



ONTARIO PARKS

THE LAST ROUND

It is increasingly clear we have one last chance to make an impact on Ontario's Park System. There is a set of policies for each of the Ministry of Natural Resources' Districts in the Province about to appear before the Minister of Natural Resources at the beginning of November.

Mr. Pope, the Minister, will have before him the priorities of each of the District Managers in the Province for their areas for the next 20 years. The District Land Use Plans (DLUPs) are very comprehensive and will set a pattern for the future "development" of each District. The priorities have been available for public scrutiny during the summer at open houses held in each District. They were largely poorly attended. There is some fear that the low attendance will result in a further cut-back in the Parks which have survived a series of cut-backs in both size and number since the first plans were introduced several years ago.

The open houses presented a great deal of information often in a confusing way and, in some cases, provided the large document stating the new policies at the open house, rather than making it available beforehand so individuals could compare maps and spot potential problems buried in the text. In a few cases the document was not available at all.

It is not yet known how much the final plans have been amended since the open houses and in which direction for parks or against parks. If previous amendments have any bearing we can expect the final draft the Minister sees will have further reductions in Parks.

The Minister is the final arbiter. He can decide whether the suspected further reductions in size will occur, whether the status quo will remain or whether the existing reductions will be cancelled. In the last newsletter I wrote briefly about the Spanish; George Luste wrote a plea for the inclusion of the Lower Missinabi; FON had a lot of concern at a recent meeting about a number of others.

YOU CAN HELP! WRITE TO MR. POPE.

Simply ask him to include your favourite area for canoeing in a Waterway Park or your set of favourite lakes in a Wilderness Park. Tell him he has the power to generate a set of parks which will be the envy of North America and will bring him eternal thanks from Ontarians. Since both comments are true, you need not feel reluctant about them.

If you don't wish to divulge your favourite area so that it will not be trampled by Winnebagos, select one of the following and write about it.

The Spanish is being held by INCO for future possibilities of providing a power dam. The head of water required at the top of the dam would ruin the river as a white water trip.

Logging is holding up the Missinabi's Park status at the lower end. Making only the upper end of the river a Park is ridiculous.

Logging is eating away into the FON proposal for the Agoki-Albany Park. Two companies hold Timber licences for the entire park region. Lumbering in the area is very dangerous because of the cold climate. Regeneration of timber in this area would be very poor.

Or you may wish to say a word for the French. It has been declared one of Ontario's Heritage Rivers and will have some modest protection under a Joint Federal-Provincial agreement.

Other rivers to speak for include the Madawaska, the Sturgeon, the East, the Lady Evelyn area the Bustard Islands area at the mouth of the French River - or pick your second or third favourite area.

WRITE TO

HONORABLE ALAN POPE
MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES
QUEENS PARK
ONTARIO

He will be examining the DLUPs at the beginning of November.

ENDANGERED SPACES: Will Parks Survive the 80's?

**Come and speak to the Man
who makes the decisions!**

THE ST. LAWRENCE HALL
King and Jarvis Streets
TORONTO
Tuesday, October 19
8:00 p.m., Admission FREE

FEATURING: the Honorable Alan Pope, Minister of Natural Resources
MODERATOR: Bruce Rogers, CBC Radio Noon
and a Wilderness Slide Show by a prominent Ontario Photographer

245 Potential parks, six of them wilderness areas, were announced by the Minister of Natural Resources, Alan Pope in March 1982.

He also issued a challenge: unless he gets a clear message from the citizens of Ontario in support of Parks, many of these candidates will disappear forever. We are already losing the Spanish River, Lower Missinabi and parts of Ogoki - Albany. What next?

We need you to tell the Minister - the man who makes the decisions - that you value our wilderness and parks. Come out to a public meeting and help preserve Ontario's precious natural legacy.

