

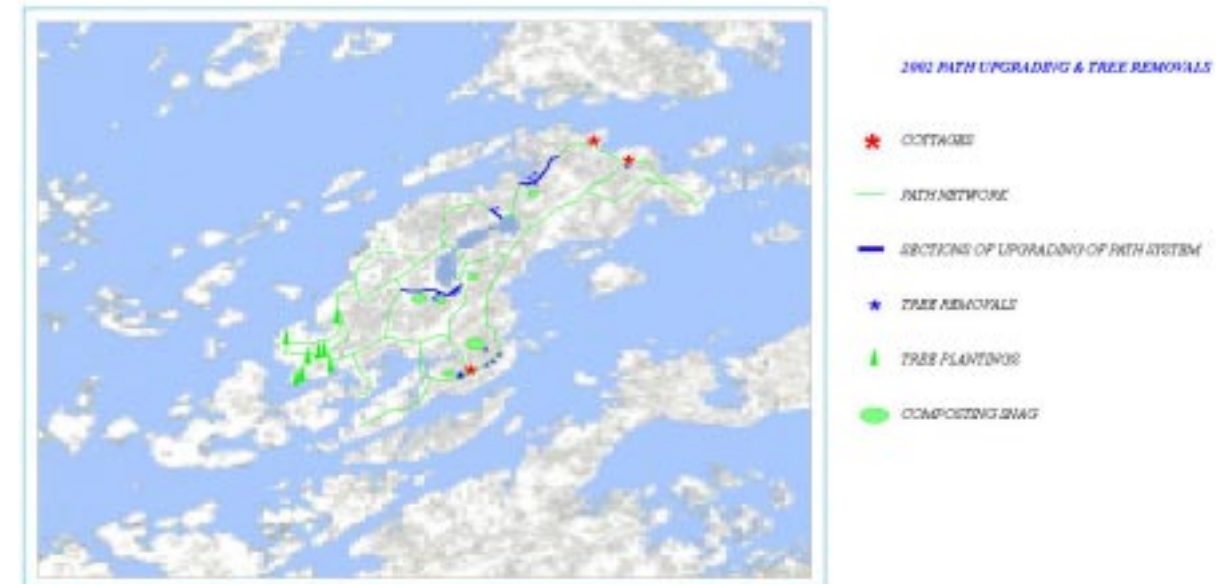
Objectives and Policies of the Fairwood Forest Management Plan

Forest Management Plan:

Studying and monitoring the natural cycles of the island will help to develop a clear attitude towards the management of the woodlands.

The basic concepts of the Plan are Conservation, Education and Recreation

1. provision of **sanctuaries** for wildlife
2. protection and enrichment of habitat
3. access for study, education and recreation



*1) The **Provision of Sanctuaries** recognizes that the island's path system serves two different purposes, not only to encourage exploration but also to provide recognized routes around the denser mid island areas where animals retreat for sanctuary. For instance the doe and fawn in 2002 found undisturbed retreats for passing the day and successfully eluded the daytime activities on the island.*

- *Paths for exploration*
- *Paths that skirt around denser animal sanctuaries leaving them less disturbed*

2) **Enrichment of Habitat:** *The ecology of the island is undergoing continual change and development. A century ago the island was logged over. Some of the logged stumps have been pulled out of the woods and are on display. It is believed that the centre of the island may also have been burnt over in the 1860's and there is still visible evidence of this fire nearly 150 years later.*

It is evident in studying the early photographs that the island has become much more verdant and treed over the last century as the woods have filled in and encroached over the flat rocks. During recent reasonably damp years great numbers of new trees have begun to establish themselves.

*The objective of **Enrichment of Habitat** is intended to recast the woodland activities to work with what is already happening and develop a more diverse and supportive ecology. This is partly achieved by moving away from a customary burning of forest debris towards collecting it and depositing it in strategic places where it will compost and provided protective snags for animals in the meantime.*

- *Shift woodlands clearing emphasis towards composting*
- *Creation of new snags to encourage animals - leaving suitable hollow nesting trees standing for nesting birds*
- *Redefining attitudes towards protected species - for instance conservation of the Massasauga Rattlesnake.*
- *Composting areas to be rotated to monitor rate of decomposition and observe results of policy to determine effect on encouraging animal life.*

3) **Access** *includes a commitment to maintaining the existing path system around the island and encouragement of family and guests to explore and observe. This also involves the creation of destinations around the island, identifiable places or 'Parks' like Champlain Park, Jurassic Park, Saegert Park, Spratts Park, the West End and Archers Island which provide destinations and orientation for exploration of the island.*

- *Paths and landmarks for exploration, orientation and natural discovery.*



Cleopatra's Bathtub - Potholes created by whirlpool action of receding glacier during the last ice age 10-15,000 years ago