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# **Killarney Provincial Park Art & Science in**

# **Planning Connectivity in Enlarging a Wilderness Park**



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## **Planning for ecological connectivity of parks within the La Cloche Mts landscape:**

- Provincial, local public & aboriginal audiences;
- Evolving & protracted policy around wilderness;
- Two strategic planning cycles over 20 years;
- Core wilderness park & connected parks;
- Planning & possible partnering in governance.



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## **Killarney - what / where is wilderness**

1919 Group of Seven artists formed to portray Canada:

- 1926: Franklin Carmichael beheld the La Cloche Mts landscape;
- 1931: A.Y. Jackson lobbied to protect Trout (OSA) Lake shoreline;
- 1932: A.J. Cassen boated into McGregor Bay;







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- 1954: Department of Lands & Forests,  
Provincial Parks Act - Conservation Authorities Act;
- people in their 60's directly affected by WWI;
  - 30 year olds directly affected by WWII;
  - economic growth: agriculture, resource extraction, logging, mineral exploration & mining;
  - community growth, highway development, increased immigration & high birth rates;
  - discretionary income, growth in leisure time...
  - Div. of Parks separated from Div. Lands & Recreation



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1956: Department of Lands & Forests  
Ontario Parks Integration Board Act;

Ontario Parks Integration Board...

read a provincial policy statement in the legislature:

“Increasing recreation use & preservation are the  
motivating factors in establishing parks”





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## 1959: Department of Lands & Forests Wilderness Areas Act

“...to preserve areas having some unique feature &/or natural & historical significance”

## 1960: Crater Lake Wilderness Area

220ha in the La Cloche Mts, Blue Ridge;

“to establish a scenic & historic site”



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## Park Reserve to Killarney Provincial Park

1959 to 1963: 12,224ha to 14,719ha park reserve;

1963: 14,719ha withdrawn from staking;

1964: 33,996ha Killarney Provincial Park regulation;

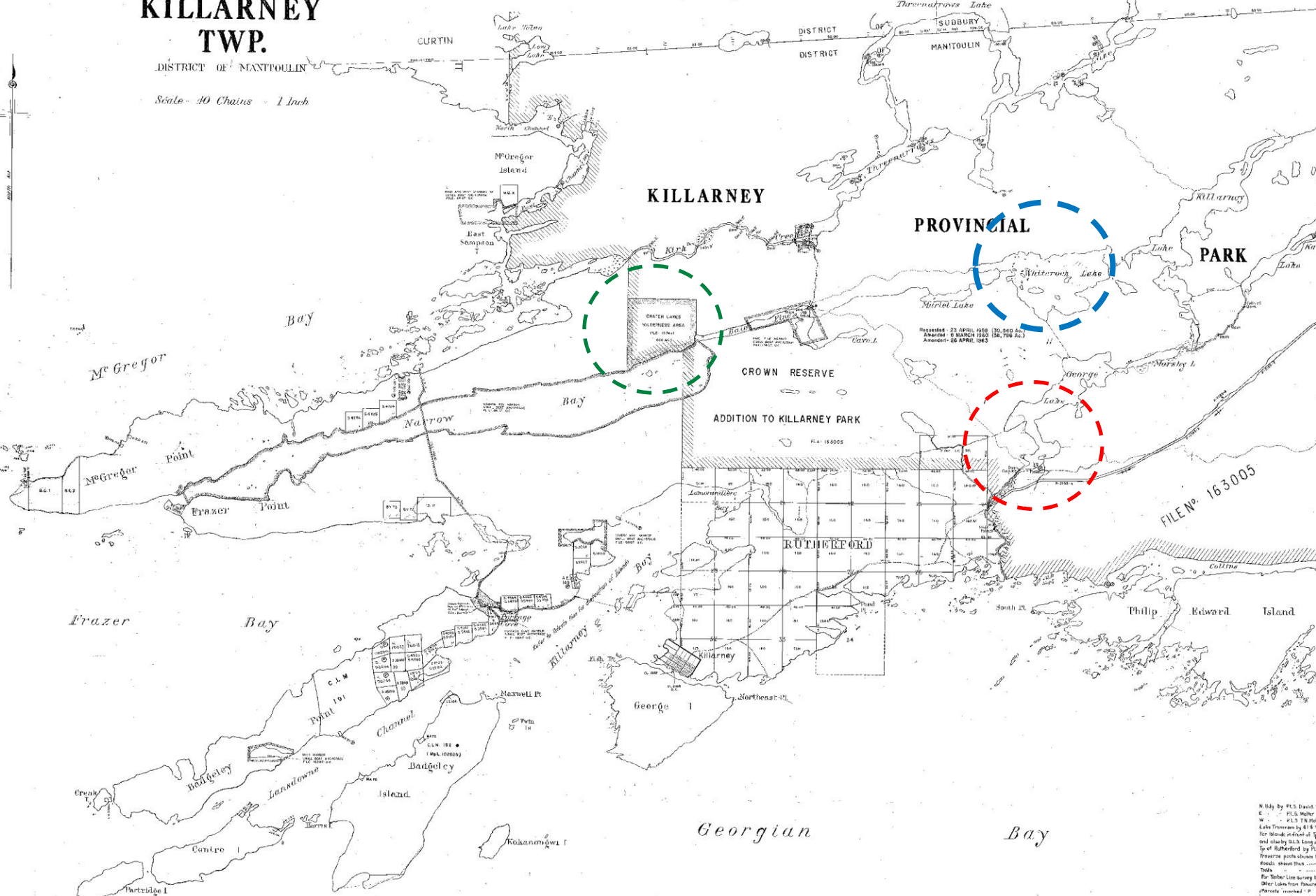
“... to preserve a significant portion of the  
La Cloche Mts & provide for wilderness recreation.”

# KILLARNEY TWP.

DISTRICT OF MANTOULIN

Scale - 40 Chains = 1 Inch

90



PROVINCIAL

PARK

KILLARNEY

CROWN RESERVE

ADDITION TO KILLARNEY PARK

RUTHERFORD

FILE No. 163005

W. by P.C. David Smith  
C. P.L.S. Water South  
W. P.L.S. T.R. Hudson  
Lake Province by G.R. P.L.S.  
and other by G.L.S. George Reser-  
ve of Rutherford by P.C. W.  
Reverse pools allow this  
Maple shown this  
Title  
For Title Line Survey by G.L.S.  
Other Lakes from Hudson Sheet  
Parcels reserved P. are  
L.C.



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- 1956 to 1961: 5 yrs of winter works completed 42 miles (70km), Highway 637 first road from Highway 69 to Killarney;
- 1960: Federal Baie Fine Harbor Small Boat Anchorage established;
- 1960: Pulp & paper logging allocations cancelled
- 1964: George Lake 30 site campground;
- 1965: motorboats banned from main park lakes.



- 1967: Ontario Provincial Parks Classification
  - recreation / nature reserve / primitive / wild river / natural environment;
  - **Killarney 34,126 ha natural environment;**
- 1970: Goals & Policy Guidelines

“... **primitive core with a recreation zone** eastwards from George Lake ...campground & access ... natural, historical & multiple use, the latter combining low intensity recreational activities with discrete resource extraction.”



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## 1971 North Georgian Bay

### (Killarney) Recreational Reserve Act

Killarney park is within “... undeveloped quiet zone for non-mechanized forms of extensive recreation, like canoeing & hiking.”



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## 1971 Killarney Provincial Park

– **Primitive Classification: 33,600ha**

“... a **fairly large area** with **natural features** of **high quality** to provide a **wilderness recreation experience**... central **core of the La Cloche Range**... **rugged topography**... **blue lakes & Georgian Bay** make it **one of the most scenic areas in the Province**. ...a timber volume agreement in the Park was cancelled & located elsewhere. Letters written to conflicting uses announcing the change in classification & intent to phase out non-wilderness uses”



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## 1971 Killarney Provincial Park

- Recreation: 526ha ... intensive recreation...  
at George Lake will be excluded from the  
primitive classification

(Department of Lands & Forests, May 31, 1971).





- **1978: Ontario Provincial Parks Planning & Management Policies** approved by Cabinet:
  - “... a well organized, balanced parks system, a wide variety of experiences in a wide variety of landscapes... strictly protected natural areas to highly developed recreation places.”
  - Six classes: nature reserve / wilderness / waterway / natural environment / recreation / historical;
- **1978 Killarney classification** changed from primitive to **wilderness** 34,126 ha...

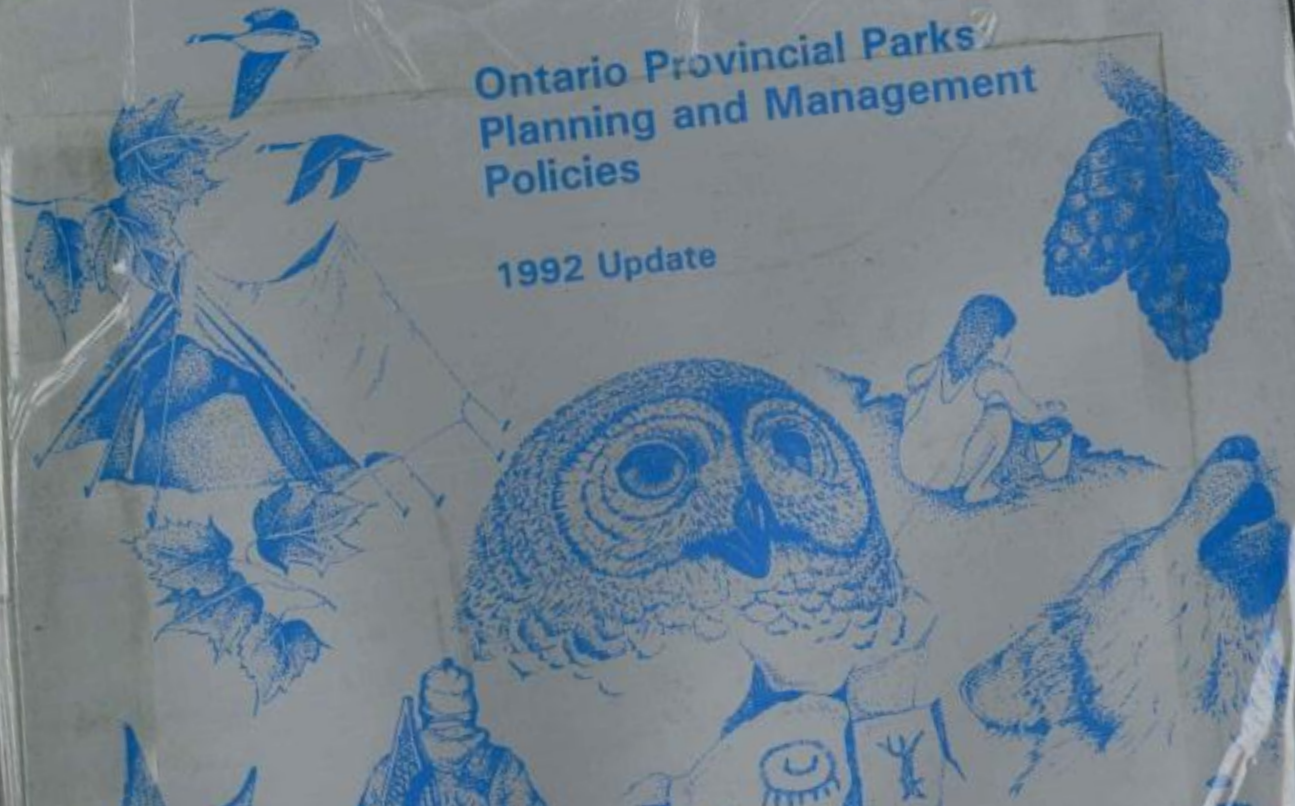


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# Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies

Ontario Provincial Parks  
Planning and Management  
Policies

1992 Update



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PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT  
Policies  
1992 Update



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1992: BlueBook “**Wilderness** ...

substantial areas ...nature... functions freely & visitors travel by non-mechanized means, experience expansive solitude, challenge & personal integration with nature... the larger the area set aside, the more effectively plant & animal species & communities will be protected... **should be as self-contained** as possible, **bounded by natural features... landforms or watersheds...** includes a buffer area large enough to **protect core, large-scale ecosystems.**”



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## 1968-1986 Killarney Management Plan 34,126ha

internal discussions; public meetings to produce a preliminary plan... distrust, anger...

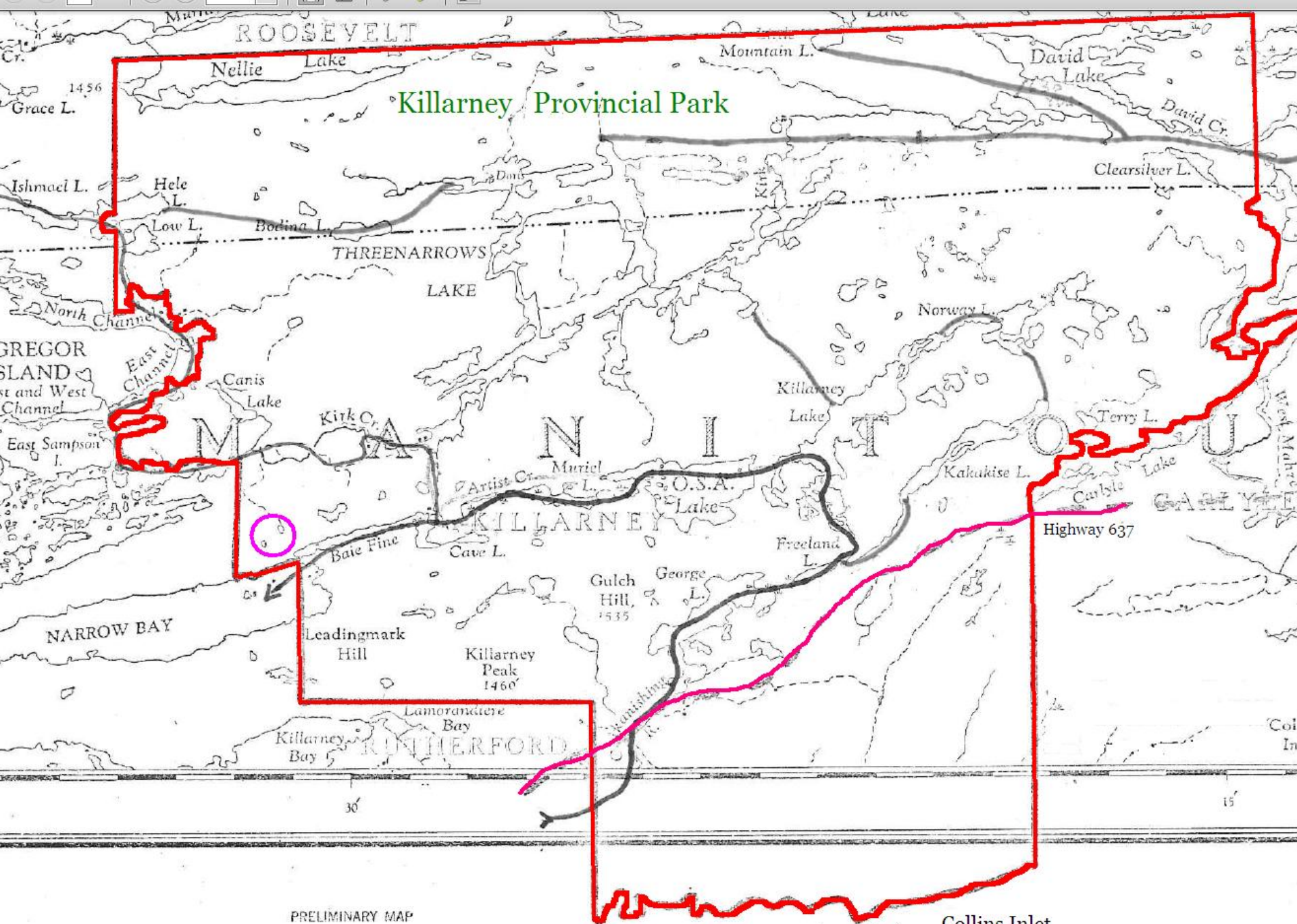
“**large core ... wilderness** with a peripheral area containing a wider range of uses... with a staging ground initiating a wider range of users, such as George Lake car campers, to wilderness qualities.”



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## 1983: Ontario Strategic Land Use Planning

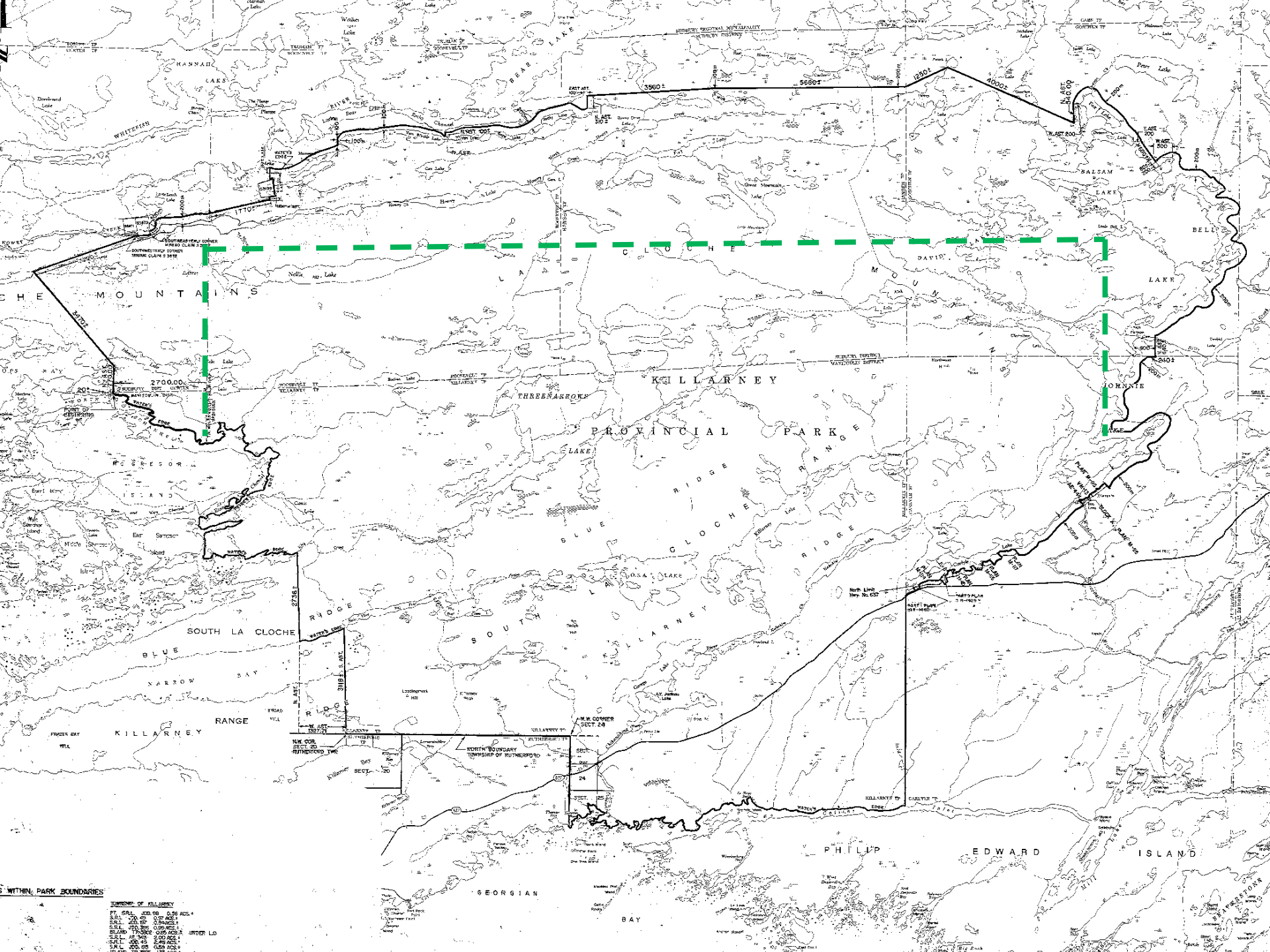
- 14,300 ha addition  
total area in core wilderness... 48,500ha;



# Killarney Provincial Park

PRELIMINARY MAP

Collins Inlet



WITHIN PARK BOUNDARIES

TOWNSHIP OF KILLARNEY

- PT. SAIL AND ON 0.26 AC.
- S. 1/4 200 0.07 AC.
- S. 1/4 201 0.07 AC.
- S. 1/4 202 0.07 AC.
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- S. 1/4 250 0.07 AC.



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## **1999: Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (OLL):**

Science from Freshwater Ecology Unit, delineated headwaters of all drainages of the core wilderness park:

### **Great Lakes St Lawrence Citizen's Committee**

- Killarney Additions - wilderness
- Killarney Lakelands & Headwaters - natural environment
- Killarney Coast & Islands - waterway





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2005 June: **Killarney wilderness additions** (P331)

- 825ha adjacent sensitive headwater lakes & sink hole bog;

2005 Dec: **Killarney Lakelands & Headwaters** (P187)

- natural environment 15,346ha captures remaining headwater limits of core wilderness park & lakeland up to Penache Lake south shore;

**Total ecologically connected parkland 64,671ha**

**Killarney Provincial Park  
P187, P189, P331  
and related forest reserves**

**Legend**

-  Primary Road
-  Secondary Road
-  Tertiary Road / Trail
-  Railway
-  Utility Line
-  Contour
-  River / Stream
-  Wetland
-  Waterbody
-  Township (lot / concession)
-  Regulated Prov. Park
-  Non-Regulated P189
-  Forest Reserve

Scale 1:50,000

Projection: UTM Zone 17 NAD83  
Contour Interval: 10 meters

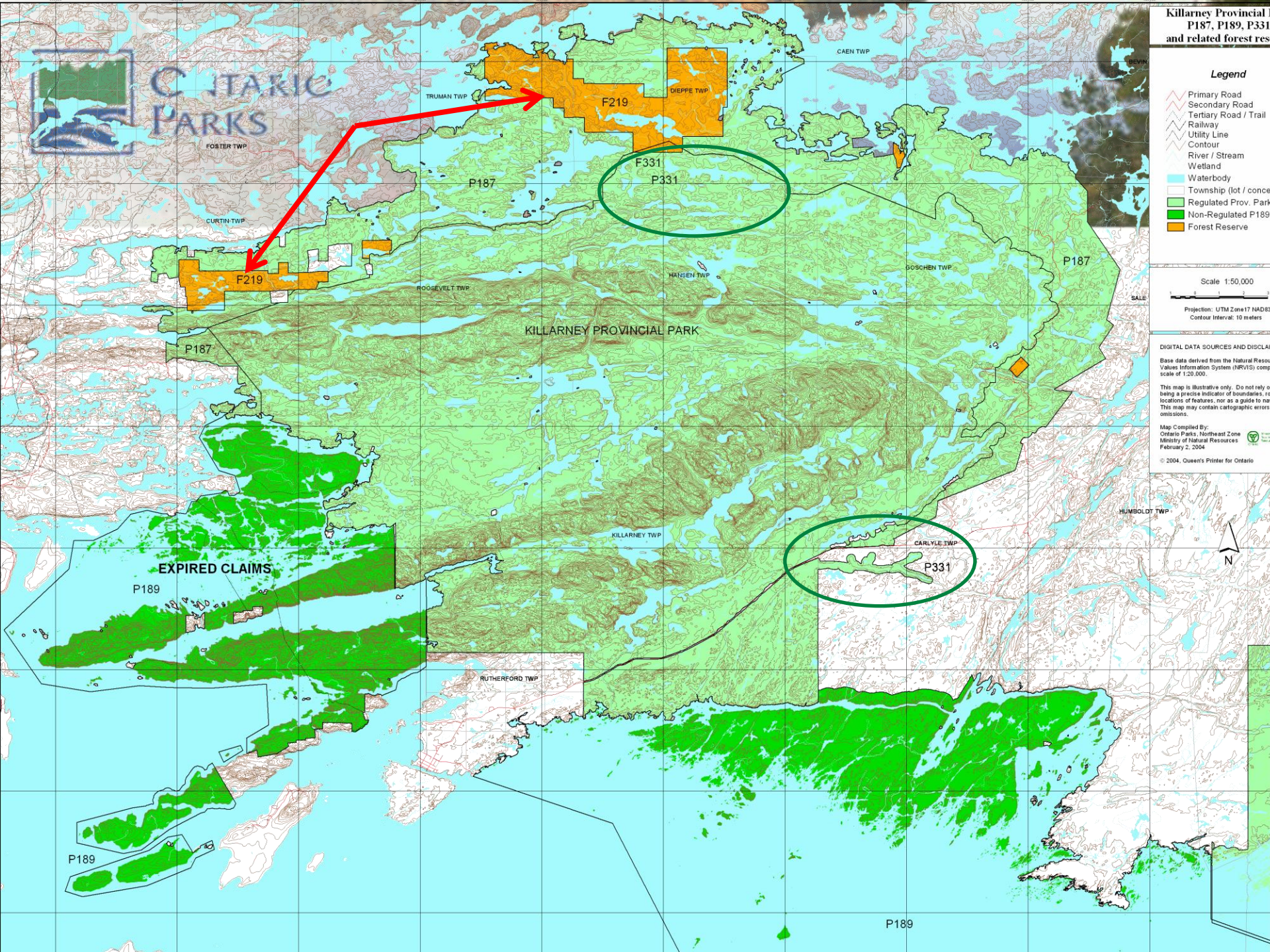
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Ontario Parks, Northeast Zone  
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**EXPIRED CLAIMS**

**KILLARNEY PROVINCIAL PARK**

P189



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## **Killarney Coast & Islands (P189)**

recommended waterway class park: 13,791ha;

## **Killarney North Forest Reserve (F219)**

recommended park addition: 2,931ha;

## **Enhanced Management Areas**

- Collins Inlet (303n) protect headwaters & earth science values of the wilderness park;
- Killarney East (211a) retain remote access adjacent to wilderness park



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## **Wikwemikong Land Claim – ongoing:**

Killarney Coast & Islands & other parks are imbedded in a land claim, Severn Bridge to Thessalon...

35,000 Aboriginal Fishing Islands:

- Aboriginal benefit - expand governance & create economic opportunities
- Aboriginal & Treat Rights continue on Crown lands;
- Aboriginal tenure on certain lands;
- Waterway park: Crown + Aboriginal lands... .
  - Seamless provincial park operations.

**KILLARNEY PROVINCIAL  
P187, P189, P331  
and related forest reserves**



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**Legend**

- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
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- Railway
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- River / Stream
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- Waterbody
- Township (lot / concession)
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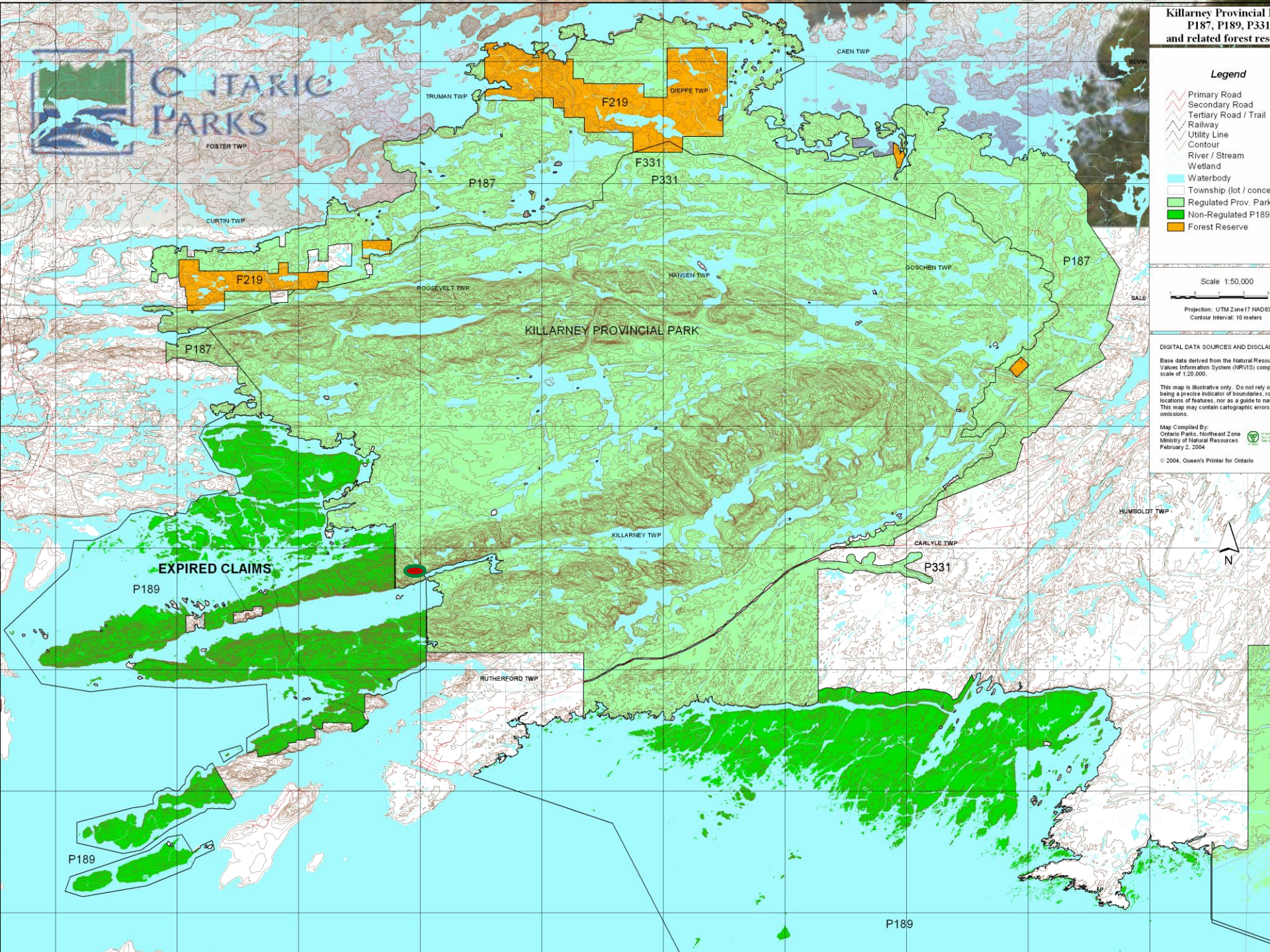
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# Ecological Connectivity

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# Wanderings in the Wilderness