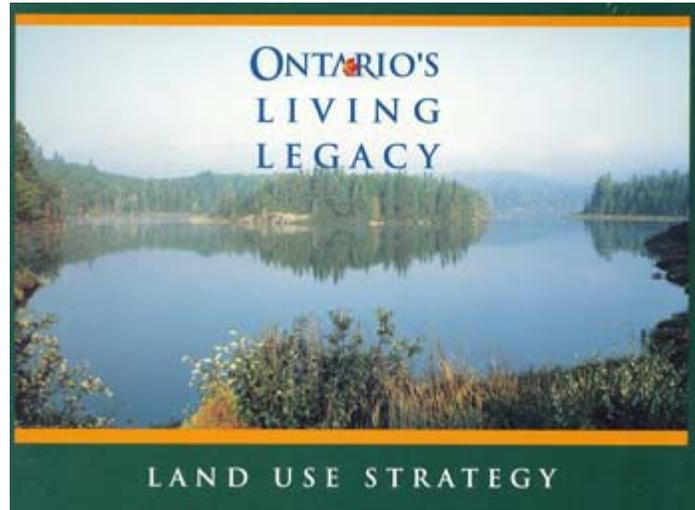




ALGONQUIN ECO WATCH GROUP "LANDS FOR LIFE – LIVING LEGACY"



The final document resulting from the Lands For Life/Living Legacy public participation program.

Algonquin Eco Watch actively participated in the Lands for Life process during the late 1990's, with the specific intent of achieving special protective status for those drainage systems that source outside Algonquin Park, but flow into it. The purpose of this was to ensure the long-term purity and uninterrupted flow patterns of the more than 20 minor watersheds, which together with Algonquin Park comprise the "Algonquin Ecosystem". It is this commitment to water quality and quantity throughout the Algonquin Ecosystem, which led to the inception of the "Algonquin Eco Watch Water Testing Program" (see "Headwater Protection, Algonquin Headwater Survey").

In July, 1999, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) released the document "Ontario's Living Legacy", outlining future land use practices within the province. While this document did recognize some Algonquin headwaters under the category "E67n - Enhanced Management Areas", many of the waters sourcing outside the Park but flowing into it were not so designated. In addition, the category E67n allows for aggregate extraction, and mineral exploration and development, activities that can seriously affect surface and ground water flow patterns and quality.

As a result of the above concerns, Algonquin Eco Watch met with Ministry of Natural Resources personnel on January 27th, 2001, to discuss the inclusion of additional waters in, and the redefining of, "E67n - Enhanced Management Areas", respectively. Such changes could not be accomplished, however, since by that time the "Living Legacy" program had been abandoned, owing to the subsequent change in Ontario's governing party.

There continued a long period of negotiation with Ministry of Natural Resources Regional staff, resulting in the issuing of a much anticipated memo from the Regional Director, Mr. Ray Bonenberg to District staff on March 18th, 2009.

The memo, directed to staff in Districts surrounding Algonquin Park, outlines the significance of 9 sub-watersheds that source outside Algonquin Park but flow into it. In the memo, Mr. Bonenberg requested field staff to be especially vigilant when considering development projects along these waterways, if they could negatively affect Algonquin Park waters.