



# WHISPERING PINES CAMP

Appeal for retention of  
Whispering Pines Scout Camp  
presentation to

The Directors of the Ontario  
Incorporated Body

29 August 04



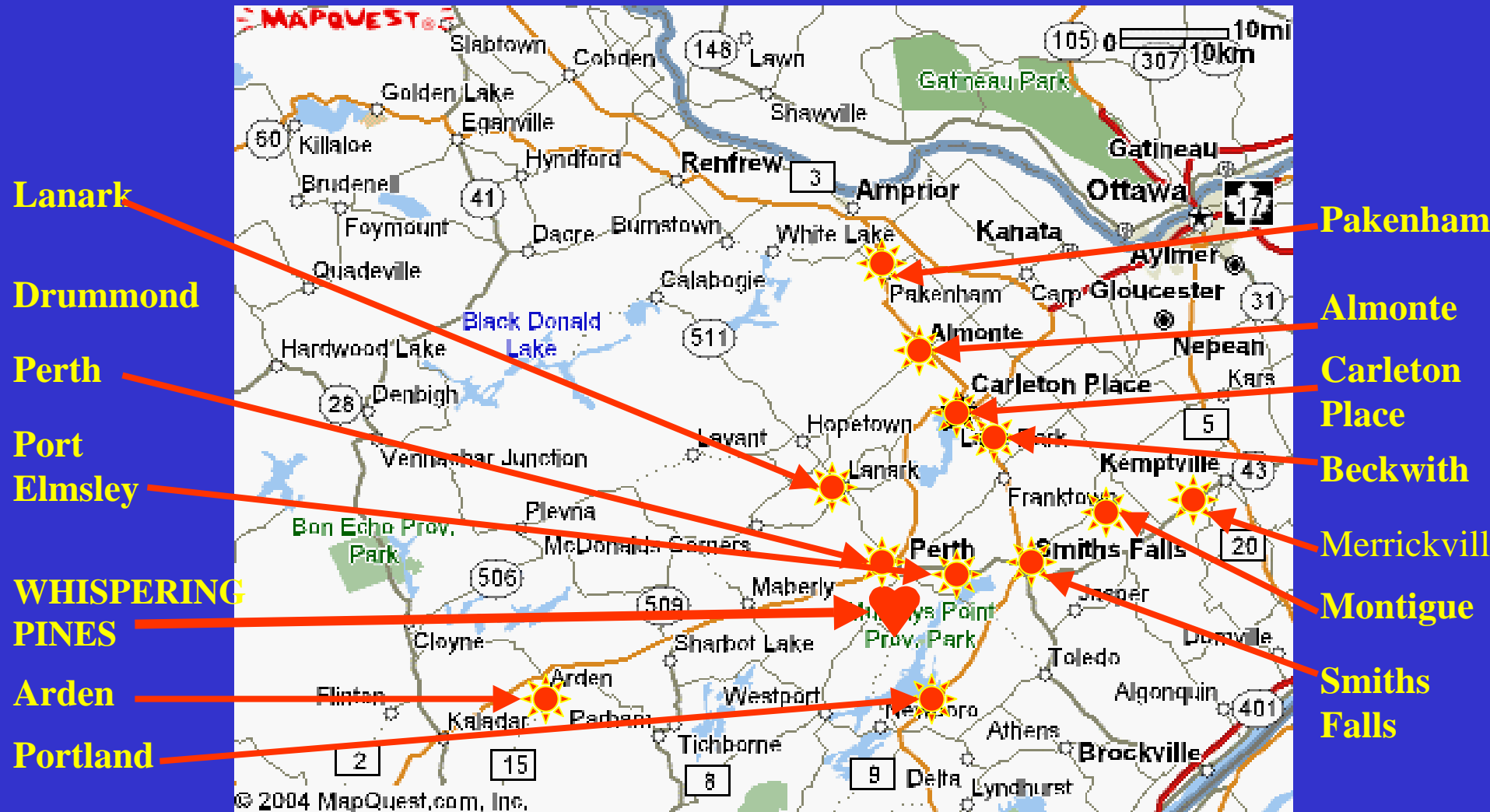
# Whispering Pines



- **SCOPE:** This briefing shall contain the following topics:
  - INTRODUCTION
  - LOCATION OF PROPEERTY RELATIVE TO AREA
  - PHYSICAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION
  - HISTORY
  - ASSUMPTIONS
  - CRITERIA COMPLIANCE FACTORS
  - SCOPE OF PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES
  - PROPERTY USAGE REVIEW (UPDATED)
  - PARTNERS
  - PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPMENT
  - ISSUES OF CONSIDERATION
  - DISCUSSION
  - QUESTION PERIOD



# Relative Property Location





# Physical Property Description



- This is a leased 21 acre lake-front property on Otty lake just south of Perth, Ontario.
- It has a 1 km gravel access road, 18 rustic camp sites of varying sizes and 1 large 300'x100' playing field.
- There is 500' of lake front property consisting of a 40' sand beach area. The Bay is excellent for canoe-skills training with limited motor boat activities.
- The land is crisscrossed with nature trails some groomed and some austere permitting both long and short hikes.
- The terrain is a mix of sand-based pine forest, deciduous forest, swamp with beaver pond and overgrown orchards giving a wide array of naturalists study opportunities.



# Physical Property Description ...



- Adjacent to the property is the Rideau trail, a system of trails on crown land permitting hundreds of miles of access to area trails in both summer and winter.
- Otty lake is a 10km long lake which is directly accessible by the sand beach. It is connected by creeks and a river providing ideal basic canoe-skills training for youth and leaders. The lake also provides Scouts and Cubs opportunity to experience ice fishing in the winter.
- Murphy's Point Provincial park is less than 8km from the camp, groups have staged events at Whispering Pines and moved to the park for continuation of adventure training. This commute can be done on foot or bike in the summer or cross country ski in the winter.



# History



- About 1980 Rideau Lakes District had a lease on 25 acres of land at Poonamalie Locks. Groups used this property but they had to cross private land to access and the owner decided that he didn't want Scouts crossing his property so a new location was sought. A long time Scouter from Portland found out that Rideau Valley Conservation Assn. Had a parcel of land that could be leased. Ron Lyon and Stan Lasenba met with the RVCA and discovered that the parcel of land would be ideal for Scouting use. It had waterfront, varied types of trees and the lease was very affordable. From the beginning this camp was dedicated as a wilderness camp and it was understood that no large amounts of money would be used to maintain the property.



# History ...



- Over the years, many businesses and individuals donated time money and material to ensure that this commitment was kept. For example, Bell Canada donated the storage trailers, and in one day a Scouter was able to fundraise enough money from local business to drill the well and put in the pump.
- Scouts Canada requested changes to their properties, our camp warden attended almost every meeting that was called to deal with camps and agreed that all camps should be in compliance with reasonable rules and regulations. With much volunteer labour and some money Whispering Pines Scout Camp was soon in compliance with all policies.



# History ...



- Whispering Pines is fully funded by adults from every group in the area volunteering their time to man a booth at the Lombardy Fair, which is held every year on the long weekend in August. Over the last several years this food booth has more than paid for all the costs associated with the camp.
- Other Historical attachments to the camp that have significant impact on the youth when relating to the Scout movement include the the following ICONs:
  - Scout Gate greets all users and visitors at the entrance
  - Flag Stand is paraded around for opening /closing ceremonies
  - Fire Pit used for storytelling, songs and Scouting lore
  - Chapel has been a place of worship for many a Scouts Own
  - Chapel podium a memorial for Scouters “Gone Home”
  - Totem Pole represents attachment to land, water and nature





# Assumptions



- As part of our problem solving process to determine factors which potentially led to the Incorporated Body's decision to select this camp as a potential choice for closure we carefully reviewed the Properties Report to determine which criteria were of greatest concern.
- This exercise permitted us in determining ways to better support the objectives of the property plans concept. We have never received a definite list of criteria nor have we seen a summary leading to this selection, thus the requirement to assess the criteria and making our own assumptions.
- The following are a series of assumptions we felt led to the decision to consider Whispering Pines for closure:



# Assumptions ...



- **We Believe the main reasons for selecting this camp for closure are as follows:**
- **Compliant**
  - Risk management and Scouts Canada liability regarding property ownership for idle properties.
- **Program**
  - Limited program scope resulting from lack of hard facilities not held in a Wilderness Camp
  - Burden on Human resources
- **Usage**
  - Usage not exploited through weeklong type camps
- **Finances**
  - Funds required to finance camp taken away from program



# Criteria Compliance



- **We would like to demonstrate that we meet or exceed the Criteria Factors in the properties report as follows:**
  - Compliant
    - From initial issue of compliance criteria to recent provincial legislation the camp has met or exceeded requirements
  - Program
    - Provides wilderness camp opportunities for Scouts
    - Provides day/night static camp for Cubs
    - Provides day camp facility for Beavers
    - Provides extreme adventure facility for advanced Bike skills, and advanced canoe programs
  - Usage
    - 71 camper days 2004 season by area youth (30 weekends) by 450+ scouting people
    - 112 camper nights by Camp OPE this summer
    - 15 non-Scouting users



# Criteria Compliance ...



- Location
  - Centralized to the Area
  - Within 60 km driving distance to the furthest Area Group
  - Within 80 km driving distance to Ottawa groups
- Finances
  - Lease costs at minimal of \$1500.00 annually
  - Fundraising process is a one-time kiosk manned by volunteers only, ( no youth) generating sufficient funds to cover lease and camp maintenance expenses.
  - Estimated cost of using Camp OPE in lieu of WP is \$2607 based on camper days at \$3 fee per day.
  - Rental for one area event at Murphy's Point Provincial park \$600
  - Current cost to membership per use, nil.
- Human resources
  - Camp is managed at no cost by volunteer. Leaders and area service team maintain the property one weekend a year while conducting program.



# Criteria Compliance ...



- Planning
  - Strategic 5 year development plan in place
    - Meet Scout Guidelines
    - Promote camp with other areas
    - Maintain as wilderness camp
    - Camp usable by all sections
    - Foster relationship with Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
    - Perimeter trail to be constructed
    - Chapel to be rebuilt
    - Storage trailers to be repaired or replacement trailer to be acquired
    - Self-sufficient financial support
    - Update camp rules annually
    - Promote camp for adventure value



# Scope of Program Opportunities



- Previous program activities held on the premises:
  - Camp Impeeza Annual Area **Cub** camp
  - Night Vent Annual Area **Scout** challenge
  - Sixers Council Annual **Cub** training camp
  - PL / APL Symposium Annual **Scout** training camp
  - Basic Canoe Annual **Leader** canoe course
  - Boat Rescue Annual **Leader** course
  - Kim,Keo Workshop Annual **Cub, Scout** training
  - Outdoor Skills basic/advanced Annual **Leader** training
  - Scout Camporee Annual area **Scout** Camp
  - Wood Badge 1, Gateway Periodic **Leader** training
  - Beaver Day Hike Periodic **Beaver** day event
  - Group Camps Beaver, Cub and Scout Sect.
  - Rover Moots Rover events



# Scope of Program Opportunities...



- Program possibilities:
  - Area level weekend Cub camp up to 400 cubs
  - Area level Scout weekend camp up to 200 youth
  - Area level Beaver white tale sleepover
  - Bike camp stop over point
  - Canoe camp access point or staging area
  - Night challenge camps
  - Winter camping
  - Cub Snow challenge
  - Beaver linking camp
  - Jamboree On The Air
  - Jamboree On The Trail
  - Leader training; Gateway, WB1, Outdoor skills, Basic Canoe, Boat Rescue



# Property Usage Review Update



- 71 camper days 2004 season by area youth
- (30 weekends) by 450+ scouting people
- 112 camper nights by Camp OPE this summer
- 15 non Scouting users





# Partners



- Partners who have a stake in the use of the property indicated the following:
  - Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
    - “A very successful partnership in bringing outdoor education and recreation to the youth of this region. The Managers of the camp have done an excellent job of maintaining the environmental integrity, safety, and overall management of the camp. The presence on the site gives RVCA additional eyes and ears to watch over our conservation lands.”  
Dell Hallett, GM Rideau Valley Conservation Authority



# Partners ...



## – Otty Lake Association

- “We are concerned about the impact of such an action on the local youth who currently have ready access to this superb “wilderness” camping area. We are also concerned about the impact on our lake environment were the local Scouting association not available to provide the excellent ongoing protection for this lake shore property”

Karen Hunt, president of Otty lake Assn.



# Partners ...



## – Camp Opemikon Scout Camp

- “I have focused mainly on the development of the extensive camp program at Camp OPE. This Focus included visitation of nearby Scouting properties to determine potential use as extensions of the summer camp...Over our six week program for the summer of 2004 ... Level 1 Paddling, level 1 Biking and level 2 Biking campers in all three programs have thoroughly enjoyed the use of this site ... up to 112 camper nights. It has saved our out-tripping budget approximately \$5 per camper, for a total of \$560.”

Marilyn Johnson Camp Director



# Proposals for Development



- Create marked hiking trail with plant recognition program
- Create permanent map and compass exercise program
- Foster relationship with Camp Opemikon as regular annex to summer camp program
- Foster relationship with area Guides for joint partnership and revenue generation
- Program in a can activities as a leader resource
  - Geo Cache, GPS orienteering
  - Scavenger hunts
  - Wildlife identification



# Issues and Considerations



- As part of your decision making process we wish you to consider the following issues:
  - This year's Area Calendar is already in place incorporating this property as part of our existing plan.
  - Adjacent access to 1000Acres for program activities
  - Access to Rideau trail system
  - Annex in support of Camp OPE summer program
  - Operates at no-cost to Area membership, self-financed
  - Substantial increased cost to group programs if we lose this property by having to rent other facilities
  - Compliant with safety regulations mitigating risk to Scouts Canada



# Discussion



- Welcome opportunity for Directors of the Ontario Incorporated Body members to discuss briefing.
- Questions and Answers

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- **My questions to the board members**
  - What are our chances of retaining this property now that you have this briefing?
  - What other information might you need to increase our chances of success?
  - What would you recommend our next step be to convince the Board?



# Conclusion



- Value as a **low-cost** resource with self-generating financial support
- Support to area **Program** and Partner goal's
- **Compliance** to Property Report recommendations at all levels with demonstrated will to improve facility possibilities for use and program
- **Accessibility** in the heart of the area well within 75km driving distance
- **Added Value to program** with diverse scope of usability
- **Mitigated risk** to Scouts Canada resulting from compliance to regulations and consistent use and monitoring



# Town Hall



- The purpose of this “Town hall” is to give my area leaders an opportunity to ask questions to the members of the Board of Directors.
- This will not be a chance to express their beliefs on policy and reasons for keeping the camp for this briefing has done that on their behalf.
- We request questions be posed and if the members of the board cannot answer then we are asking that a follow-up letter address the issues raised.