



**LOGGING
IN ALGONQUIN PARK
IS NOT SUSTAINABLE!
CONTACT YOUR MPP**

Algonquin Eco Watch Annual Update – 2014

IS FOREST SUSTAINABILITY ATTAINABLE IN ALGONQUIN PARK?

Algonquin Eco Watch believes that Forest Management sustainability in the Algonquin Park Forest is attainable, but that it has not yet been achieved.

Algonquin Park is divided into 2 broad forest management areas– those places where logging is allowed, i.e. the Recreation /Utilization (R/U) Zone and those places where it isn't, such as Development and Natural Environment Zones, Wilderness Zones, Nature Reserve Zones and Historical Zones.

The Province of Ontario reasons that sufficient “protected”/no-cut areas already exist within the Park to meet the needs of all plant, fish and animal species residing there. For the 65% of the Park, i.e. the R/U Zone, which is **NOT** in one of the protected zones however, Algonquin Park is just another Forest Management Unit. In the R/U Zone, the main purpose of forestry is to produce wood for sale and to add money to government coffers.

While Algonquin Eco Watch has always been and remains in favour of sustainable logging within the Recreation/Utilization Zone of the Park, we feel that because Algonquin Park provides many unique habitats, the R/U Zone should be treated as a separate, unique “stand-alone” Forest Management Unit. The prime goal of forest management in the R/U zone should be sustainability, not economic benefit.

Two examples of the need for sustainable management would be:

- 1) The permanent protection of the groundwater sourcing within the catchment basins of all the more than 250 Algonquin Park self-sustaining brook trout lakes – the highest concentration of such lakes in the world!
- 2) The permanent protection of the more interspersed upland old growth coniferous species such as hemlock, white pine and red spruce in the R/U Zone. If the protection of old growth is not permanent, then it is not true “old growth”. Black-and-white Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, and Blue-headed Vireo are just 4 of over 16 species that nest in the Park to which permanent old growth conifer forests are critical for nesting and foraging habitat.

The differences of opinion arising from this situation have not been satisfactorily resolved after more than 17 years of active participation by Algonquin Eco Watch. The only viable alternative to this impasse now seems to be face-to-face discussion with all parties free to express and justify their opinions, having a mutually acceptable adjudicator present and impartial, interested citizens in attendance.

Algonquin Eco Watch would welcome the opportunity to participate in a public forum, such as a leaseholders' annual meeting, or a gathering at the Park Interpretive Centre, where these differences of opinion could be openly discussed. There are valid points on both sides. However, regrettably, this will probably not happen unless members of the public request it. Hence, we erected the highway signs (see reverse) on Highways 60 and 17 urging you to contact your local member of the provincial legislature (MPP), enlisting her/his assistance in making this happen.

To learn more regarding the reasons for our erecting the highway signs, please visit us at www.algonquin-eco-watch.com and click on “Recent Critical Issues”.