Crown lands will fall under new plan

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources has begun preparation of an integrated resource management plan for the Crown lands within the northern portion of the Ministry's Huronia District. Promised in the District's Land Use Guidelines released in 1983, the plan is expected to be complete by October, 1986.

The area to be included in the plan is approximately twenty-five thousand hectares. It includes portions of Matchedash, Orillia and Rama Townships in the County of Simcoe, Georgian Bay and Muskoka Lakes Townships and the Town of Gravenhurst in the District Municipality of Muskoka. All areas have never been privately owned and road access is very limited or non existent.

Most of the privately owned areas adjacent to the Crown land are used for recreational purposes, primarily cottaging. The Trent-Severn Waterway, a major water recreational corridor resource, is centrally located within the planning study. Six Mile Lake and Gibson River Provincial Parks, the Gibson-McDonald canoe route and a network of snowmobile trails are also important recreation facilities.

By preparing a 20 year plan the Ministry is hoping to reslove a number of management issues such as whether or not to provide additional public access points. Some of the existing points permit boating access while others permit launching from land to water. The ten existing access points are situated along the Trent-Severn Waterway, Six Mile Lake and Horseshoe Lake.

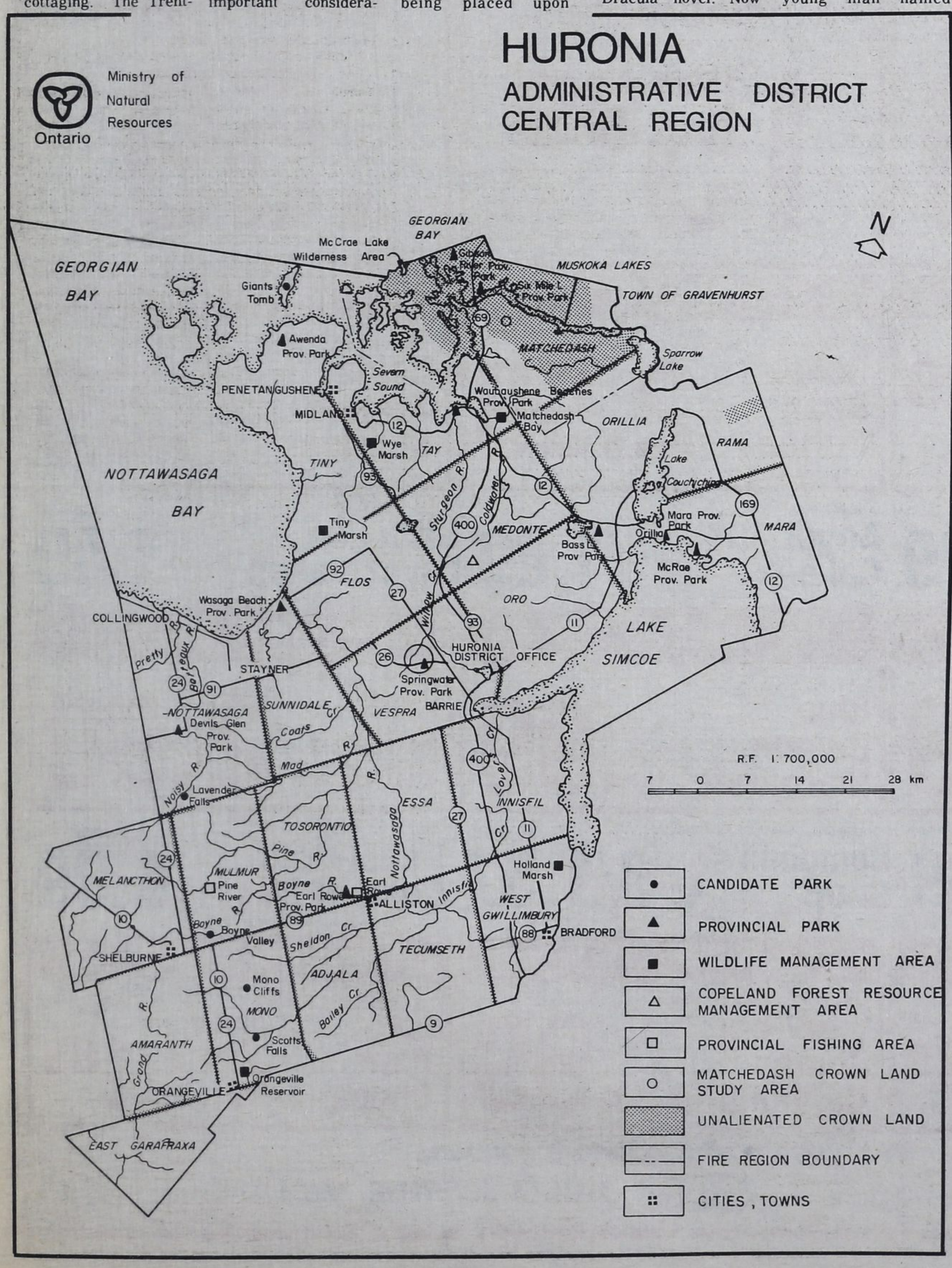
Protection of important biological resources such as deer wintering yards, wetlands and areas of natural and scientific interest will be another important consideration.

The plan will provide policies and guidelines for ensuring the survival of significant plant species and communities while permitting continued use of Crown land for hunting, trapping and other recreational pursuits.

The plan will be referred to as an integrated resource management plan and will place a high priority upon use of the land for more than one purpose. For example, while forest management activities may occur in a specific location with careful planning, deer habitat improvement and trail based recreation activities may also be accommodated. In some areas protection of significant features may be given a higher priority. This planning approach evolved during development of the Land Use Guidelines and is considered to be a practical method of accommodating the numerous demands being placed upon public lands.

The Ministry will be working with local municipalities, various interest groups and interested individuals during the planning program. Input from these publics is considered essential to preparation of an acceptable plan.

A terms of reference for the planning program has been prepared by the Ministry and is available from the Huronia District Office. It contains a description of how the program will proceed including when and how public consultation will occur.



Fright Night a new horror suspense thriller

by TERRY DUPUIS

The main character in a new horror suspense thriller is a high school student named Charlie. Charlie is an average normal middle class American teenager, except maybe for his predilection for old horror movies on the late late show.

His favourite program is a nightly program called "Fright Night" which runs old horror movies. It is hosted by an aging former horror movie star named Peter Vincent. Mr. Vincent had often played a fearless vampire killer in his movies, much like Dr. Van Helsing in Bram Stoker's "Dracula" novel. Now past his prime, Mr. Vincent is making a living by hosting these late night movies, and introducing these horror flicks, he exploits his movie character as an intrepid vampire killer.

There is no more avid fan of this program than young Charlie, but he finds that horror is emerging in real life as well as in reel life, and it is not so amusing. It all begins when a new neighbour moves into the stately old house next door to Charlie, and residents in the town begin to disappear or be found murdered. Charlie gradually begins to suspect that his new next-door neighbour may be a vampire.

This neighbour is a young man named Jerry, who seems to behave oddly. Moreover, he is never seen during the daytime, but only at night. Eventually Charlie discovers for sure that Jerry is a vampire, but he cannot convince his mother, his girlfriend or the police of it. However, the vampire knows that Charlie has uncovered his secret, and so he is out to get him.

Having no one to turn to, the frightened teenager seeks out in desperation Peter Vincent, the old host of the Fright Night television series. However, the boy is dismayed to discover that Mr. Vincent is in reality a timid but sceptical man who doesn't really believe in vampires.

Fright Night is a horror movie with suspense and a lot of frightening moments, but it throws in some moments of morbid comedy as well. **The Howling** which came out 4 years ago dealt with werewolf films in an often humourous way, and **Fright Night** does the same thing with vampires. Both pictures have some startling special effects, but they are too gruesome and gory to suit my sensitive stomach. I prefer the more subtle horror movies that were made years ago. It is with good reason that **Fright Night** has been rated Adult Accompaniment. It is enough to give kids nightmares, not to mention a lot of adults too.

The director and writer of **Fright Night** is Tom Holland, who wrote **Psycho II**. He used more subtlety in that one, but he pulls out all the stops in **Fright Night**. However, he gets good performances from Chris Sarandon as the suave but sinister neighbour and from screen newcomer William Ragsdale who plays the teenage boy Charlie. But the best performance of all comes from screen veteran Roddy McDowell. He plays the old horror movie actor and late show host Peter Vincent, who ends up being drawn against his own will into confronting a vampire in real life.

McDowell started out 45 years ago as a very popular child actor, but as an adult he never seemed to be able to get very good roles. **Fright Night** gives him one of the best roles of his career. He is both amusing and pathetic as a hammy ex-horror movie star who finds that he is not nearly as courageous confronting vampires off-screen as on. To me, McDowell was the best thing about **Fright Night**.

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