

SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREA - LIFE SCIENCE CHECKSHEET

Name O'Donnell Point Provincial Nature Reserve Park	Map Name Sans Souci	Map Number 41 H/1	UTM Ref. 760915
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County, District or Regional Municipality (s) Muskoka	Latitude 45° 12'	Longitude 80° 02'	Min. 185m	ALTITUDE	Max. 200m
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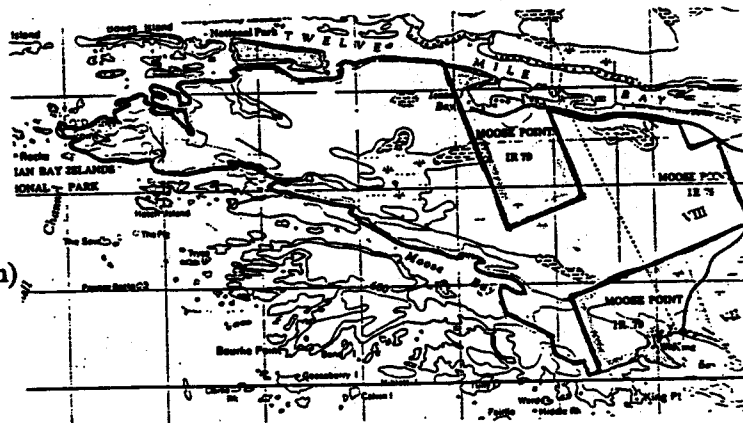
Locality 35 km south of Parry Sound

Area ca. 787 ha.

Township(s)

NTS Map Showing Area Boundaries

Georgian Bay Township



Ownership Crown

Administration Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

Site Region and District SE-7 (Parry Sound)	MNR Region and District Parry Sound (Algonquin)
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Aerial Photographs	Roll	Flight Line	Numbers

Physical and Biological Features

probably not!

A complex pattern of bare granitic ridges and outcrops covered in grass, herb and scrub vegetation (Common Juniper, *Danthonia spicata*, blueberry) amongst early successional upland forest and an intricate series of bedrock controlled wetlands characterize the site. The ridge and outcrop forests are in thin sandy soil and dominated by Red Oak, White Pine, Jack Pine, Red Pine, White Birch, Red Maple, White Ash, White Birch and Trembling Aspen in various combinations of deciduous, mixed and coniferous vegetation. More substantial stands of Red Maple, Red Oak and White Ash develop in deeper, less arid soil conditions in from the lake shore, leading to small pockets of young late successional Red Maple, Eastern Hemlock, Yellow Birch forest in mesic sites not severely affected by the extensive fires which affected the park in the 1920s.

Wetlands vary from rich associations of submerged, emergent and/or floating aquatics along the lakeshore to small mogs, thicket swamps and extensive peatlands. Open graminoid bog mats are commonly associated with thicket swamp margins (Speckled Alder, White Cedar) and coniferous swamp forest (Black Spruce, Larch, White Cedar, Balsam Fir). The largest graminoid bog (at 41 H/1 745922) is almost 40 ha in size and supports a rich and diverse flora.

(Cont'd on next page)

Major Information Sources

H. SIMPSON. 1980. A Preliminary Life Science Inventory of O'Donnell Point Candidate Nature Reserve. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Huntsville; T. NOBLE. 1983. Biophysical Analysis, Site Region 5E, Algonquin Region. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Huntsville; aerial reconnaissance, this study.

Evaluation and Priorities

Provincially Significant wetland and upland complex

Date Compiled

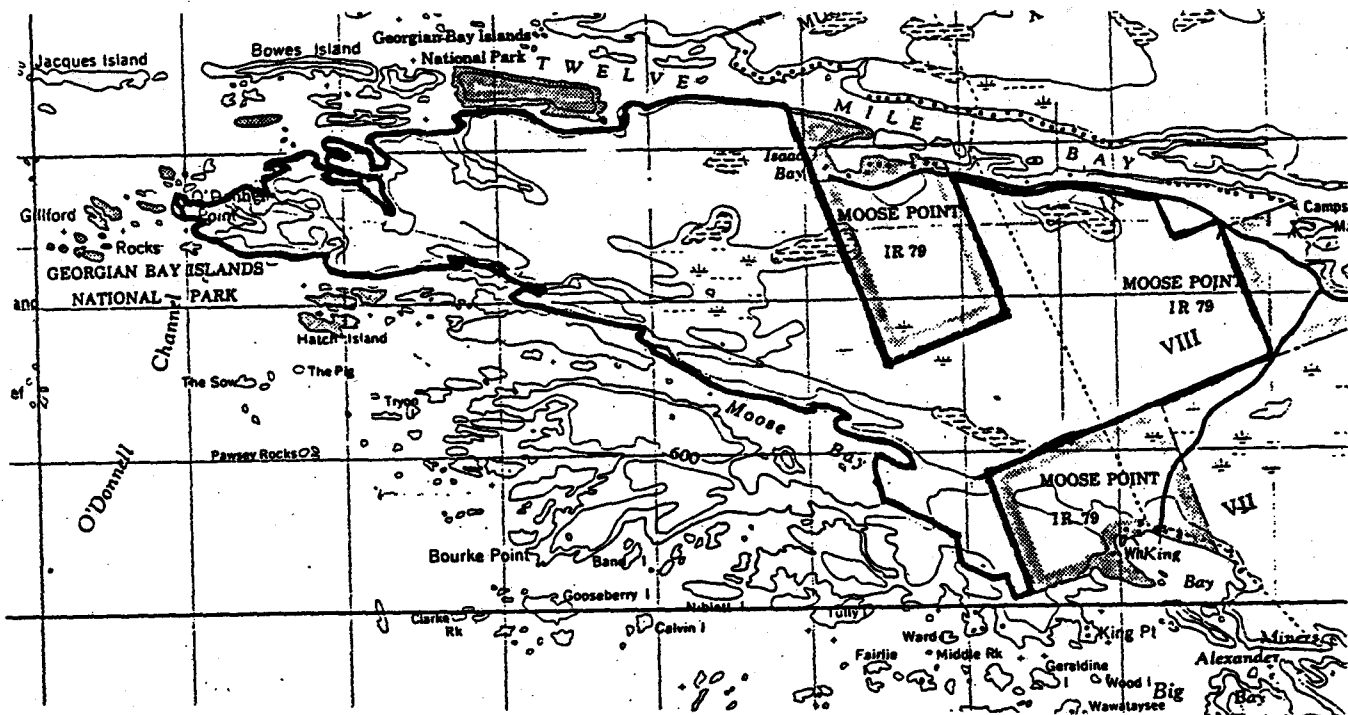
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Compiler

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O'Donnell Point Provincial Nature Reserve Park (1: 50,000 scale)



Significance Criteria:

REPRESENTATION - unsurpassed concentration of Georgian Bay faunal and floral elements plus excellent representation of shallow peatland habitats and bedrock barrens; shares representation with provincially significant Blackstone Harbour Provincial Park Candidate NRZ/ANSI, Beausoleil and Associated Islands ANSI, French River Waterway Park (Delta) Candidate NRZ and Pointe au Baril Candidate ANSI.

DIVERSITY - exceptional native floral and faunal diversity; particularly rich in reptile fauna.

CONDITION - extensive forest fires affected area in 1920s; intensive shoreline development only on adjacent areas beyond park.

ECOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS - larger area isolated from significant adjacent impacts on lightly developed Crown land and restricted extent of adjacent Indian reserve; represents protected lands within provincial nature reserve park and abutting National Park at western boundary.

SPECIAL FEATURES - rich herpetofauna, including Endangered Spotted Turtle, provincially rare Eastern Fox Snake, Hog-nosed Snake and Massasauga Rattlesnake and regionally significant Eastern Ribbon Snake, Four-toed Salamander, Five-lined Skink, and Map, Musk Blanding's Turtles; provincially rare Prairie Warbler also found in the park in substantial numbers.

- three nationally rare plant species (*Listera australis*, *Scirpus smithii* and *Bartonia panic*) and provincially rare *Platanthera blephariglottis* are found here, the latter species in exceptional abundance.