

# Oak Lake Natural Area Summary Report

This is the general summary for your information. More detailed information is available at your request.

The Oak Lake Natural Area is located approximately 3 km southwest of Stirling. The site consists of a complex, or grouping, of three natural areas. The largest and westernmost of these is a northwest facing slope system on sand plain which was sculpted by Lake Iroquois, and has been proposed as an addition to the Oak Lake Island Beaches provincially significant earth science ANSI (Area of Natural and Scientific Interest). Lake Iroquois beach features occur in all three sections.

The majority of the site is upland with dry mesic conditions prevailing. Provincially rare prairie-affiliated shrub thicket and black oak-white oak woodland communities are present as are good examples of oak-white pine and oak-sugar maple communities. The site represents the easternmost known occurrences of prairie communities in Canada. At the base of the slope, seepy white cedar dominated swamps occur, acting as an important source area for a tributary of Rawdon Creek.

Oak Lake Natural Area contains 3 plant species that are provincially rare which are Sedge, Flax, and Sharp-leaved Goldenrod. It has 13 species rare in eastern Ontario: Sedge, Black Oak, Bush Clover, Milkwort, two varieties of Frostweed, Yellow Pimpernel, Round-leaf Shinleaf, Poke Milkweed, Butterfly-weed, Low Bindweed, and Small Beggarticks. It also has 8 species that are rare in the Lake Ontario Lowlands which include Little Bluestem, Northern Dewberry, Pinweed, Cow-wheat, American Brooklime, Robin's-plantain, Sweet Coltsfoot, and Hairy Goldenrod. The provincially significant Cooper's Hawk is a probable breeder at this site. Oak Lake Natural Area is considered a significant natural area because it meets 8 out of the 10 natural areas selection criteria. These include:

**-Landform type and rarity** The area contains at least one of the following: 1) landforms that are rare in the lower Trent region, Eastern Ontario, Ontario, and/or Canada; 2) characteristic landscapes that contain high quality representative examples of bedrock, surface landforms, and soils; or 3) a high diversity of landforms (more than 3).

**-Hydrological Function** The area contributes to ground or surface water storage or protection, or the enhancement of water quality, and is considered regionally or provincially significant.

**-Community representation & diversity** The area offers a significant contribution to common vegetation that is characteristic of the lower Trent region, or contains a high variety of vegetation.

**-Vegetation community rarity** The area contains vegetation community types that are rare in the lower Trent region, Ontario, and/or Canada.

**-Quality of habitats and communities** The area contains over 80% of fair to excellent quality vegetation of which not more than 40% is classified as fair.

# OAK LAKE SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREA

## LEGEND

Natural Area

Natural Area Boundary

Property Number



LOWER TRENT REGION  
CONSERVATION

