

Ancient Forest Exploration & Research

Powassan Office: 3492 Memorial Park Dr., RR#4, P0H 1Z0

Peterborough Office: The Mount, 1545 Monaghan Rd., K9J 5N3

ph: (705) 312-AFER (2337) | website: www.ancientforest.org | charitable number: 89288 2762 RR0001

SITE VISIT REPORT #1

An Old-growth Forest Assessment for the John Earle Chase Memorial Park, a Kawartha Land Trust Property

Peterborough County, Ontario

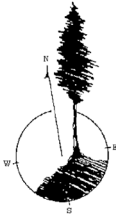
Written April 4, 2019 and revised November 12, 2019 by Carling Dewar

General information

Date of visit:	Thursday March 28, 2019				
Property and location:	John Earle Chase Memorial Park (400 acres) Anchor Bay Road, Trent Lakes, ON				
Attendees:	1. Carling Dewar (AFER) 2. Kawartha Land Trust (KLT) steward				
Arrival time:	10:00am	Departure time:	12:30pm	Duration:	2.5 hours
Purpose of visit:	1. Determine if sites contain old-growth forests or trees 2. Based on property site characteristics, determine appropriate topic for a joint event with the Kawartha Land Trust				
Weather and terrain conditions:	Overcast, 9°C. Trails still mostly covered in snow (up to 2 feet in some places) and ice. Gradual elevation changes with some ridges. Easy to access.				
Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The KLT steward's dog was with us. • Can access the southeast part of the property via Fire Route 70A (the map labels this as 10A). We parked near the start of this road—see green arrow on map (figure 1). • See supplementary report on the Oak Orchard ANSI (Kaiser, 1987) which overlaps with the east side of the property. 				

Site Description

1. This property is mostly second growth but there are a few big trees and a moderate amount of snags/coarse woody debris. White pines are scattered throughout the property.
 - a. In the southeast, poplar, white oak, red oak, and sugar maple are abundant. One hemlock and a few small elms were found along the trail.
 - b. In the southwest there is a maple/oak forest bordered by an abandoned farm field. The KLT steward notes this is probably the oldest forest on the property. Near the



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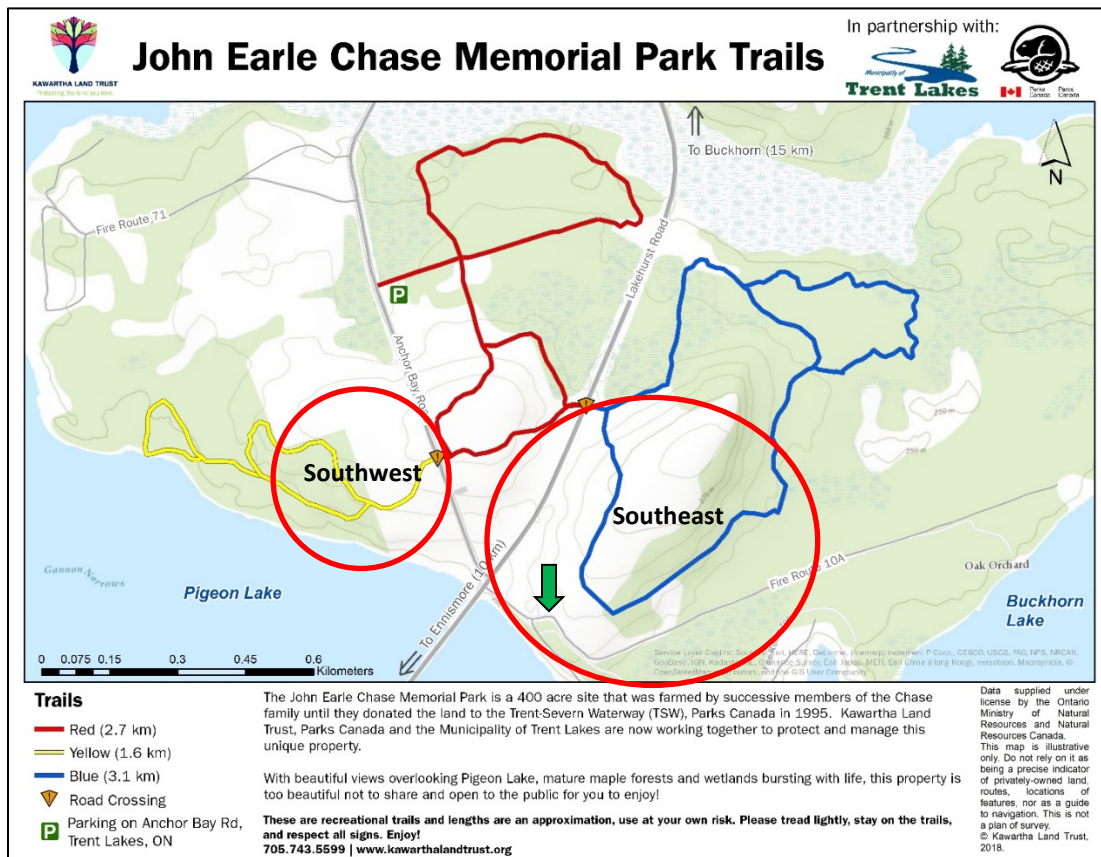
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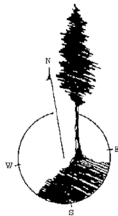
edge of this forest is a stand of young ironwood trees (indication that soil may have been compacted by grazing cattle). There is a blowdown area (figure 7) and evidence of high-grading (several large stumps present, figures 8 and 9).

2. Tall white oak noted south of the fire route and “celery top” white pines observed along the shore of Pigeon Lake.

Maps

Figure 1. Map of [John Earle Chase Memorial Park](http://www.ancientforest.org). Red circles indicate areas visited. Green arrow indicates a parking spot.





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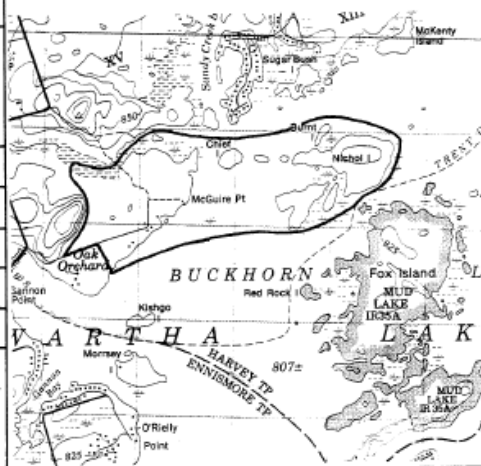
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Figure 2. Map and description of the Oak Orchard from Appendix D of the ANSI report (Kaiser, 1987).

APPENDIX D:

AREA OF NATURAL AND SCIENTIFIC INTEREST - LIFE SCIENCE INVENTORY CHECK-SHEET

NAME Oak Orchard and Islands in Buckhorn L.		MAP NAME Peterborough	MAP NUMBER 31D/8	UTM REF. 040280
COUNTY, DISTRICT OR REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY Peterborough		LAT. 44° 29' N	LONG. 78° 26' W	ALT. MIN. MAX. 246 ± M 266 M
LOCALITY on southwest side of Buckhorn Lake		1:50,000 NTS MAP SHOWING AREA BOUNDARIES 1:250,000		
TOWNSHIP	LOTS	CONCESSIONS		
Harvey	15	A		
	15	B		
(Islands are part of Plan &)				
AREA (not including water area) ca. 350 acres		ca. 143 ha		
OWNERSHIP Private				
ADMINISTRATION Private				
FOREST REGION AND DISTRICT L-1		SITE REGION AND DISTRICT 6-9		
MNR REGION AND DISTRICT Central-Lindsay		CONSERVATION AUTHORITY ---		
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS		BASE MAP:		
YEAR	ROLL	FLIGHT LINE	NUMBERS	
1978	123	4434	184-188	



PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL FEATURES

A well-preserved example of upland forest remains at Oak Orchard and on a chain of islands lying to the east in Buckhorn Lake. These islands include Chief, Burnt and Nichol Islands, as well as several unnamed islands. The large forest tract extending north and east from Oak Orchard contains a variety of intermediate-aged and more mature forest stands on slightly undulating terrain. There is red oak with white pine, white oak, and large-toothed aspen (dbh 30 to 45 cm, with smaller and larger trees too); white pine (dbh 30 to 45 cm, with many trees greater than 45 cm dbh); large-toothed aspen; white birch (dbh 15 to 30 cm); and red oak, large-toothed aspen and sugar maple (dbh 15 to 30 cm). A number of stands display white pine regeneration. At the centre of the tract is a small swamp (red maple - silver maple with red ash and balsam poplar) around a small woodland pond. A narrow stretch of marsh and open water separates Oak Orchard from land to the north. The rest of the islands in the chain support a similar range of upland forest vegetation. These islands were selected and evaluated on the basis of airphoto interpretation and aerial reconnaissance in October 1985. Most of the natural area is in excellent condition. There are several cottages along the southeast shoreline and two cottages on the other islands. Cattle can access the northwest part of the forest. While there is little sign of grazing, (cont'd)

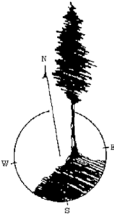
DATA SHEETS ATTACHED		SUMMARY SPECIES LISTS		MAJOR INFORMATION SOURCES	
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION	<input type="checkbox"/>	PHYSICAL FEATURES MAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lindsay, 22 October 1985, Brief Field Visit;	
VEGETATION SUMMARY	<input type="checkbox"/>	VEGETATION MAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	1981, 1985 and 1986, Airphoto Interpretation.	
EVALUATION SHEET	<input type="checkbox"/>	BIBLIOGRAPHY	<input type="checkbox"/>		
COMMUNITY DESCRS.	<input type="checkbox"/>	PHOTOGRAPHS	<input type="checkbox"/>		
COMMUNITY COMP. LISTS	<input type="checkbox"/>				

EVALUATION AND PRIORITIES

A sizable, well-preserved tract of upland forest extending from Oak Orchard across an island chain to Nichol Island. The shorelines of these islands are largely undeveloped.

DATE COMPILED 17 January 1986	COMPILER K. M. Lindsay
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Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreational Areas Programme, Queen's Park, Toronto Ontario M7A 4W7



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Photos (Additional photos available upon request.)

Southeast



Figure 3. Downed woody debris



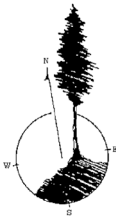
Figure 4. Oak stand



Figure 5. Large sugar maple (centre) and young paper birch growing on a stump (left).



Figure 6. Large oak; notice buttressing at base.



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Southwest



Figure 7. Blowdown area



Figure 8. Red oak growing on a stump



Figure 9. Stumps

Forest designations¹

☒ Young
(Southeast
Chase)

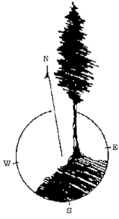
☒ Mature
(Southeast,
southwest Chase)

☒ Old
(Southwest
Chase)

☐ Old-
growth
(see note)

Note: Potential for old-growth trees, but presence of old-growth forest stands unlikely (figures 5 and 6).

¹ Definitions for designations are in progress.



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References and Resources

Kaiser, J. (1987). *A Biological Inventory and Evaluation of the Oak Orchard—Nichol Island Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (31D/8 040280)*. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreational Areas Section, Central Region, Richmond Hill.

Kawartha Land Trust. (n.d.). [John Earle Chase Memorial Park](#). Accessed April 4, 2019.