special interest groups, and landowners in order to improve efficiency, communication, preservation, and conservation and also to share decisions and expenditures related to management.

Preservation – Ensuring that significant natural resources remain in their natural state and are not threatened by any changes in land use.

Significant – Natural features and functions that are ecologically important to the natural environment in terms of amount, content, representation, or effect, thereby contributing to the quality and integrity of an identifiable ecological region or natural heritage system.

Stakeholder – An individual who has a vested interest in Minesing Swamp.

Swamp – Wooded wetlands that are flooded either seasonally or for long periods.

Tributaries – A stream that flows into a larger stream or body of water.

Watershed – The land drained by a river and its tributaries.

Wetland – Lands that are seasonally or permanently covered by shallow surface water, as well as lands where the water table is close to or at the surface. The presence of abundant water causes the formation of hydric soils and favours the dominance of either hydrophytic or water tolerant plants. The four major types of wetlands are swamps, marshes, bogs, and fens.

APPENDIX

- a. HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY**
- b. SPECIAL EVENTS CHECKLIST**

Appendix a. HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY

1812	Nine Mile Portage officially adopted by the North West Company
1814	Nine Mile Portage developed as an alternate route for transporting military supplies and men
1820	Area surrounding the swamp is surveyed and opened for settlement Five of the eight buildings at Fort Willow are reportedly burned down
1821	North West Company ceases to use the Nine Mile Portage
1828	Nine Mile Portage ceased to be a feasible route for the British military
1830	Nine Mile Portage ceased to be used by other fur traders
1835	Fort Willow site surveyed by John Goesman and reported to be completely burned down
Early 1950s	Fort Willow site purchased by the Barrie Chamber of Commerce
1959	Dr. Wilfred Jury et al. excavate Fort Willow and uncover nine sites
1961	Historical plaque commemorating Fort Willow is erected by the Ontario Archaeological and Historic Sites Board
1967	Soldiers from the Combat Arms School at CFB Borden construct a replica of a powder house and erect three sides of the palisade as a Centennial Project

Fort Willow Management Plan

- 1973** Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority purchases the Fort Willow site from the Barrie Chamber of Commerce
- 1974** Reports indicate that only piles of rotting palisade timber, a vandalized log house, and a partially reconstructed palisade are all that remain of the previous reconstruction work at Fort Willow
- 1995** The Fort Willow Improvement Group is created to work with the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority in preserving, restoring, and promoting the Fort Willow Conservation Area
- 1999** Township of Springwater recognizes Fort Willow as a Springwater Heritage Site

Appendix b. The Fort Willow Conservation Area Special Event Coordination Checklist

Administration Fee	Separate cheque, See NVCA
Damage Deposit	Separate cheque, See NVCA
Liability Insurance	See NVCA / Springwater Township Clerk's Office
Event License Fee	Available at Springwater Township Clerks Office
Parade Patrol	See Huronia West OPP, Wasaga Beach
Police Required	See Huronia West OPP, Wasaga Beach
Health Unit	Notify health unit if your event is serving food, Springwater Township
First Aide Services	On site first aid services required- name service provider
Vendors	Submit a list of all vendors including name, address, & products being sold to Springwater Township Clerks Office
Road Closure Approval	See Springwater Township Work/ Policy & Planning Division
Hydro	Hydro is not available at the Site
Noise Control	See Springwater Township Noise By-law
Animal Exemptions	Forward letter requesting exemption to Springwater Townships Clerks Office
Fireworks/ Open Fire	Approval acquired through NVCA/ Springwater Township
Signage	See Springwater Township Clerks Office.

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MAPPING SERVICES
TECHNICAL SERVICES SECTION

FORT WILLOW CONSERVATION AREA REGIONAL CONTEXT

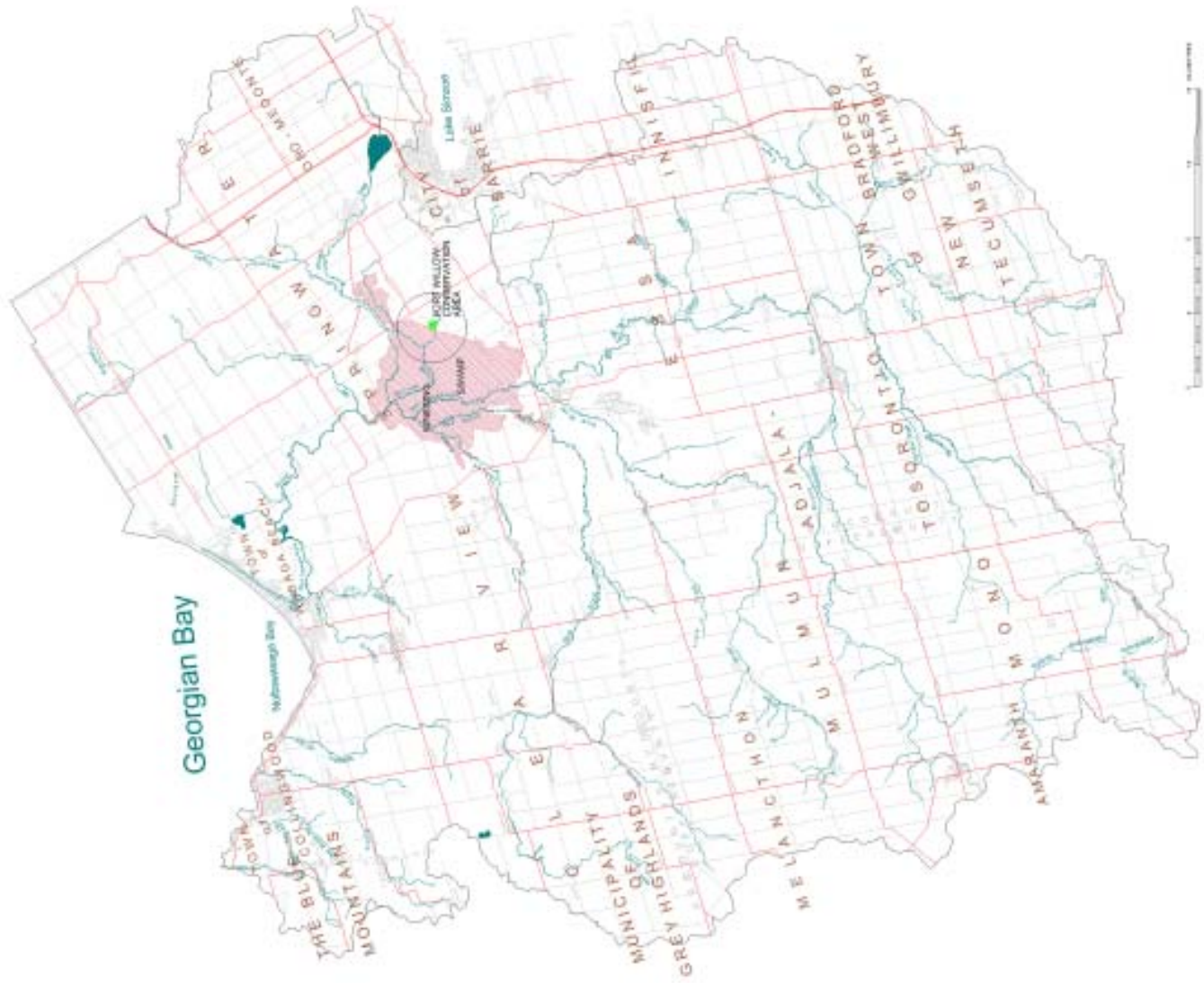
FIGURE 1

LEGEND
WETLAND BOUNDARY
M.V.C.A. BOUNDARY



NOTE: The wetland boundary is a general indication of wetland location and is not a guarantee. Actual ground location is subject to a detailed wetland assessment.

DATE: 05/2011	REVISED: 05/2011
DRAWN BY: T.S.P.	SCALE: 1:50,000
PROJECT NO.: 03-018	FILE: 030301801





Nottawasaga Valley
Conservation Authority

MAPPING SERVICES
TECHNICAL SERVICES SECTION

FORT WILLOW LANDS

FIGURE 2

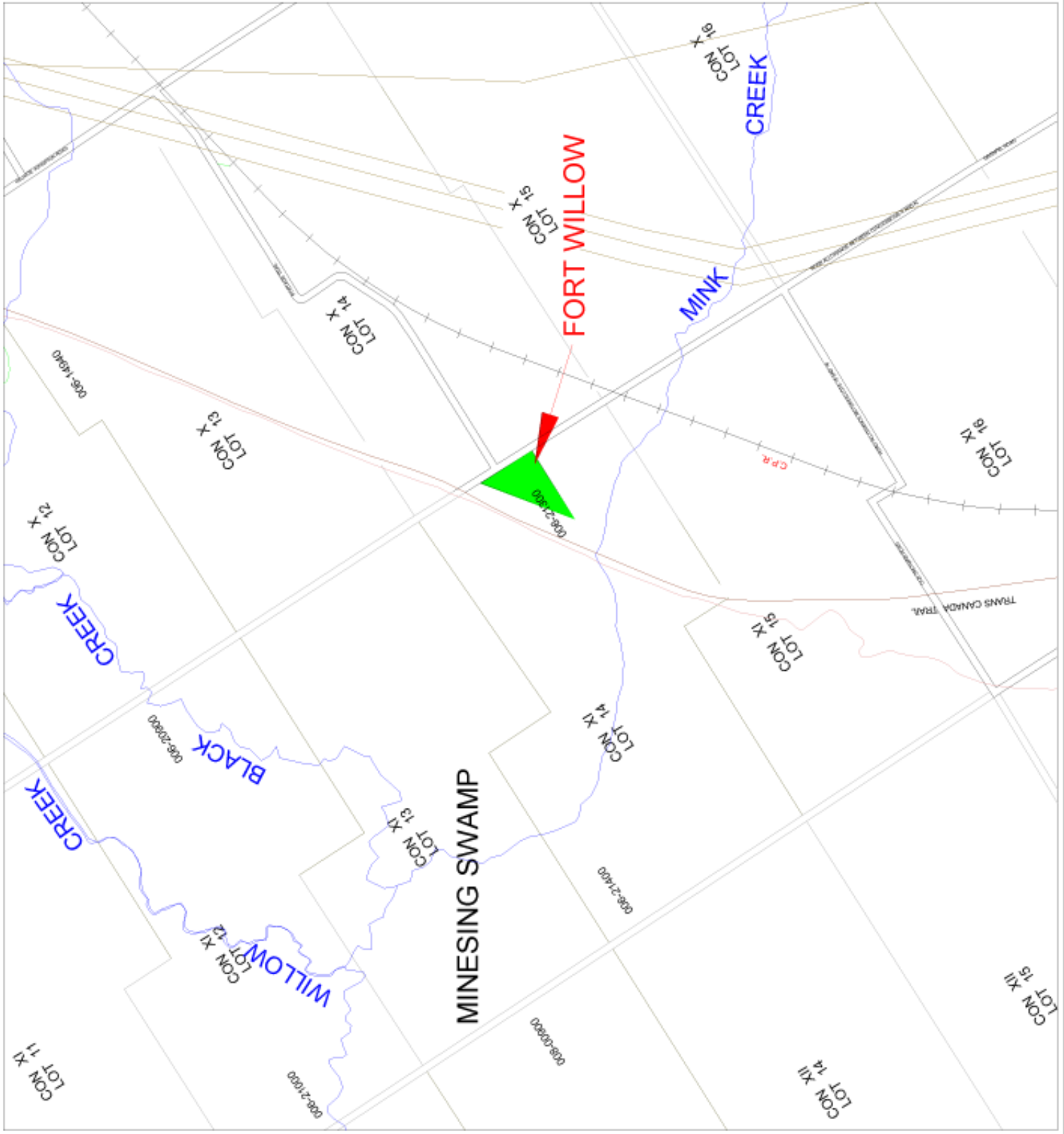
LEGEND

- ROAD
- ACCESSWAY
- TRAIL
- RAILROAD
- TRANSMISSION LINES
- WETLAND BOUNDARY



NOTE: The wetland boundary is a general line based on preliminary M.N.R. wetland evaluation. Actual ground location is subject to a detailed wetland evaluation.

DRAWN BY:	H.C.	DATE PLOTTED:	JUNE 2002
DESIGNED BY:	T.M.P.	SCALE:	AS SHOWN
CHECKED BY:	E.C.H.	FILE:	WILLOW2.DWG

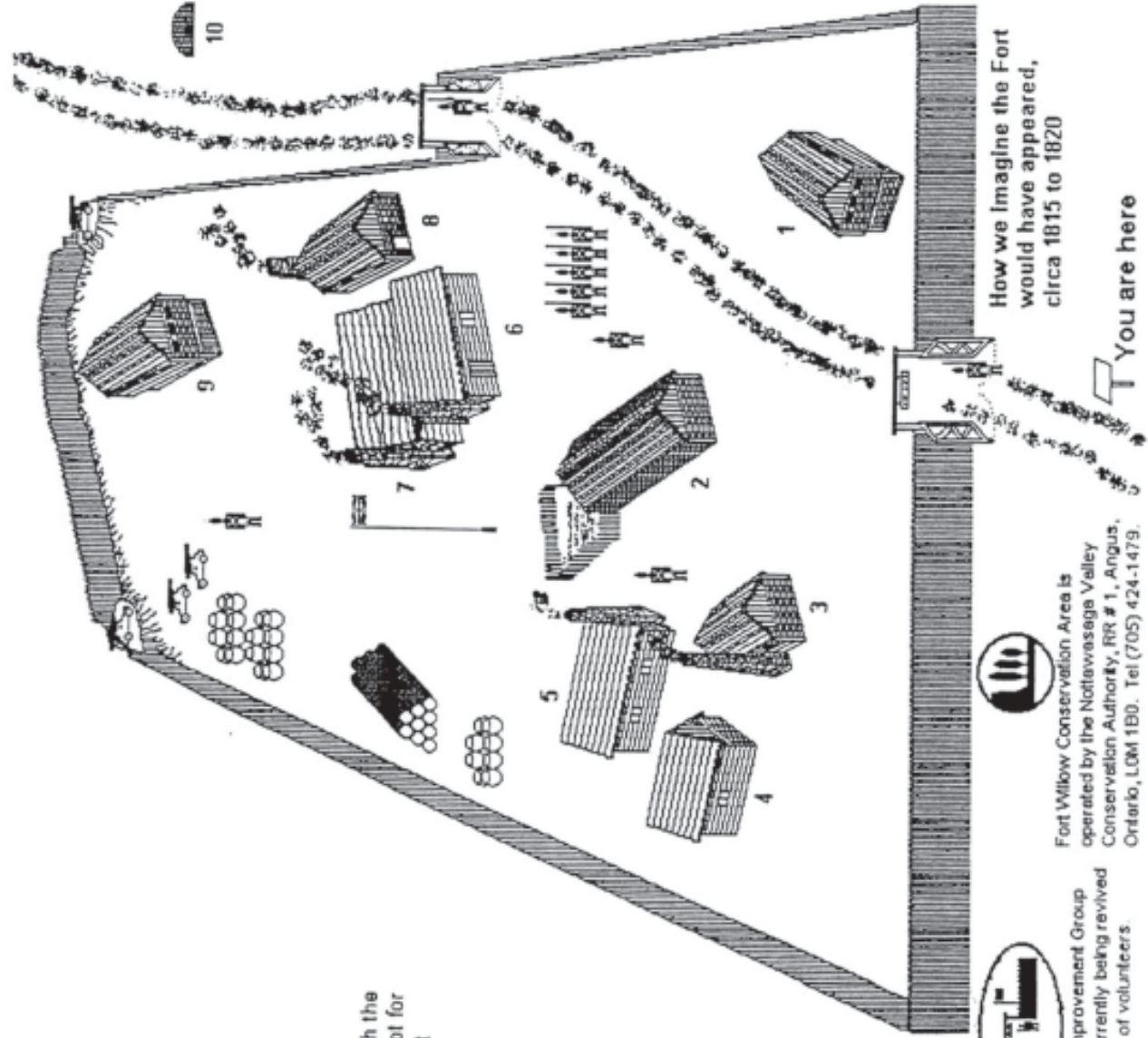


Fort Willow

During the War of 1812, Fort Willow, in conjunction with the Nine Mile Portage, was a key British Army supply depot for goods and men in transit to support the vital garrison at Fort Michilimackinac.

Legend -

1. Blockhouse 24 ft x 17 ft, provided accommodation for soldiers and a defensible position.
2. Stable 32 ft x 19 ft, housed horses and oxen used to haul wagons on the portage.
3. Blacksmith 18 ft x 17 ft, where horseshoes, nails, and hardware was made.
4. Storehouse and Barracks 43 ft x 17 ft, built in 1815.
5. Cookhouse 28 ft x 14 ft, where food for other ranks was prepared.
6. Visiting Officers' Quarters 35 ft x 20 ft, housed officers in transit on the portage route.
7. Commandant's House 30 ft x 26 ft, residence of Officer commanding the fort.
8. Kitchen 25 ft x 17 ft, where food for Commandant and visiting officers was prepared.
9. Blockhouse 24 ft x 17 ft, provided accommodation for soldiers and a defensible position.
10. Brick Kiln. Bricks made for fireplaces and chimneys using local clay deposits.



Fort Willow Conservation Area is operated by the Notliwasaga Valley Conservation Authority, RR # 1, Angus, Ontario, L0M 1B0. Tel (705) 424-1479.



Fort Willow Improvement Group. The site is currently being revived by this group of volunteers.

How we imagine the Fort would have appeared, circa 1815 to 1820

You are here