

## Inventory of AOO Land Claim Parcels 83F1 and 83F2 – New Information

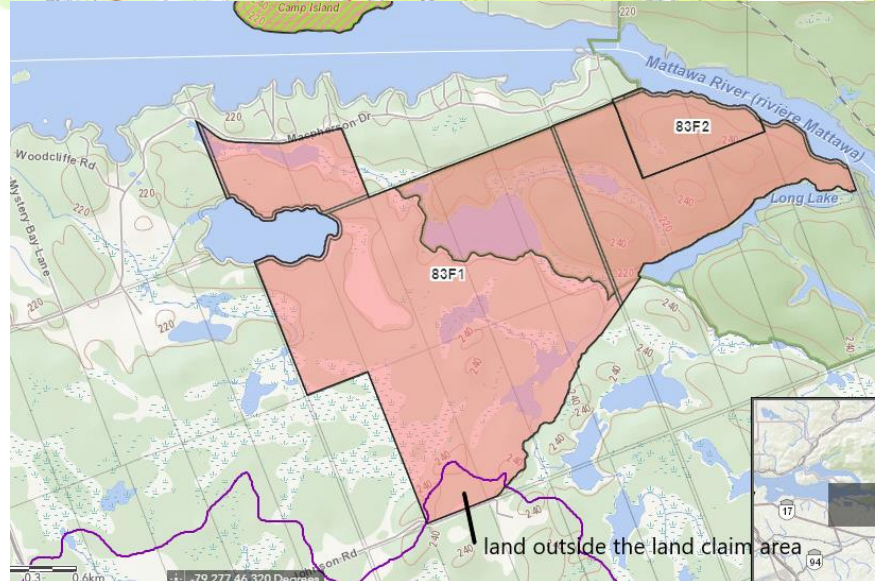
The Algonquins of Ontario are claiming settlement parcels in East Ferris Township, south and east of MacPherson Drive. These settlement parcels are partially within the Mattawa River Provincial Park (Park area is identified below in green). These parcels were subject to the public review held in 2017. At that time the community surrounding these lands identified that the wetland on these settlement parcels was home to species at risk. They also (we have been made aware) identified local uses of said parcels which included hiking trails, mountain bike trails, camp sites, portages, canoe routes as well as ATV and snowmobile trails. Yet the 2017 Environmental Evaluation Report concluded that the transfer of these lands which would remove them from Crown and Provincial Park protection, would have **"no anticipated net effect associated with the transfer of proposed settlement lands into AOO ownership"**. This conclusion shocked those that provided input and has generated mistrust that a "proper" evaluation is being conducted. We decided to do our own evaluation of said lands and file the following information which documents our findings.

Based on our assessment we can attest that the identified uses of these settlement parcels are legitimate. We can further attest that our survey suggests this area has archaeological potential, glacial outlet features and unique landscapes. It is our opinion these parcels deserve a second look before land is disposed of by the province.

Map of Trail System



Lands evaluated in 2017 which discredited the input of local residents





We observed (November 10, 2020):



13 km of colour coded and flagged hiking trails. Maps are posted at intersections to provide direction





Land is hummocky with thin soil cover. Rolling bedrock ridges are interspersed between linear lakes and wetlands (linear lakes follow minor fault lines). A coniferous forest is dominated by White Pine and Balsam Fir. A mixed forest exists in well drained areas with hardwoods dominating higher elevations. Several ecological zones are present on claimed parcels.





North slopes and heavily shaded areas mainly under conifers have extensive moss growth which is unique in the region.





Long Lake is used by small boats, kayaks and canoes. A trail along the northwest shore accesses several camping areas. Several water craft were observed stowed along the shoreline.





As illustrated on the trail map, this widened portion of the trail is used as a portage between Trout Lake and Long Lake in the summer and is part of a major regional snowmobile trail network in the winter.





Long Lake outlet into Trout Lake is a distinct natural feature.





An abandoned gorge about 250 m east of the Long Lake outlet (immediately adjacent to the land claim parcels) is a glacial outlet feature and probably harbours an abandoned portage between Trout Lake and Long Lake.





The Long Lake outlet is directly across from the blasted channel into Turtle Lake which is part of the historic voyager route.





Archeological work was completed on Camp Island by ***Archaeological Services Inc*** (field crew shown in picture) in 2016, establishing Camp Island as a provincially significant archaeological site. This has regional implications to surrounding lands.





A modern portage on the west side of the Long Lake outlet climbs a steep embankment from Trout Lake. An abnormal depression/disturbed site was observed on the northwest side of the trail as it crests the hill. The disturbed ground was roughly the size of a grave. Potential disturbed site location is shown here: <https://goo.gl/maps/u8FQ9gU5Sis5dBZP8>





Existing Camping Sites along the Trout Lake shoreline (this one is within the boundaries of 83F2) – several exist between Stepping Stone Lane and the Long Lake outlet (most are accessed via the existing hiking trail system). All suggest long-term use and should be examined for archaeological significance.





Several camping sites along Long Lake show signs of long-term use. This photo shows a stone feature at one of the camp sites that is quite old. Long Lake is relatively easily accessed from Trout Lake. The archaeological significance of this area should be investigated before land is given up for development.

Location of this feature is identified here: <https://goo.gl/maps/5RfEBjoJdpJV21LW9>





This image was supplied by Chris Holmes of a Blanding's Turtle on his property on MacPherson Drive which abuts the land claim parcels in question. The wetlands behind his home (on ALC settlement parcels) are Blanding's Turtle habitat. Wetlands that supports a species at risk in Ontario are provincially significant. This information is apparently known to MNRF biologists in the North Bay District.