

**A Study of the Image of Kenora and
the Contribution of Parks and Open Spaces to that Image**

By Diane P. Ukraineec, B.E.S.

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Submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies
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University of Manitoba
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Enseignement spécial	0529
Enseignement supérieur	0745
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Formation des enseignants	0530
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Lecture	0535
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Physique	0523
Programmes d'études et enseignement	0727
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Langues	
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Modernes	0291
Littérature	
Généralités	0401
Anciennes	0294
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Moderne	0298
Africaine	0316
Américaine	0591
Anglaise	0593
Asiatique	0305
Canadienne (Anglaise)	0352
Canadienne (Française)	0355
Germanique	0311
Latino-américaine	0312
Moyen-orientale	0315
Romane	0313
Slave et est-européenne	0314

PHILOSOPHIE, RELIGION ET THÉOLOGIE

Philosophie	0422
Religion	
Généralités	0318
Clergé	0319
Études bibliques	0321
Histoire des religions	0320
Philosophie de la religion	0322
Théologie	0469

SCIENCES SOCIALES

Anthropologie	
Archéologie	0324
Culturelle	0326
Physique	0327
Droit	0398
Économie	
Généralités	0501
Commerce-Affaires	0505
Économie agricole	0503
Économie du travail	0510
Finances	0508
Histoire	0509
Théorie	0511
Études américaines	0323
Études canadiennes	0385
Études féministes	0453
Folklore	0358
Géographie	0366
Gérontologie	0351
Gestion des affaires	
Généralités	0310
Administration	0454
Banques	0770
Comptabilité	0272
Marketing	0338
Histoire	
Histoire générale	0578

Ancienne	0579
Médiévale	0581
Moderne	0582
Histoire des noirs	0328
Africaine	0331
Canadienne	0334
États-Unis	0337
Européenne	0335
Moyen-orientale	0333
Latino-américaine	0336
Asie, Australie et Océanie	0332
Histoire des sciences	0585
Loisirs	0814
Planification urbaine et régionale	0999
Science politique	
Généralités	0615
Administration publique	0617
Droit et relations internationales	0616
Sociologie	
Généralités	0626
Aide et bien-être social	0630
Criminologie et établissements pénitentiaires	0627
Démographie	0938
Études de l'individu et de la famille	0628
Études des relations interethniques et des relations raciales	0631
Structure et développement social	0700
Théorie et méthodes	0344
Travail et relations industrielles	0629
Transports	0709
Travail social	0452

SCIENCES ET INGÉNIERIE

SCIENCES BIOLOGIQUES

Agriculture	
Généralités	0473
Agronomie	0285
Alimentation et technologie alimentaire	0359
Culture	0479
Élevage et alimentation	0475
Exploitation des pâturages	0777
Pathologie animale	0476
Pathologie végétale	0480
Physiologie végétale	0817
Sylviculture et faune	0478
Technologie du bois	0746
Biologie	
Généralités	0306
Anatomie	0287
Biologie (Statistiques)	0308
Biologie moléculaire	0307
Botanique	0309
Cellule	0379
Écologie	0329
Entomologie	0353
Génétique	0369
Limnologie	0793
Microbiologie	0410
Neurologie	0317
Océanographie	0416
Physiologie	0433
Radiation	0821
Science vétérinaire	0778
Zoologie	0472
Biophysique	
Généralités	0786
Médicale	0760

Géologie	0372
Géophysique	0373
Hydrologie	0388
Minéralogie	0411
Océanographie physique	0415
Paléobotanique	0345
Paléocologie	0426
Paléontologie	0418
Paléozoologie	0985
Palynologie	0427

SCIENCES DE LA SANTÉ ET DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

Économie domestique	0386
Sciences de l'environnement	0768
Sciences de la santé	
Généralités	0566
Administration des hôpitaux	0769
Alimentation et nutrition	0570
Audiologie	0300
Chimiothérapie	0992
Dentisterie	0567
Développement humain	0758
Enseignement	0350
Immunologie	0982
Loisirs	0575
Médecine du travail et thérapie	0354
Médecine et chirurgie	0564
Obstétrique et gynécologie	0380
Ophthalmologie	0381
Orthophonie	0460
Pathologie	0571
Pharmacie	0572
Pharmacologie	0419
Physiothérapie	0382
Radiologie	0574
Santé mentale	0347
Santé publique	0573
Soins infirmiers	0569
Toxicologie	0383

SCIENCES PHYSIQUES

Sciences Pures

Chimie	
Généralités	0485
Biochimie	487
Chimie agricole	0749
Chimie analytique	0486
Chimie minérale	0488
Chimie nucléaire	0738
Chimie organique	0490
Chimie pharmaceutique	0491
Physique	0494
Polymères	0495
Radiation	0754
Mathématiques	0405
Physique	
Généralités	0605
Acoustique	0986
Astronomie et astrophysique	0606
Électronique et électricité	0607
Fluides et plasma	0759
Météorologie	0608
Optique	0752
Particules (Physique nucléaire)	0798
Physique atomique	0748
Physique de l'état solide	0611
Physique moléculaire	0609
Physique nucléaire	0610
Radiation	0756
Statistiques	0463

Sciences Appliquées Et Technologie

Informatique	0984
Ingénierie	
Généralités	0537
Agricole	0539
Automobile	0540

Biomédicale	0541
Chaleur et thermodynamique	0348
Conditionnement (Emballage)	0549
Génie aérospatial	0538
Génie chimique	0542
Génie civil	0543
Génie électronique et électrique	0544
Génie industriel	0546
Génie mécanique	0548
Génie nucléaire	0552
Ingénierie des systèmes	0790
Mécanique navale	0547
Métallurgie	0743
Science des matériaux	0794
Technique du pétrole	0765
Technique minière	0551
Techniques sanitaires et municipales	0554
Technologie hydraulique	0545
Mécanique appliquée	0346
Géotechnologie	0428
Matériaux plastiques (Technologie)	0795
Recherche opérationnelle	0796
Textiles et tissus (Technologie)	0794

PSYCHOLOGIE

Généralités	0621
Personnalité	0625
Psychobiologie	0349
Psychologie clinique	0622
Psychologie du comportement	0384
Psychologie du développement	0620
Psychologie expérimentale	0623
Psychologie industrielle	0624
Psychologie physiologique	0989
Psychologie sociale	0451
Psychométrie	0632





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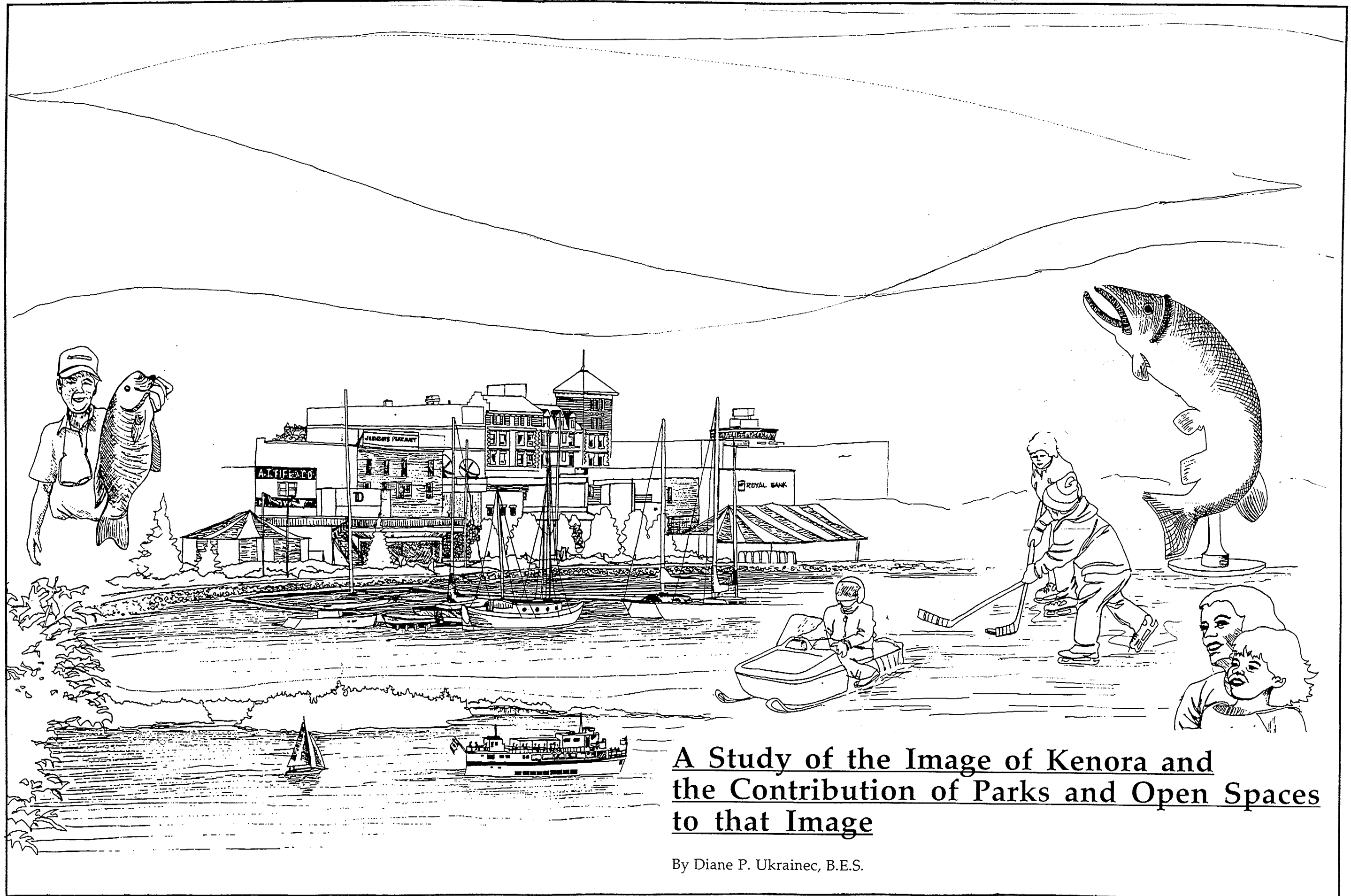
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Master of Landscape Architecture
Department of Landscape Architecture
University of Manitoba,
January 1994

A STUDY OF THE IMAGE OF KENORA AND THE
CONTRIBUTION OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACES TO THAT IMAGE

BY

DIANE P. UKRAINEC

A practicum submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies of the University of Manitoba in
partial fulfillment of the requirements of the degree of

MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the contributing factors which lead to the identification of the visual image of the community of Kenora, Ontario, along with the importance of the town's parks and open spaces to that image. This visual image is defined through an examination of the historic, cultural and biophysical resources of the community. Also, the public perceptions of Kenora's image are surveyed and a field reconnaissance of the study area is carried out. Once the image is clarified, the study makes recommendations for the expression and enhancement of that image in the re-organization, restoration and preservation of the existing parks and open spaces of the community. A set of recommended objectives and their corresponding actions are outlined in the final phase of the study, including a general framework for the re-organization and classification of the parks and open spaces based on their contribution to the visual image of the town. The acknowledgment and use of the visual image of Kenora becomes a means of guiding future development of the parks and may reinforce the community's sense of place.

This study is dedicated to the people of Kenora.

'As this study points out it is you and your involvement with the natural resources of the area which contribute to the image of Kenora. I have always known that this was a special community and as I have grown up and moved away from Kenora, it has become evident that other people regard the town with much the same respect. I have yet to travel to a place where people have not heard of or visited Kenora. The town is a major rest stop for most travelers moving from one coast of Canada to the other. And not one person who I have asked, did not remember the "pretty town" and its "beautiful lake". Kenora has access to some of the best managed forests and the greatest fishing in North America. Sometimes we forget how scarce such natural resources are becoming, and how lucky we are to be living in a relatively clean and natural wilderness environment. As the town continues to grow and the economic environment changes, please, take care in maintaining this special place, Kenora. '

Diane Ukrainec
January 1994

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Firstly, I would like to thank my committee for their patience, helpful suggestions and direction in this study. My committee consisted of Professor Charlie Thomsen, who chaired the committee, Professor Carl Nelson, who has been a mentor over my student career in Landscape Architecture, and Mr Jim Thomas, who provided me with much of the background information for the study and a great knowledge and practical experience in the planning structures of the town of Kenora. I would especially like to thank Professor Thomsen for his help and patience throughout the study.

To Mr. Mark Duggan, a special thanks for providing me with access to reports and other information which formed the basis for my background research of Kenora. His help was greatly appreciated.

To Mrs. Bowiec of the local newspaper and Mr. Reg Reeves of the Lake of the Woods Museum, thank-you for your help in acquiring photos of the Kenora area and for providing me with your insightful knowledge of the history of Kenora.

To the Town of Kenora and the recreation committee, thank you to those who partook in the survey and who provided me with access to maps and other information on current and future plans for the parks and open spaces of the community.

I would like to extend a special thank you to all those who participated in the study's survey. I greatly appreciate your taking the time to fill out the questionnaires and for giving me your views on the image of Kenora and on the parks and open spaces of the community. One special person with whom I had the pleasure of speaking was Mrs Whiteman. Thank-you for taking time out of your busy schedule to allow me to share in your special memories and anecdotes regarding your life in Kenora.

Finally, to my family, thank you for your patience and support throughout this study and my academic career.

FOREWORD

'The generalized mental picture of the exterior physical world that is held by an individual is the environmental image. This image is the product both of immediate sensation and of the memory of past experience, and it is used to interpret information and to guide action. The need to recognize and pattern our surroundings is so crucial, and has such long roots in the past, that this image has wide practical and emotional importance to the individual. A clear image enables one to move about easily and quickly. An ordered environment may serve as a broad frame of reference, an organizer of activity or belief or knowledge. A clear image of surroundings is thus a useful basis for individual growth. A good image gives its possessor an important sense of emotional security.'

"The sweet sense of home is strongest when home is not only familiar but distinctive as well."

-Kevin Lynch, The Image of the City, 1960.

CONTENTS:

Abstract

Acknowledgments

Foreword

Table of Contents

- 1 **Introduction:** statement of intent, issues, objectives, background studies, definitions, contents, methodology, study structure
- 2 **Context:** description of settlement and activity, context map
- 3 **Study Area:** scope and limitations, boundary map

PHASE ONE : IDENTIFYING THE IMAGE

- 4 Introduction
- 5 **Field Study :** inventory of existing parks and open spaces, facilities and land uses, analysis
- 6 Field Study Map
- 7 **Historical Resources :** written and visual description
- 8 Historical Resources Map
- 9 **Cultural Resources :** written and visual description
- 10 Cultural Resources Map
- 11 **Biophysical Resources :** written and visual description
- 12 Biophysical Resources Map
- 13 **Public Survey and Perceptions :** survey questionnaires, results of survey, past studies & comparisons
- 15 **The Image of Kenora:** identification of the qualities and characteristics which contribute to the image of Kenora
- 16 Visual Image Map

PHASE TWO : ENHANCING THE IMAGE OF KENORA AND ITS PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

- 17 Introduction
- 18 Design Process & Planning Principles
- 19 **Recommendations:** Objectives and Actions
- 21 **Reclassification of Parks**
- 22 **A - Natural Open Spaces**
- 23 **B - Cultural Heritage Parks**
- 24 **C - Recreational / Sports Parks**
- 25 **D - Leisure / Social Spaces**
- 26 **Conclusion**
- Bibliography
- Appendices

DEFINITIONS

The following are categories of parks and open spaces which exist in current plans along with proposed sizes from Recreation Master Plan. The current zoning class is given with each category as follows: open spaces(OP), hazard areas(H), rural lands(R) or institutional lands(I).

Community Park(OP)- An area of open space of a minimum size of 10 acres and preferred size of 20.0 to 30.0 acres, containing such major facilities as a major playground, tennis courts, senior level baseball diamonds and playing fields, washrooms change rooms, concession, picnic areas and parking. (Rec. Plan, 1991)

Neighbourhood Park(OP)- An area of open space of a minimum size of 3.0 acres and preferred size of 7.5 to 8.5 acres of land, containing facilities such as a clubhouse, outdoor rink, playground, seating area walkways, play field and shade tree planting. It may also contain a tennis court and junior softball diamond. (Rec. Plan, 1991)

School areas (I) - Those areas of land currently developed and used for educational facilities.

Pocket parks (OP)- Open areas of space of small scale that may be used as rest areas or small gardens and manicured areas to offset buildings.

Sports Facilities (OP)- Major sports facilities including the Recreation Complex, Golf Course and other areas with major sports fields for baseball or soccer.

Waterfront Parks (OP, H)- Shore-lined parks feeding water associated activities such as boating and swimming. These areas may also fall under the category of community park serving the needs of residents and visitors.

Special Open Spaces (OP, R, H) An area of open space sized according to site conditions and features. These spaces include areas of hazard or areas where the emphasis is on preservation and conservation due to their sensitive natural settings, also areas of limited physical access and enhanced visual access, buffers and linkages to other activity nodes. These areas may not be included in the 5 % parkland dedication within a development. The area may contain beach and picnic facilities, trails, boating facilities, boardwalks and observation decks, amphitheatres, visitor services centre, natural interpretation exhibits, parking and campgrounds.

The Town of Kenora has had many studies carried out reviewing its current and future planning structures and development needs. A brief summary of their findings may be found in Appendix B-2. Currently, the town has an Official Plan and Zoning Bylaws as its main planning documents.

During the 1980's, Kenora began investigating its development potential in a planning study for the shoreline surrounding the town. This study spurred the public awareness of the use of public lands and consequently, of the need to beautify the community in order to enhance the economic growth potential of its tourism industry. This Shoreline Development Study prompted the undertaking of a Harbourfront Development project and a downtown street-scaping project. Since then, a Public Parklands Study was completed which has led to an Aniclinabe Park Redevelopment Project and a Recreational Master Plan Study. The Recreational Study has encouraged current investigation of a Trail system, a Jaffray-Mellick Community Centre, a Kenora Recreation Centre Expansion Project and many more small scale projects.

Based on the Town of Kenora Public Parklands Study of 1989 in which the issue of the lack of a 'cohesive image' for the Kenora parks was identified, three problem areas were identified for Kenora's parks and open spaces.

1. ADMINISTRATION: The lack of a clear administrative structure controlling the parks and open spaces has resulted in inconsistent management and maintenance of existing parks and the deterioration of these spaces. There is presently no management plan in effect and no plan administrator to direct maintenance of parks.

2. PUBLIC: The public lacks initiative and leadership in order to encourage and inform current administrators of their needs and dissatisfaction with parks and open spaces. Much of the public although aware of conditions within the parks, are either indifferent to the situation or are not brought in to planning process early enough to have their concerns addressed. The situation being the disintegration of the existing parks.

3. IMAGE: The open spaces of Kenora contribute significantly to the overall image of Kenora. However, the existing parks either fail to contribute to a consistent image of the town or their imageability has been weakened with over use and poor maintenance practices. The current parks development trend is to copy ideas and amenities that are found in other parks outside the study area which have little or no relationship to the community itself. The result is a slow erosion of their ability to contribute to a positive visual image of the community.

The following study focuses on the issue of the imageability of Kenora and the contribution of the parks and open spaces of the town to that image. The study refers to information compiled in the previous studies mentioned here such as the use of the inventory of parks and open spaces from the Kenora Parkland Study. The two other issues of administration and public input which were revealed in the background studies are acknowledged within the practicum so as to bring them to the attention of the community, but shall not be the main focus of this practicum.

Existing Parklands - Those formally and informally laid out sites which exist as of 1991, within the Town of Kenora, for the purpose of public use and owed by the Town of Kenora.

Designated/Developed parks - Those lands designated as open spaces (OP), hazard (H) and rural lands (R) under the Zoning By-laws for the community of Kenora and planned for controlled use.

Undesignated/ Undeveloped Parks - Those spaces zoned as open space or rural that have been left as natural areas or not under a controlled use. No policies govern the protection of some of the more ecologically sensitive areas, other than zoning class H-hazard and SA- special Areas, which only controls building privileges.

Open Space - An area of land zoned as open space (OP), developed and undeveloped. These areas include land which is currently open to use for recreational activities or naturally, undeveloped areas, where there is no built forms such as buildings present.

Hazard Areas- Areas zoned under the Kenora by-laws as hazardous (H), where no building may take place due to tendencies toward flooding, erosion or unstable soil conditions. These areas may include areas of ecological sensitivity such as swamps, bogs and lake shores.

Parkland System - A network or number of parks which are joined together by some overall organizational scheme. The method of organization may be based on a theme or a reflection of the distinct character or image of the community. The parks although unique in some ways on their own, have a common bond to each other, thereby making them part of a complete system. Different levels of parks may be classified according to their function or type but the overall organization and management of the system will be consistent. Various elements, both visual or physical, may be used to link the individual parks to one another within the system. The use of landscape elements may be one method of physical linkage. For example, materials although consistently used in all parks may be treated differently at each level of the system.

ISSUES

The following issues became apparent through study research. 1. IMAGE : Since the development of the Kenora Harbourfront, the public has expressed a greater appreciation for the use of public lands. In response, the Kenora Public Parkland Study was completed in order to develop a policy with regard to future land use and development within its open space system. One of the key issues brought forward from this study was the 'lack of a cohesive image' within Kenora's parks.

2. ORGANIZATION : The Town of Kenora lacks a development plan or organizational structure for its parks and open spaces. Such organization is needed to aid in the aesthetic consistency, management and maintenance of these spaces. The enhancement of the image of Kenora may be addressed in the classification, rehabilitation and preservation of the existing parks and open spaces of the community.

3. FUTURE TRENDS : The Recreational Master Plan Study, also done for the Town of Kenora, indicates that current trends show increased need for seniors, youth and family associated activities. The same study indicates an increased interest in outdoor activities for these same age groups. Specifically, these age groups indicated that they would use the parks in Kenora if they were more properly maintained, more clearly identified and made more accessible.

4. ENVIRONMENT : Increased concern for the environment has generated a greater demand for interpretive trails and natural areas that aid in environmental education as well as add to general health and enjoyment of the population. (Kenora Recreation Master Plan, 1991.) These spaces may serve a dual purpose of expressing the natural aspects of the image of Kenora.

5. RECREATION : Increased awareness of a healthier lifestyle has encouraged physical participation in recreational activities, both active and passive, and generated a greater demand and use of the existing parklands and open spaces within the community. "Neighbourhood Parks in the Tri-Municipal Area do not usually have passive areas; generally they only consist of sports facilities. These parks do not encourage local, walk-to unscheduled use." (Town of Kenora, Recreation Master Plan, 1991.)

6. LINKAGE : According to the Parkland Study, linkage was a major concern for both recreational users and commercial businesses. These linkages, whether physical or visual, will help to reinforce the organization and appearance of the parks and open spaces. A public request was made for bicycle and walking paths that could physically link several parks. These paths may be used as part of an interpretive tour circuit linking sports, community and neighbourhood parks.

Image - The image of a space is the impression created in the mind of a user who has experienced the space, whether it be in the visual or physical sense of use. The image may be good or bad depending on the quality of the experience and the visual or physical quality of the space. The impression or image is also influenced by the past experiences brought into the experience of the viewer. The sense of 'place' may cause the image. The actual image of the space may have evolved from a number of factors including history of the given space, cultural influences and geological or ecological influences on the space. Public perception of the space will be based on these factors and an impression of the space shall be created in the mind of the viewer. The image of a space may be changed by manipulation of the factors acting on the space.

Imageability - To heighten the imageability of the environment is to facilitate its visual identification and structuring. The isolated elements of paths, edges, landmarks and districts are the building blocks in the process of making firm differentiated structures at urban scale. Imageability may be the product of powerful natural elements. More often, they are a product of human modification working for constituent purposes and with common technology on the basic structure provided by a continuous geologic process. If successful this modification is done with an awareness of the interconnectedness, and the individuality of both the natural resources and human purposes." (Definition from Kevin Lynch, *The Image of the City*, 1960.)

Any new terminology used within part two of this study, where new classifications of parks or rezoning of spaces is recommended, will be defined within the text where appropriate. For example, the classifications of parks and open spaces to be used in the re-organization of existing parks will be defined within the recommendations section of this study.

OBJECTIVES

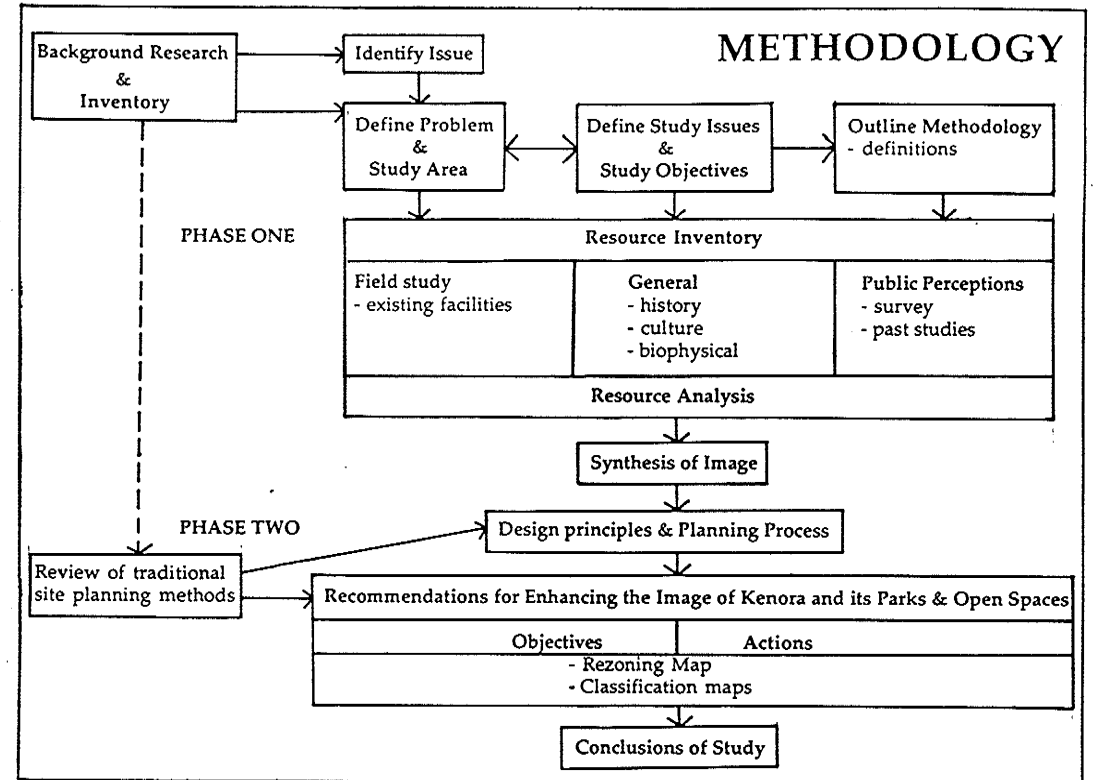
The Town of Kenora possesses unique qualities which contribute to its visual image. The study of that image will have the following objectives.

1. THE IDENTIFICATION OF IMAGE: This study will investigate the resources which contribute to the image of Kenora together with the public's perceptions of the area and its image. The resources to be studied are the historical, the cultural and the biophysical environments of Kenora. This investigation will seek to clarify the image of Kenora.

2. THE ENHANCEMENT OF IMAGE AND PARKS: A map of the existing inventory of parks and open spaces within the Town of Kenora is compiled within the first part of this study to identify the components which make the various parks and open spaces distinct places to both residents and visitors. These parks and open spaces have a significant contribution to the image of Kenora. In its second part, this study will use these existing parks and open spaces as a 'vehicle' for the expression and enhancement of the visual image of Kenora through their re-organization, restoration and linkage.

3. THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF PARKS AND IMAGE: The preservation of the inherent cultural and natural landscape associated with this specific northern community within the Lake of the Woods area will rely on planning and design that maintains a wilderness character in future development of parks and open spaces to be identified in the study. To ensure that the parks and open spaces of Kenora continue to contribute to the enhancement of the visual image of the community, the administration and management of these spaces will be addressed within a set of recommendations.

4. IMAGE AND PLANNING PROCESS : To examine the use of image as a basis for the planning and design process of the parks and open spaces of a given community. This will be achieved, first, by understanding the process of identifying the image of a given community, and next, by utilizing that image as a conceptual basis along with known landscape planning principles in the re-organization of the parks and open spaces of that community. This method seeks not only to enhance the visual image of the parks but also the imageability of the community.



STATEMENT OF INTENT

The town of Kenora is located in the Lake of the Woods area of western Ontario. Like all other communities, Kenora evokes an image. Through this study and other previously completed studies it has been found that the parks and open spaces of Kenora contribute significantly to the creation and maintenance of that image. The image of any given place is the result of many factors including the historical, cultural and biophysical resources of the community, together with the public perception of and attitude toward its landscape. This study will seek to clarify the qualities or characteristics which contribute to the essential image of this

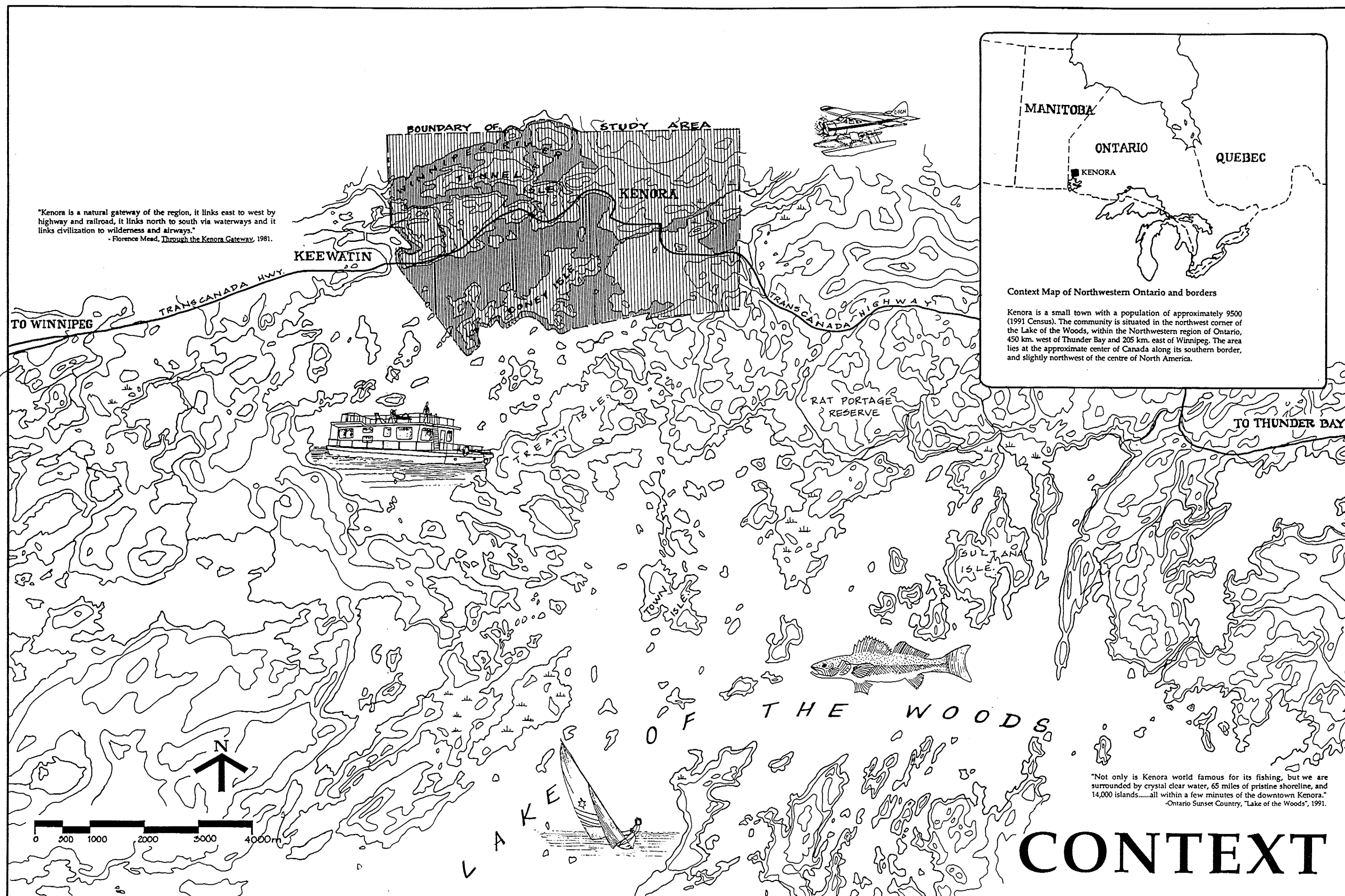
specific town, Kenora, based upon its resources. Once the image has been identified, the study will seek to enhance that image of Kenora. This will be achieved by identifying strategies for the re-organization, restoration and preservation of the town's parks and open spaces based on their contribution to the identified visual image. A set of recommended objectives and their corresponding actions will be outlined in order to support this intent. The actions will include a new classification system for the existing parks to guide their future development and to enhance their contribution to the image of Kenora.

	PHASE ONE	PHASE TWO	CONCLUSION
	FIELD STUDY*	PLANNING PRINCIPLES	
ABSTRACT	HISTORICAL RESOURCES*	RECOMMENDATIONS:	BIBLIOGRAPHY
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	CULTURAL RESOURCES*	(OBJECTIVES & ACTIONS)	APPENDICES
FOREWORD	BIOPHYSICAL RESOURCES*	RECLASSIFICATION*	
CONTENTS	PUBLIC SURVEY &	- NATURAL*	
INTRODUCTION	PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS	- CULTURAL HERITAGE*	
CONTEXT	THE IMAGE OF KENORA*	- RECREATIONAL/SPORTS*	TEXT & IMAGES
STUDY AREA		- LEISURE/SOCIAL*	* ASSOCIATED MAP

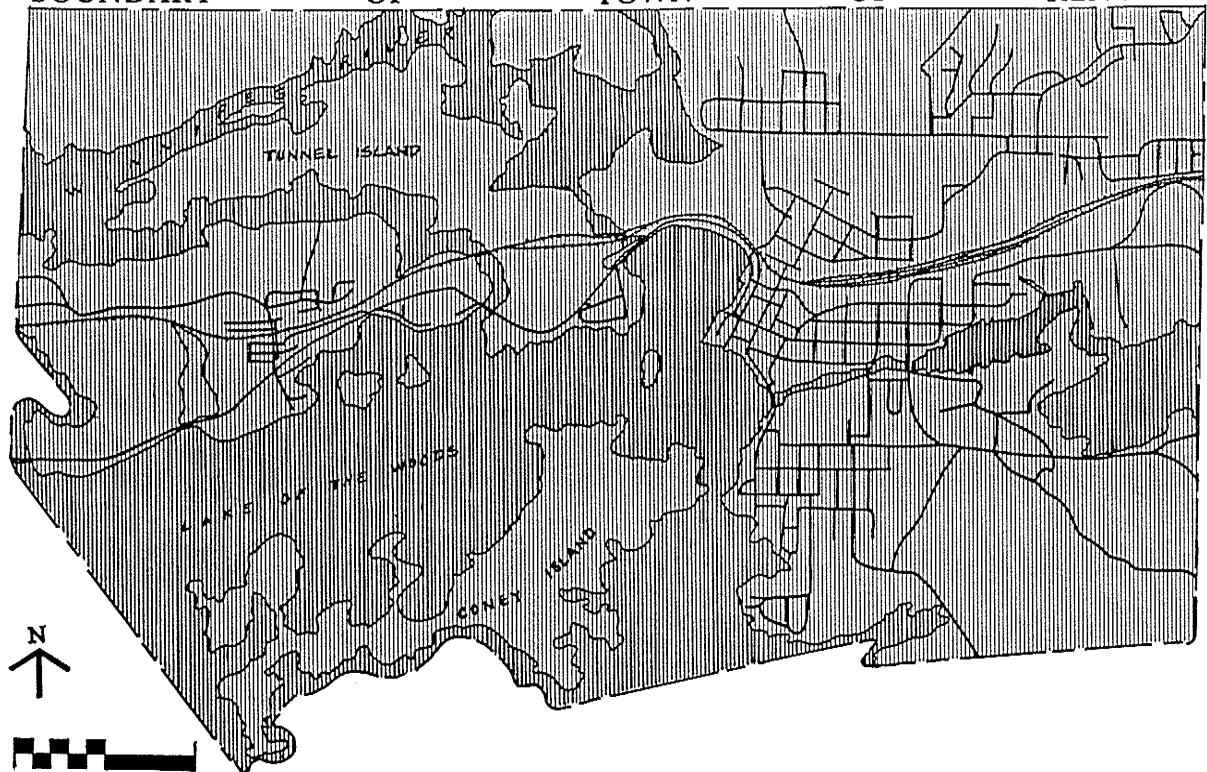
STRUCTURE OF STUDY

The above structure outlines the titles of each page or section of the study to follow. The issues and objectives of this study are addressed in two phases. Phase one of the study examines the inventory of existing parks and open spaces within the study area and outlines various contributing resources as they pertain to the image of the town. The last section of part one defines the image of Kenora. Phase two of the study uses the image identified in phase one as a conceptual guide to the re-organization of the parks and open spaces of the community using the outlined principles of design and traditional methods of site planning. A number of concluding recommendations are outlined as objectives and corresponding actions and are explained in text and map form. The final section concludes the study.

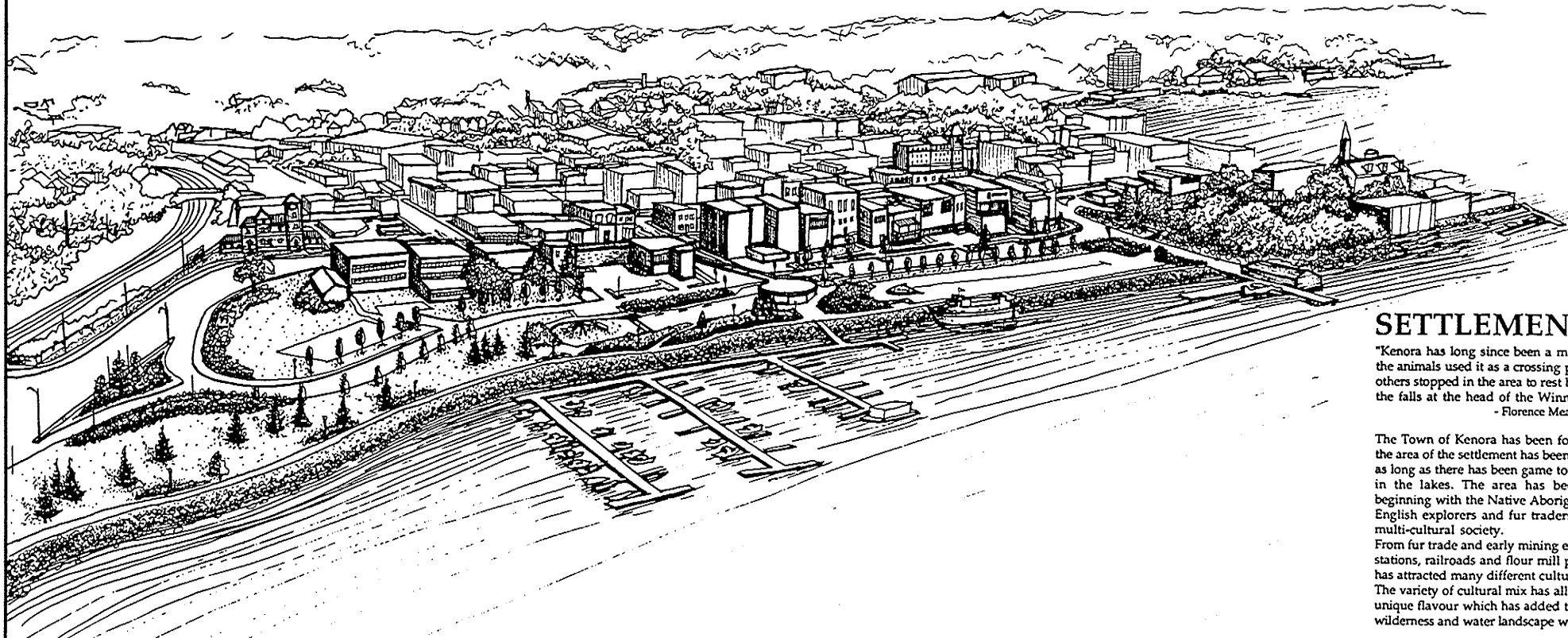
INTRODUCTION



BOUNDARY OF TOWN OF KENORA



LIMITS OF STUDY AREA

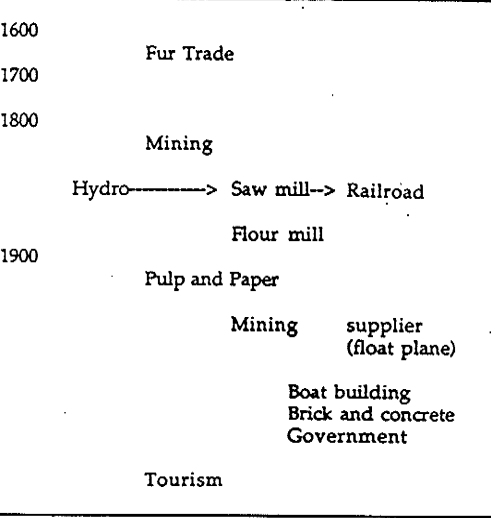


Town of Kenora from air showing Harbourfront and Downtown Area.
From Ontario Sunset Country brochure.

INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY

Currently, the main industry for Kenora is pulp and paper production. However, the wildlife of the area provided the first products to be harvested by fur trappers and mining attracted many prospectors with 'gold fever'. During the 1880's, small sawmills and tie mills which were powered by water and hydro electric generating stations on the the Winnipeg River, were built to feed the construction of the railway from eastern Canada to the west. The forest industry has flourished in the region ever since then. Flour mills were also built in the area, taking advantage of early water power and rail. The railroad, which was the key development bringing life to the former town of Rat Portage, was at one time the second largest employer of the community but has since decreased in importance. The town now relies heavily on tourism in the region and both the federal and provincial governments for further employment. Mining in the Kenora area is still quite active. Beside the abundance of forest products, wild rice, fish and wildlife, the area offers many mineral resources such as gold, nickel, copper, silver, uranium, molybdenum, lead, zinc and iron. Kenora is located in the center of a prime hunting and fishing area with numerous tourist resorts and fishing camps in the area. The many surrounding cottage areas and tourist resorts in the region generate a substantial tourist trade for the community.

INDUSTRY & TIME LINE



SCOPE & LIMITATIONS

The area of study for this project will comprise all public open spaces, designated and undesignated, developed and undeveloped, under the ownership and within the limits of the Town of Kenora (including Norman). School grounds make up a considerable portion of the open space facilities of a small community and will also be included in the study area. Areas of land currently zoned as rural will be included in the open space inventory and considered along with all zoned open space for development or designation within a new hierarchy of the open space system. The 'designated' and 'undesignated' parks spaces as defined in the inventory of the Kenora Public Parkland Study (1989) will be referred to and re-classified according to a new hierarchy of spaces to be established in the practicum. (Refer to 'definitions' and 'design strategy' sections) The project will address proposed redevelopment projects for the existing parks and future development of the parklands within the community. The inventory and mapping of existing parks and open spaces will be based on information compiled in the Kenora Public Parkland Study (1989). The identification of an 'image' for the parks will be based on existing compiled data from various sources (texts, previously completed surveys and studies) and on information received from a limited number of interviews with key informants. The informal interviews will seek to define the perceived image of the existing parklands from a representative group of individuals from the community.

SETTLEMENT OF KENORA

"Kenora has long since been a meeting place for early peoples, even the animals used it as a crossing point in their travels. Voyageurs and others stopped in the area to rest before portaging their canoes around the falls at the head of the Winnipeg River."
- Florence Mead, *Through the Kenora Gateway*, 1981.

The Town of Kenora has been formally settled since 1882, however, the area of the settlement has been occupied in one form or another for as long as there has been game to hunt in the forests and fish to catch in the lakes. The area has been inhabited by various peoples beginning with the Native Aborigines to the more recent French and English explorers and fur traders and continuing on to the present multi-cultural society. From fur trade and early mining efforts to saw mills, water power stations, railroads and flour mill production, the industry of the area has attracted many different cultures to settle in the Town of Kenora. The variety of cultural mix has allowed the town to acquire its own unique flavour which has added to the character of the rugged wilderness and water landscape which surrounds the community.

STUDY AREA

PHASE ONE

Introduction

This section of the study deals specifically with the identification of the image of Kenora and how the park and open spaces contribute to that image. It begins with a field study which outlines the existing inventory of parks and open spaces within the town of Kenora study area. Next, an investigation of the various resources including the historical, the cultural and the biophysical environments which contribute to the image of the community is presented. The public's perceptions of the parks and open spaces of Kenora are also measured through an independent survey and a review of the past studies done on the area. This combined information is summarized and synthesized in order to clarify the image which makes this community distinctive from any other. The application of this knowledge is dealt with in phase two of the study.

FIELD STUDY ANALYSIS

INVENTORY CHART OF EXISTING PARKS FACILITIES

Layout and Form: (refer to following map)

The layout and form of a community influences the visual quality and the physical activity within it, and thus is an important part of the town's image. The original settlement pattern of Kenora was established along and in line with the shoreline of the Lake of the Woods in the present areas of Main street and the Harbourfront Park. The resultant form is based on a pattern of the streets which follows along the natural curve of the lake's shoreline and is manipulated by the landform. The placement and angle of a standard street grid in the downtown area was first established in line with this shoreline. The width of the Main Street was established by a short rail track which diverted goods off the main line north of the town to a Hudson Bay Trading Post on Main. To the east of the downtown area the grid shifts to a north-south-east-west alignment along the railway east. The standard street grid is simple and regular when placed upon the flatter areas of land, but becomes distorted in other areas of hilly topography. As the settlement spreads to the south and northeast, the standard grid of streets which is dominant in the older, central section of the town is broken up. In the southern portion of the town the grid layout is only minimally disturbed by hills due to deeper soils for development, while in the areas north of the railway which cuts the town in half, the grid is distorted as it is set into the valleys and along the hillsides of a rocky landscape. To the north east, especially, the layout of the streets follows the easiest course through the rugged landscape. Thus, the overall layout of the streets of Kenora is influenced originally by shoreline and the railway and, in its later growth, by landform.

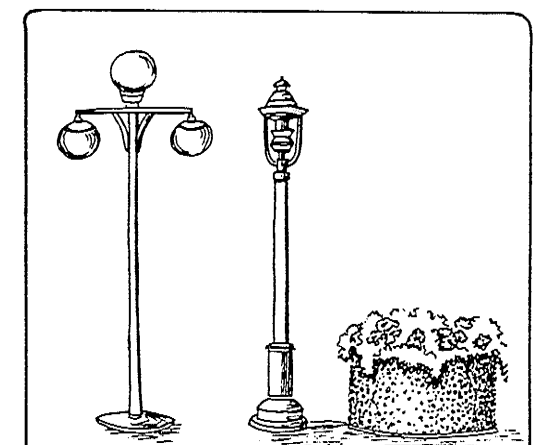
One of the dominant features in the final form of the Kenora is the railway as it bisects the town into north and south halves. Another divisional feature is the Winnipeg River which cuts the western portion, Norman, off from the rest of the town to the east of the river. The Trans-Canada Highway joins west to east as it follows the railway into the town from the west, then sneaks through the easiest paths of downtown Kenora as it moves eastward. The rail line and highway part ways as they move through the town and continue east.

Districts: (refer to following map)

Districts are formed by both man made and natural elements in this landscape. These built and natural forms together with cultural influences create distinctive districts which are a part of the visual image of Kenora. There are three features which physically separate areas of the town. These are the water, the railway and the topography. The railway cuts the town into two north and south halves. The halves are in turn broken up by natural features. South of the tracks, three districts are divided by a creek and by landform. The Downtown district is part of the original settlement area whose layout lined up with the shoreline of the lake. The Central district is distinguished in plan from the Downtown area by the shift in the grid pattern and by the change in function from commercial to residential use. Lakeside district is physically separated from the Downtown and Central areas by the Laurensen Creek. To the north of the rail line, the North End district is separate from the Downtown but continues the same orientation of grid pattern except in an eastern portion of the North End where the grid lines up with the pattern of the Central district across the tracks. The Rideout and Evergreen districts are separated from each other and from the North End district by the major industrial area of the Boise Cascade Pulp and Paper Mill. The newer section of the town, the Minto and Pinecrest districts, is different in layout pattern than the rest of the community. Here, the standard grid is broken down and manipulated by a hilly topography. The Minto district lies in a valley overlooked by the Evergreen district. To the east of Minto the Pinecrest district follows a 'Valley Drive' to a flat highland. The Brickyard district lies in a valley east of Evergreen. The Norman district is the most removed area of the town of Kenora and functions as a suburb or community on its own. This district is physically divided from the rest of the community by the water channels of the Winnipeg River and by Tunnel Island. The only threads which connects the district to the town are the transportation routes of the Trans-Canada Highway and the railway. Norman was originally developed along with a major sawmill and water power station. The dam still exists. The small portion of Tunnel Island which is developed mainly for institutional and commercial uses may be considered as a part of the

downtown area of Kenora as it curves along the shoreline of Kenora Bay.

The names of these district correspond to the names of various schools throughout the town, industrial use, significant persons and/or natural features, such as dominant forest species, in an area. For example the Evergreen district took its name from the common name, 'evergreen', for coniferous trees which dominate its forested landscape. Lakeside is on the southern lakeshore lined portion of town. The Brickyard district took its name from a brick making plant which was formerly located in the area. The Minto district is so named after the first street developed in the new residential area.



TYPICAL LIGHTING & PLANTER IN DOWNTOWN

Dominant Features:

The main feature of the town of Kenora is the water of the Lake of the Woods. Access to the water's edge has been improved over the last few years with the development of the Harbourfront Park and other smaller parkland spaces along the shoreline within the town. This shoreline greenbelt is disrupted by commercial and institutional use which was allowed to develop along the water's edge earlier in the town's development. The shorelines of the Winnipeg River and the Laurensen Creek are minimally accessible from rural, industrial or institutional areas only. The Kenora Recreation Centre area is one of few publicly accessible portions of the Laurensen Creek.

The rugged and hilly topography of Kenora manipulates the layout and is visually evident in most views within the town. The hills have many positive effects on the image of Kenora while providing microclimate protection from winds to residential areas. Views are created and paths of movement manipulated by the undulations of the landscape.

The rural zoned areas which surround Kenora are important to the visual character and natural image of Kenora. They provide a natural setting for the community and open space for recreation activities which require a lot of space, such as snowmobiling or cross-country skiing. Within the developed core of Kenora, undeveloped open spaces, whether designated as hazard or rural, are a significant part of the image which sees natural areas included in the plan of Kenora. Remnant forest land adjacent to schools are a major play area for youth and adults and corridors for wildlife movement through and into the town.

Designated Parks and Open Spaces:

All community parks are located along the water's edge and within the southern portion of the town. The Harbourfront and Norman Parks are positioned along the Trans-Canada Highway which runs through Kenora. Anicinabe Park is located further off the main route with directional signage leading through the residential area of Lakeside and into the park. A problem of access to the park is currently being addressed in the redevelopment of the park with a new entrance road having been cut to allow direct access from the highway near the A&W Ball Park.

Anicinabe Park and the Harbourfront area also accommodate tourism needs such as camp grounds, easy access, and major facilities.

The areas listed under Sports Facilities have great potential in being linked together as a major sports area serving all major sporting activities (except soccer) in close proximity to one another. Anicinabe, the Golf Course and the A&W areas all lie adjacent to one another and could easily be linked together and developed as a one large park with a wide mix of active and passive use areas. The location of the Kenora Recreation Centre is almost central in the plan of Kenora and is easily accessible from land and water to all residents.

Currently all neighbourhood parks listed, with the exception of Central Park and Norman, have only community clubhouses and rinks. They rely on adjacent school grounds for play structures and fields. Norman Park has a community club and rink along with a ball diamond, a seating area and an associated waterfront park. Central Park has two ball diamonds in addition to the rink. Rideout Community Club area has the potential of expanding a park inland and has access to shoreline. However, the adjacent road is presently a part of a planned industrial route to the mill from the bypass. Such a development will have a significant effect on any future development of a neighbourhood park for Rideout. Unorganized play of youth in this area takes place in the surrounding forests and at Lakewood school. But, a structured play space and a rest area is needed within the neighbourhood.

School areas listed are zoned for institutional activity. These spaces play a major role in neighbourhood play space. Many schools have adjacent rural zoned areas that extend play areas into natural environments. These schools include: Evergreen with a forest and the 'Stoney Mountain' area surrounding it; Beaver Brae High School which has a 10 acre area of adjacent land serving as a trail area and dramatic backdrop to the 'school on the hill'; Lakewood Junior High-school which uses its adjacent rural land as a natural interpretive area and cross country ski trail; Thomas Aquinas school has recently acquired some of the land adjacent to its kindergarten through grade twelve school in order to expand its high-school facilities. Kin Valley school has access to an open field across the street which is currently zoned as commercial space for the Minto residential area, however, the area is currently undeveloped and under threat of being developed as a strip mall. This space is ideal in size and location for a neighbourhood park area without a rink. King George school uses the adjacent facilities at the Recreation Centre.

The pocket parks listed are all spaces that compliment some adjacent building and contain formal garden plots. These formal spaces are important rest areas for the adjacent commercial and institutional areas.

The special open spaces listed in the inventory chart are existing pocket parks and undeveloped open spaces which are currently zoned as either 'rural' or 'hazard' lands. Many areas have the potential of being linked to existing developed or designated open spaces and parks such as those close to the previously mentioned schools (Evergreen, Lakewood Beaver Brae & T.A.), neighbourhood parks (Rideout), and community parks like Coney Island (Blueberry Hill) and Norman Park (Cameron Bay). Areas such as Laurensen Creek beside the Recreation Centre have great potential for natural interpretive centres. The Laurensen Creek east section includes shoreline and inland rural area. This may be combined into a natural community park. The forests north of the Minto residential area and the Kenora Cemetery are the shoreline forests of Rabbit Lake and should be preserved for their aesthetic, ecological and climatic influence on the area. This hill top forest area also provides a dramatic background for the housing development. Many of these open spaces are ecologically sensitive areas that are prone to flooding and erosion. The development of this area may disturb various rare or unique plant species and geologic features such as a natural spring found along a forest path behind one of the many apartment areas. The spring which is known to few is used by many local residents for fresh clear and cold drinking water. The entire forest area is a wildlife corridor and home to various species of birds, insects and other wildlife of the area. Some of these plants and wildlife are discussed in the Biophysical Resource section of this study.

See Appendix A-2 for Photo Inventory of Kenora Parks

PARK CATEGORY	NAME OF PARK	AREA	RINK	CLUB	BALL	PLAY	SEATS	GRASS	TREES	PARK'G	DOCK	BEACH	PICNIC	WASH	CH/RM	OTHER AMENITIES	ZONING	ADJ. USE
NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS	Lakeside	3.5	●	●					○							Rink has been removed.	R	R
	Rideout		●	●					○							bleachers	OS	R,I
	Central		●	●	●				○							*School facilities nearby and surrounding forest	OS	R
	Evergreen		●	●					○							*School facilities nearby	OS/M2	R
	Pinecrest		●	●					○							*School facilities nearby	CI	R,S
	Minto/Kin Valley		●	●					○							*Associated park facilities	OS	R
COMMUNITY PARKS	Anicinabe	100														camping, trails, boat launch, beach volleyball court, fire pits, shelter, open fields	OS	R
	Coney Island	12.6														Island: open field, picnic shelter, partially covered boardwalk, concession	OS	R
WATERFRONT PARKS	Harbourfront	5														CPR caboose; *associated rowing club facilities and Dairy Queen	OS	R,C
	MacLeod Park/Greenbelt	3.5														concession, gardens, boardwalk, pathways, sundial, M.S. Kenora, flags, bumper boats, lookout	OS/HZ	C
SCHOOL GROUNDS	First Ave. Laudromat	1														fountain, steam boat, steam engine, Husky, the Musky, boardwalk, gardens, lookout	OS	C,S,I
	King George Elementary															*Access to lake	HZ	C
	Pinecrest Elementary															track, open field, basketball courts, hard surface play areas, hill; *Rec. Centre adjacent	II	R
	Evergreen Elementary															open field; *associated neighbourhood rink, T.A. highschool and adjacent forest	II	R
	Lakewood Jr. High															open field, hill, basket ball court; *associated neighbourhood rink and surrounding rural forested land	II	R,I
	Beaver Brae High															open field, football/soccer field, basketball court, tennis court, hard surface play area; *adjacent forest	II	R,I
SPORTS FACILITIES	Thomas Aquinas															open grass area, football field, bleachers, tennis courts; *trails in surrounding forest	II	R
	Kin Valley Elementary															open field, basketball court, hard surface play area; *newly acquired adjacent forested land	II	R
	Mount Carmel Elem.															*Adjacent open field (unoccupied open space)	II	?
	Recreation Centre	19	●	●												hard surface play area; *associated lookout park	II	F,I
	Golf Course															tennis courts, track, soccer field, basketball court, hills, bleachers, indoor pool complex; *access to creek and school	I2	R,C,I
	A & W Ball Diamonds	4.6														18 hole golf course, sliding hills cross-country ski trails; *access to lake and adjacent Anicinabe beach facilities	OS	R
POCKET PARKS	Memorial(Museum)	0.4														bleachers; gravel base over entire site	OS	R,C
	Legion	0.1														War Memorial statue, gardens: passive area	I2	C
	Library	0.2														cenotaph(war monument), gardens: formal area	C2	C,I
	Town Office	0.1														planters, ramp, view of Kenora Bay and Harbourfront: passive area	C2	C
	Shoppers Mall Triangle	0.1														flower bed, signage: corner offset to Old Post Office	C2	C,I
	Lookout Park	0.1														flower garden: median triangle	C2	R,C
	First Ave. Triangle	0.1														view of downtown Kenora and Bay: passive area	R2	R,S,I
	Main Street corner	0.1														view of lake and access to shoreline and docks: passive area	R1	R,C
	Hospital & St. Joseph's	0.3														part of Harbourfront development and entrance to Main street from west	C2	C
	Triangle by new clinic															adjacent park/hazard land next to hospital	I2	
SPECIAL OPEN SPACES (undeveloped rural, hazard or open space)	Laurensen's Creek	10														important view along highway leading into town from west	I2	
	Town Island															natural shoreline and creek vegetation, undeveloped marshland and natural undisturbed forest inland to east	SA/RU/I12	R,C,S
	Bush Island															island approx. 9 mi. from town, formerly Kenora Beach; lighthouse, natural sand and rocky beach and forest area	OS	
	Forest north of Minto	40														island with sandbar connecting to Coney Island during low water period, natural sand shoreline	OS/RU	R
	Lakewood adjacent land															natural undisturbed forest, informal trails, beach shoreline on northside	RU	S,C
	Beaver Brae rural															high rockcliff edge on Winnipeg river, rocky uplands and natural forest vegetation, informal trails	RU	R,S
	Blueberry Hill/Coney Island															rocky uplands and natural forest vegetation, informal trails	RU/HZ	
	Stoney Mtn./Evergreen rural															informal trails along forested and bare rock hills, views out to lake and town	RU/M2	
	Rideout Bay shoreline															rocky cliff and forested hill with informal trails and sliding paths	OS	
	Tunnel Island															adjacent to rideout community club	RU/HZ	
	North of Norman Bay															rural zoned forested area, undeveloped except for railway which cuts through at the south end	RU	
	Cameron Bay rural															remnant red and white pine forest on cliff overlooking the west channel of the Winnipeg river	RU/HZ	
	East Entrance-highway 17															rocky upland with sparse vegetation, mostly shrubs and grasses, rocky shoreline	RU/HZ/OS	R,I
																rural zoned area with grass pasture along highway and forested hills	RU	

LEGEND:

● ADEQUATE FACILITIES

○ INADEQUATE FACILITIES

* undeveloped

**land currently owned by Boise Cascade

Zoning Classifications:

OS- open space

HZ- hazard

RU- rural

R1,2- residential

M2- industrial

CI,2- commercial

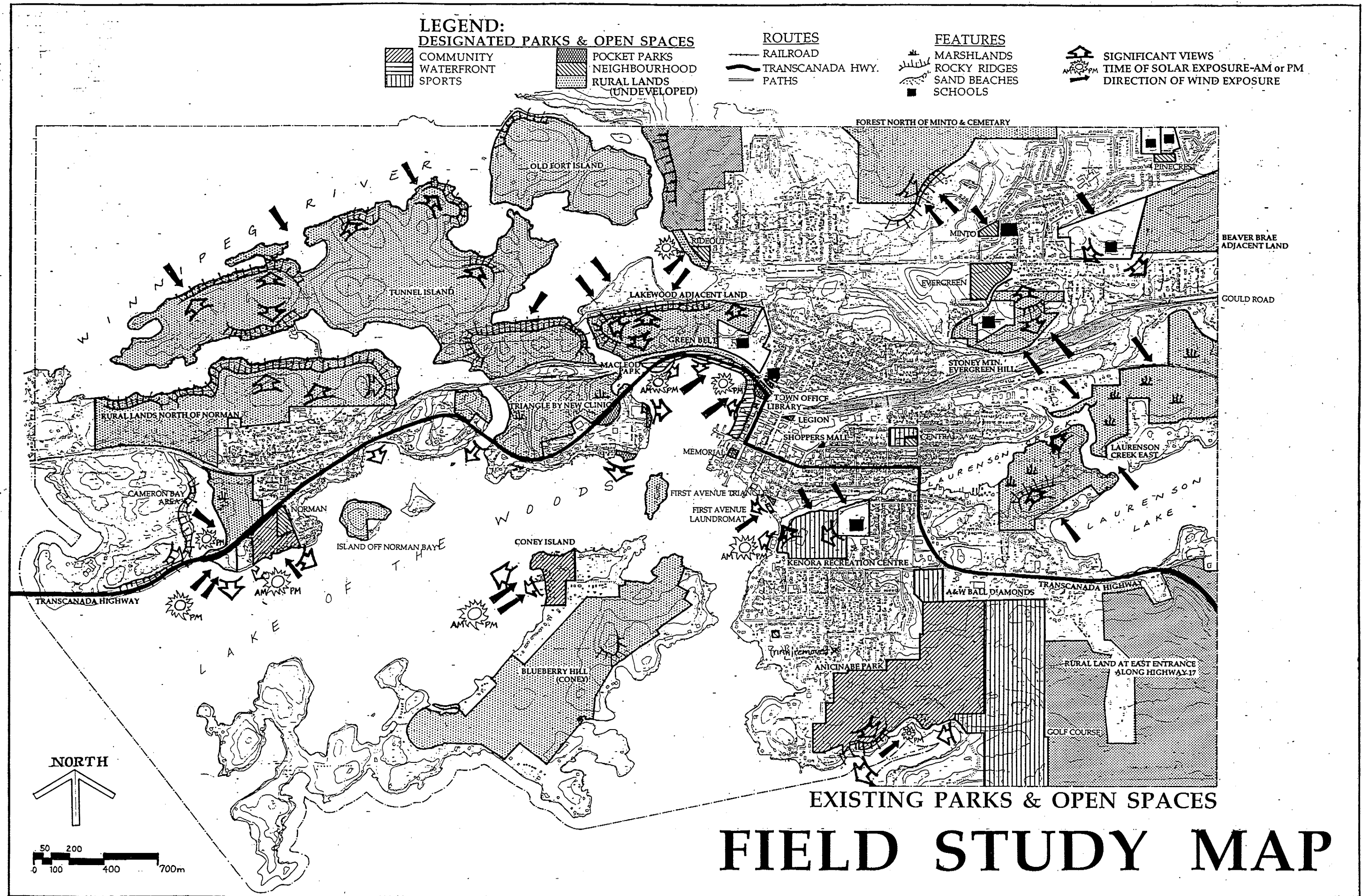
I1,2-institutional

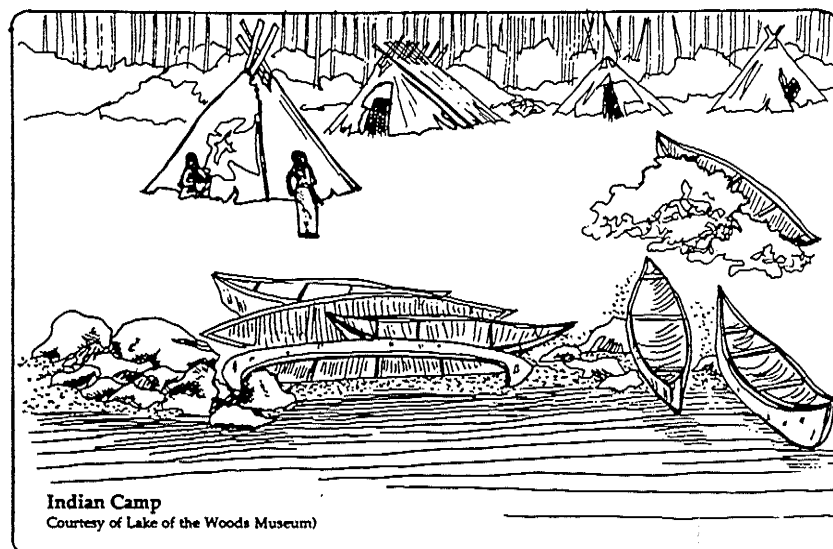
SA- special area

(Compiled using Kenora Parkland Study by Hilderman, 1989 and Tri-Municipal Recreation Master Plan, 1991.)

See Appendix A-1 for Zoning Map from the Official Plan for Kenora and Zoning By-Laws, 1966-86.

FIELD STUDY

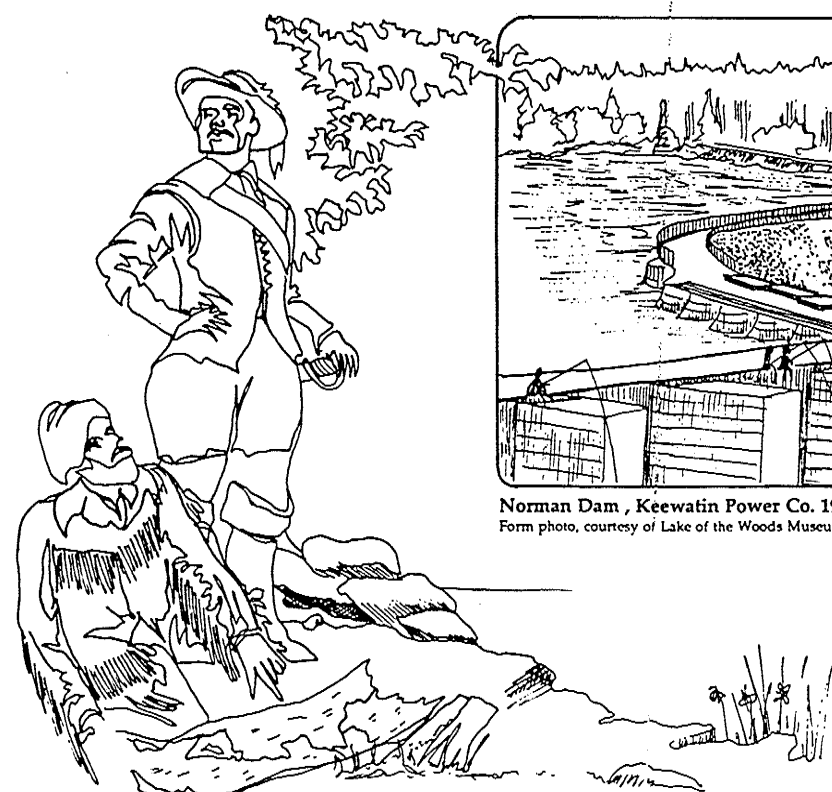




Indian Camp
Courtesy of Lake of the Woods Museum

According to archaeological records, the region known as Kenora and its surrounding areas have been the centre of human activity tracing as far back as 8000 years B.C.. Beginning with the Paleo Indian, continuing through the Archaic Period and the Woodland Period, this area has been an important crossroad and gateway to a land filled with lakes and forests.

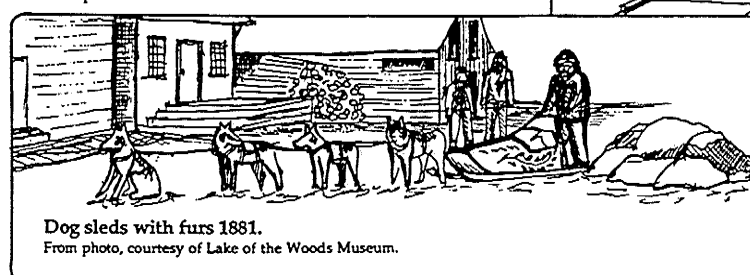
The first documented white man to have seen the Lake of the Woods was Jacques De Noyons in 1688. In 1732, the first white explorer to encounter the area known as 'Waszush Onigum, Kee-way-din' or 'the portage to the country of the muskrat at the north part of the lake' was Pierre La Verendrye. The arrival of these French explorers was soon followed by the arrival of the English and with them the establishment of a Hudson's Bay fur trading post at Rat Portage in 1861.



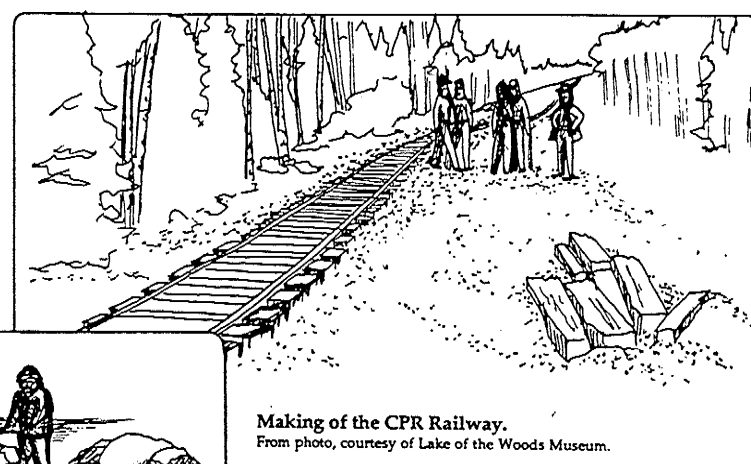
La Verendrye at Lake of the Woods.
Form print by A.H.Hider, Public Archives of Canada.

The building of the railway between 1879 to 1885 marked the beginning of civilization by the new regime and the decline of the Indian order. Industry and exploitation of the land and its resources followed with the establishment of sawmills to provide ties and timbers for the railway and water power to provide energy for the operation of the mills. With the completion of the railway the influx of settlers began and the settlement of Rat Portage grew. At the same time a gold rush brought prospectors and lawlessness to the community.

As Pierre Berton wrote in *The Last Spike*:
"In 1880, Rat Portage was the roughest town in Canada; eight hundred gallons of illegal liquor poured into Town every month, hidden in barrels of coal oil...Here on a smaller and more primitive scale was foreshadowed all the anarchy of a later prohibition in the United States - the same gun-toting mobsters, corrupt officials and harassed police."



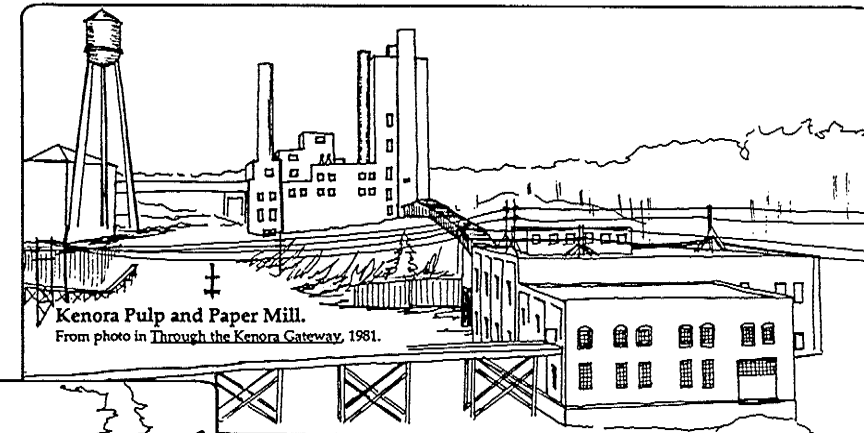
Dog sleds with furs 1881.
From photo, courtesy of Lake of the Woods Museum.



Making of the CPR Railway.
From photo, courtesy of Lake of the Woods Museum.

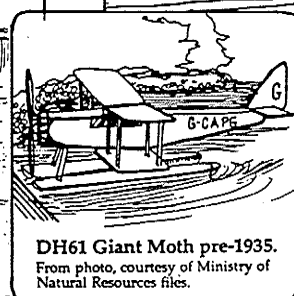
The discovery of gold in the Red Lake area in 1925 once again established Kenora as the main center for the distribution of supplies and transportation to and from most northern communities in the district. As a main center of industry and activity in the area Kenora has attracted many government agencies set up head offices for the northwest region.

In 1923 the Kenora Pulp and Paper Mill was built. The mill, which is presently operated by the Boise Cascade Company, has grown into the leading industry in the area and employs the largest portion of this multi-cultural community.

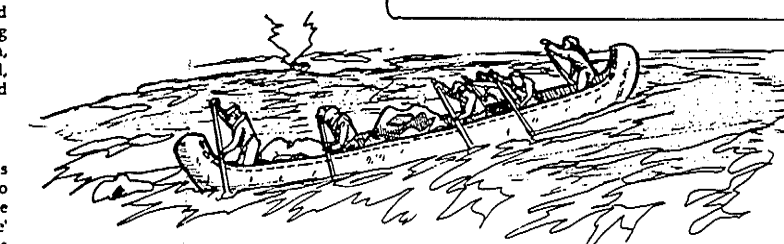


Kenora Pulp and Paper Mill.
From photo in *Through the Kenora Gateway*, 1981.

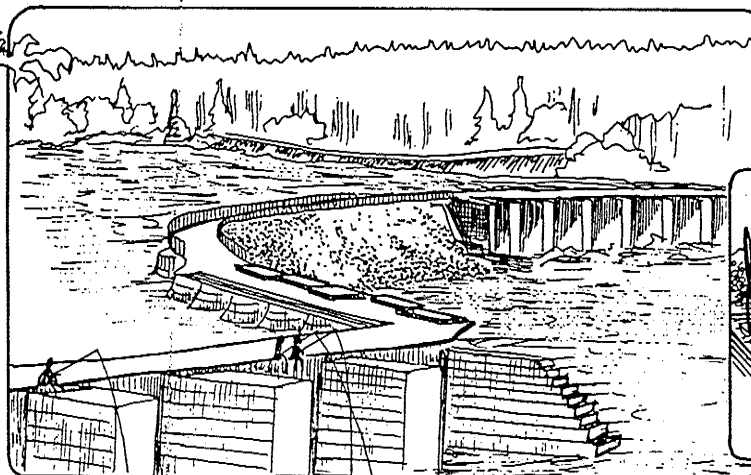
Just as the area attracted many settlers who were formally destined for the west to remain in the Kenora area, the Town has enticed tourists into the area, making it a world renowned vacation spot. Tourism has become the second largest employer in the Kenora area.



DH61 Giant Moth pre-1935.
From photo, courtesy of Ministry of Natural Resources files.

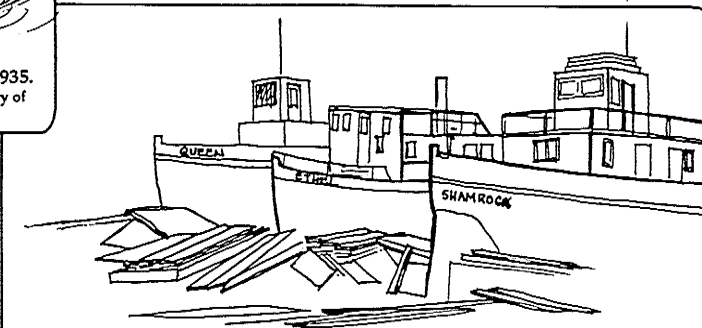


Voyageurs running the rapids.
From print by C.Butterworth, Public Archives of Canada.



Norman Dam, Keewatin Power Co. 1913.
Form photo, courtesy of Lake of the Woods Museum.

With the abundance of water power and the easy transportation of the railway, the flour milling industry moved into the area and its subsequent influence was the change of the community's name from Rat Portage to Kenora. It seems that the Maple Leaf Flour Company did not want the word 'rat' associated with its product. The new name of 'Ke-no-ra' was an acronym formed from the first two letters of each of the following adjacent communities: Keewatin, Norman and Rat Portage. This name change of 1905 followed the incorporation of the Town of Rat Portage into the Province of Ontario in 1892. Rat Portage had at one time been incorporated into the Province of Manitoba, however, after much dispute with the province of Ontario over the possession of the area, the Privy Council of the Dominion of Canada awarded Ontario all the lands from Kenora to Thunder Bay.



Rat Portage Lumber Co. Fleet - Na-Ma-Puk, Queen, Ethel, Shamrock, and Mary Hatch.
From photo, courtesy of Lake of the Woods Museum

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT CHART

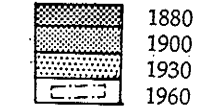
Period:	Inhabitants:	Development:
8000 B.C.	PALEO PERIOD	
5000		-use of stone, wood, antlers, bone & ivory for weapons & tools
2000	ARCHAIC PERIOD	-use of copper for tools & weapons
500		-use of bow & arrow -huge burial mounds -pottery
400	WOODLAND PERIOD	
200	Laurel Culture -Initial Woodland Indian	
B.C. / A.D.		
600 A.D.	-Historic Woodland Indian:	
900	Blackduck Culture -Terminal Woodland Indian	
1000		-dead buried in pits & small earth mounds
1200		-rock painting
1500	-Assiniboine, Monsonis -Cree	
1650 A.D.	-Sioux French explorers & Ojibway -De Noyons	-first white man to see Lake of the Woods (1688)
1700	-La Verendrye -Ojibway settle	-establishes Fort Charles(1732) -explores Rat Portage area
1800		-Northwest Trading Co. post (on Old Fort Island)
1850		-first gold mining(1850)
	English Explorers -Hudson Bay Co. -Dawson -Woolsley	-post built at Rat Portage(1861) -Dawson Trail -Woolsley expedition passes through area (1870) -Indian Treaty No.3 (1873) -Saw mill built (1880) -Railroad construction (1881) -Rat Portage incorporated into Manitoba(1882) -height of steamboat era(1888)
	Scandinavians	-population growth due to railroad completion(1890-1900) -Gold rush (1890-1901) -Rat Portage incorporated into Ontario (1892) -small power plant built on Winnipeg river east branch -name changed to Kenora (1905) -Maple Leaf flour mill built -influx of European settlers after WWI (1920-25)
1900	Ukrainians, Polish, Germans	-Pulp & Paper mill (1923) -Red Lake gold rush: bush pilots and supplies flown out of Kenora (1925)
1950	Greek, Filipino Malaysian, Vietnamese	-population increase after WWII ('45-70) -Trans-Canada highway completed (1960) -Tourism boom -Beaver Brae Highschool built -Rec. centre built(1968) -Shoppers Mall built(1974) -Rec. Pool Complex built(1975) -Kenora Fire No. 23 threatens town and forest industry (1980)

(From *Lake of the Woods Today and Yesterday*, by D. Lund, 1975.)

HISTORICAL RESOURCES

LEGEND:

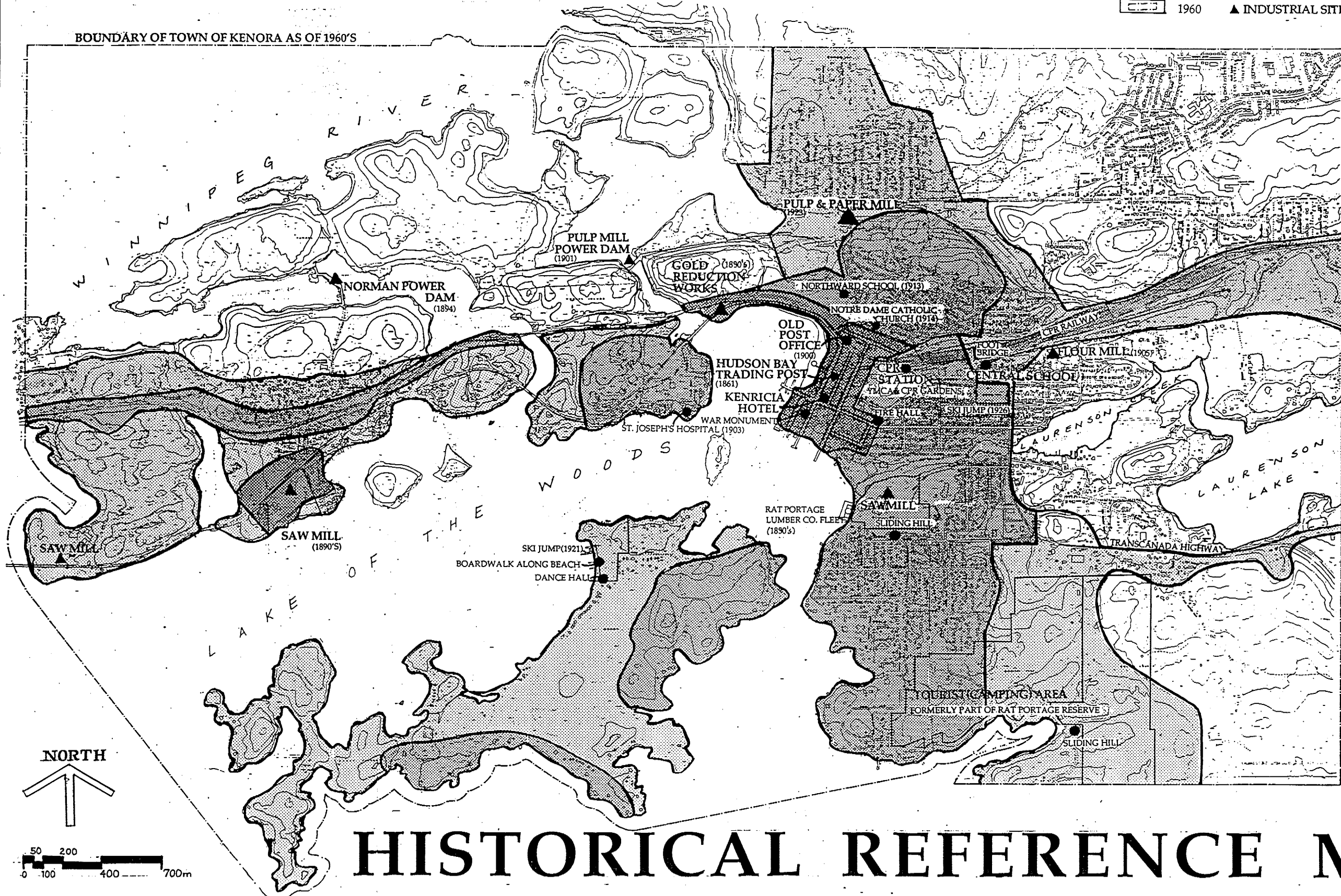
EXTENT OF SETTLEMENT AS OF :



● SIGNIFICANT LANDMARKS

▲ INDUSTRIAL SITE

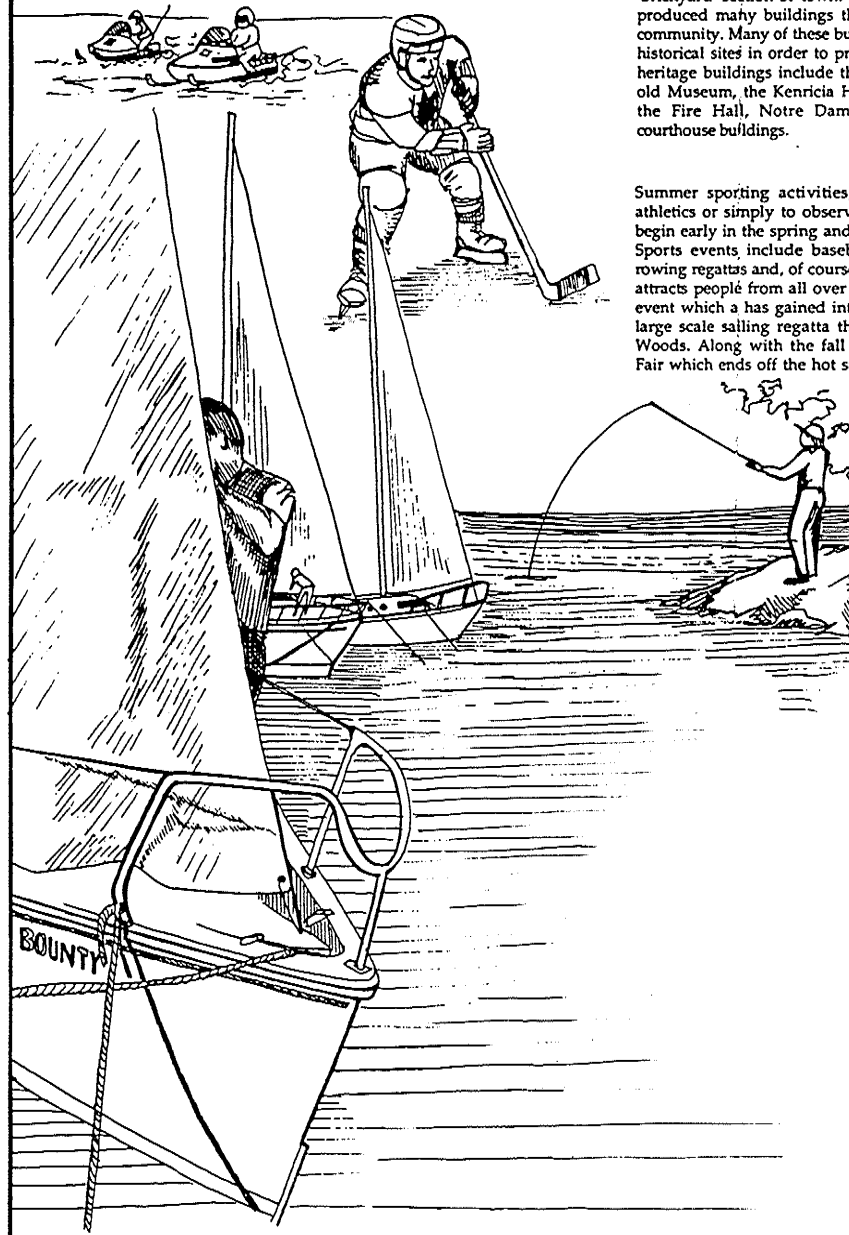
BOUNDARY OF TOWN OF KENORA AS OF 1960'S



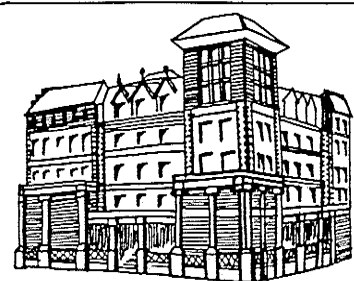
HISTORICAL REFERENCE MAP

Winters in Kenora are not as congested with tourist and large scale community activities but for those who can endure a bit of cold, Kenora offers many outdoor activities. Played indoors in the Arena or outdoors on the neighbour rinks, hockey is the most popular of the winter sports. Weekends and week nights are filled with tournaments and practices. The Kenora hockey program has produced many talented players, some of whom have made it to the National Hockey League. Other less competitive outdoor activities include cross country skiing, down hill skiing and snowmobiling on various cut trails at the Evergreen ski hill or less formal trails found at the Kenora Golf Course and through the surrounding forests of Kenora.

For those not interested in sports or recreational activity, the area offers great scenery for artwork and natural hardware for crafts. The town has produced and inspired many talented local artists and craftspeople over the years. Displays of crafts and artwork take place almost every weekend throughout the year at the local churches and the museum. The winters also provide ideal conditions for observing the annual Winter Carnival and Christmas parades, which take place in March and December of every year. Ice sculpting, log sawing and other races bring the community together during the carnivals.



Sailboats docked at the Harbourfront
From photo in Lake of the Woods Life.



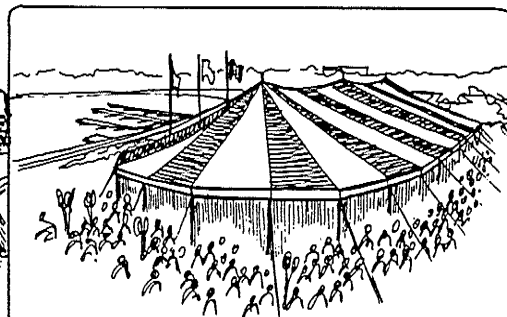
Kenricia Hotel
From photo, courtesy of
Lake of the Woods Museum.



Old Post Office
From photo, courtesy of Lake of the Woods Museum.

The Architecture of Kenora is part of Kenora's cultural past with many of the buildings created from bricks once made in the 'Brickyard' section of town. Local resources and craftspeople have produced many buildings that add to the unique character of the community. Many of these buildings have recently been designated as historical sites in order to protect, preserve and restore them. These heritage buildings include the Old post office, the CPR station, the old Museum, the Kenricia Hotel, St. Joseph's Hospital, the library, the Fire Hall, Notre Dame Roman Catholic Church, and the courthouse buildings.

Summer sporting activities, for those who love to participate in athletics or simply to observe the various sports talents of Kenora, begin early in the spring and fill every weekend into the fall season. Sports events include baseball tournaments, soccer tournaments, rowing regattas and, of course the big Bass fishing tournament, which attracts people from all over Canada and the United States. Another event which has gained international exposure is the LOWISSA, a large scale sailing regatta that traverses the waters of Lake of the Woods. Along with the fall season comes the Kenora Agricultural Fair which ends off the hot summer activities.



Tent set up at a festival at the Harbourfront.
From photo in Lake of the Woods Life.

Summers in Kenora are very busy with a variety of community events filling every weekend of the season. The Multi-cultural festival which takes place every June in Kenora, is the first major event to 'kick-off' the summer activities. This event brings together many of the ethnic groups living in the Kenora area in order to display their culture, crafts and talents. Next, the July First celebrations of Canada Day once again bring the entire community together to participate in various activities focusing around the newly developed Harbourfront. July, is the busiest month of the summer with such activities as the Lion's community picnic at Norman Park, the children's festival and other musical events at the Harbourfront.

Multi-Cultural Festival logos from various participating groups.
From Through the Kenora Gateway, 1981.

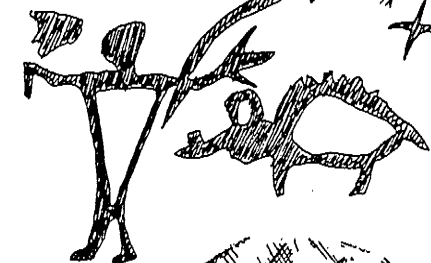


Native Headdress
From photo in Through the Kenora Gateway, 1981.



Rock paintings.
From Through the Kenora Gateway, 1981.

Indoor activity in Kenora is similar to any community, including watching television, creating crafts, playing video games and visiting with friends. Many individuals get involved in music at an early age due to very well organized music programs within the schools, supported by many talented musical enthusiasts of Kenora. Concerts for the school bands, choirs and the independent 'G-clef' choir and other jazz bands are held regularly. With the recent popularity of the movie video many people tend to stay home causing business to slow down at the local movie theater. On weekends the mall is filled with people shopping or just visiting each other. Local taverns and restaurants are a major meeting place for adults during the winter, however, business is mainly on the weekends. It is the outdoor activities which make Kenora different. Outdoor recreation has always been a big part of the lifestyle and cultural activity of Kenora because of the natural environment which still remains clean and undeveloped, surrounding the community.



Devils Gap Rock.
From photo, courtesy of Lake of the Woods Museum.

Native Aboriginal Culture

The Native Aboriginal culture of the Kenora area is rich in folklore and legend. Story telling was once and may still be the key to the passing on the lessons of history and the preservation of a distinct culture. Many locations in the Kenora area owe their names to a colourful Native history. One native legend tells of the creation of the Lake of the Woods by a lesser god of the Cree.

'In a fit of whimsy, the Wendigo decided to create a lake, spectacular in its uniqueness.'

Being a great admirer of beauty, he decided to make a garden of the lake and planted all manner of trees and shrubs, wild flowers, even cactus.

Taking immense delight in riches, he decided to hide at treasure in the lake. The rocky shores he made rich with gold and silver with iron and mica, quartz and fool's gold.

Possessing a mischievous streak, the Wendigo decided to make a maze of the lake, hoping to confuse those who might try to drive his people from it.

He made each part of the lake so vastly different that the early inhabitants thought of it as four separate lakes and named them according to their characteristics - Lake of the Sandhills, in the south, Lake of the Islands, in the north, Clearwater Lake, in the west, and in the east, Whitefish Lake.

To make things even more confusing, the Wendigo congested the northern half of the lake with more islands than water, creating a masterful maze of narrow channels, sheltered inlets, and treacherous reefs.

When he was done, the Wendigo was so enthralled with his creation that he transformed himself into a rock so that he could forever marvel at his work.'

-From 'Lake of the Woods Life', 1991.

This colourful legend accurately describes the distinct ecological and geological features of the Lake of the Woods. Through this story and others like it, the rich resources of Lake of the Woods, which was once thought to be four separate lakes, are revealed.

'Spirit' rocks lay in various places on Lake of the Woods, but few are still regarded by the natives of today, as holding a powerful spirit that must be appeased. The rock which lies at Devil's Gap was once such a 'spirit' rock. 'Devil's gap' was a name given to the point by people of the area, referring to the face-like appearance of the boulder. The rock was eventually painted by a tourist who thought the rock resembled the face of a devil and has remained painted to this day. Originally natives of the area would have placed offerings to the god or Wendigo at the foot of the 'spirit' rock to ensure a safe passage on the lake.

In the Native culture, mystery and confusion shroud the origin of the lake and its name. However, the rock paintings of the area, pictographs and petroglyphs of the early native inhabitants remain as remnants of the past.

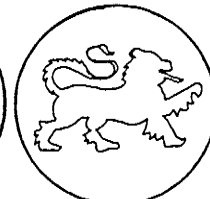
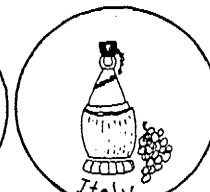
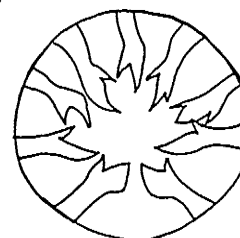
POPULATION

The present population of the Town of Kenora, according to a 1991 census, is approximately 9500. Forty percent of this total is made up of persons from Scandinavian, Finnish, Polish and Ukrainian decent. The high percentage of British descendants along with a smaller percentage of French have lived in Kenora since its original settlement in the late 1800's. The 1991 census indicates a small percentage of Native Aboriginals living within the Kenora limits, however, there is a high population living just outside of Kenora within areas such as the Rat Portage Bay Reserve.

Ethnic Groups: (listed in order of population >)



British	Czech and Slovak
Scandinavian	Finnish
French	Italian
Ukrainian	Russian
Polish	Jewish
German	Chinese
Netherlands	Native Aboriginal
Austrian	Japanese
Hungarian	Caribbean and African
Other European - Greek, Portuguese, Latvian	
All Others - Israeli, Filipino, Sri Lankan	

LAKE OF THE WOODS
CULTURAL FESTIVAL

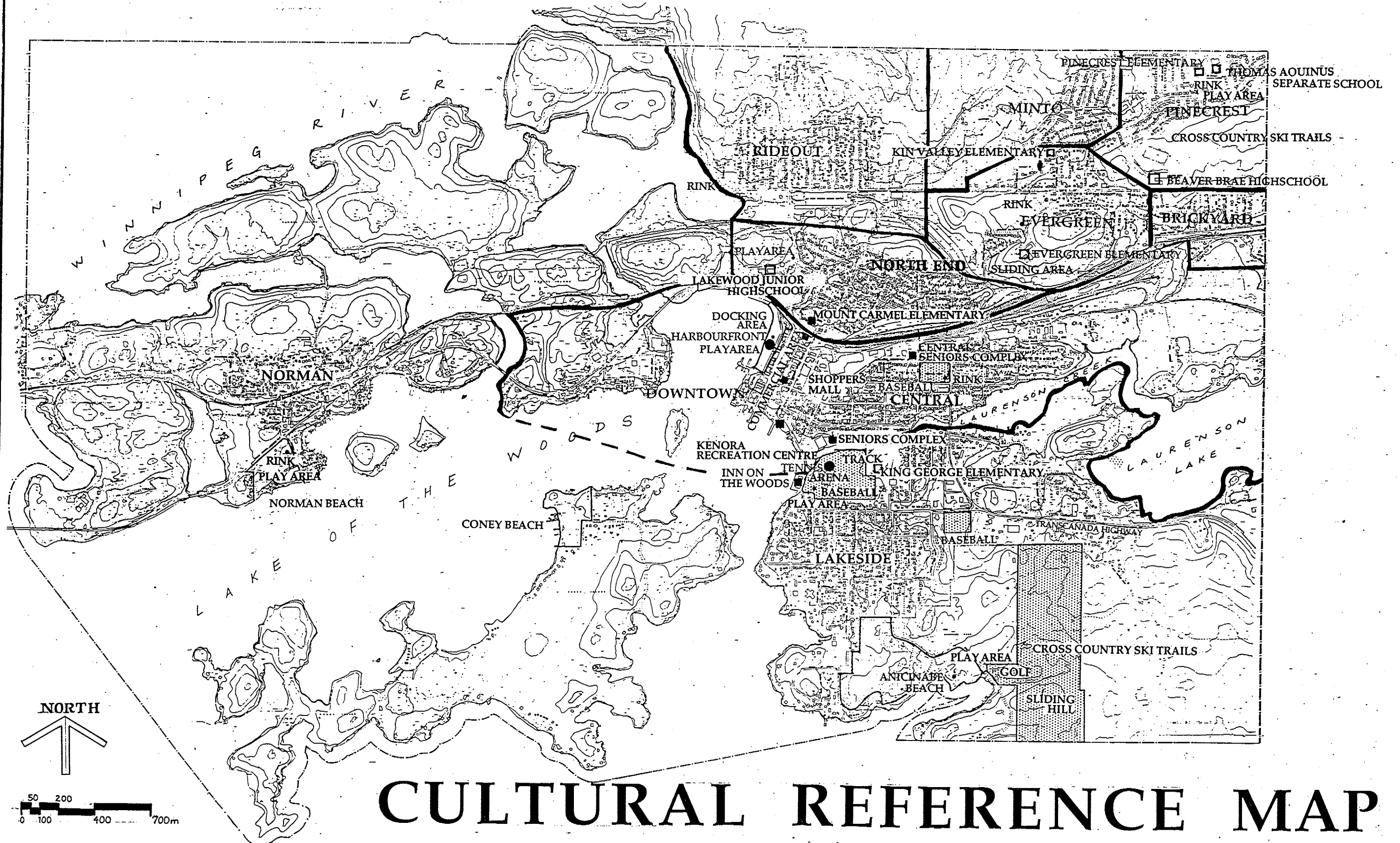


CULTURAL RESOURCES

LEGEND:

 DISTRICTS
 SPORTING AREAS

 FESTIVAL AREAS
 ARCHITECTURE
 SCHOOLS



VEGETATION

The area of Kenora lies mainly within the Boreal Forest region but does contain some overlapping species from the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest region. Presently, the dominant species of the region is Trembling Aspen, with scattered Black Spruce, White Spruce, Balsam Fir and Jack Pine. The area was formerly dominated by Red and White Pine and White Birch sub-climax forests, prior to extensive logging and fires. A few Red and White Pine and many White Birch remain. The Black Spruce and some Tamarack occupy the shallow swamp and pond edges within the community. Kenora rests upon an undulating rocky landscape that varies from well to poorly drained, and dry to fresh, coarse textured mineral soils. The area is mainly a Jack Pine-mixed wood forest with a rich herb and low shrub under-storey layer with scattered clumps of taller, broad-leaved shrubs where soils are deeper. The forest ground cover may consist of Feathermosses, broad-leaf litter and conifer litter, depending on the over-storey composition and under-storey density. The vegetation varies from very dense to open depending on the depth of soils and moisture level. Rocky outcrops are often covered in lichens and mosses.

WILDLIFE

Kenora, as it became named, was once a major point of portage for muskrats before the 1900's. Fur trappers could find muskrat along with many other fur-bearing creatures in the woods of Kenora. These mammals include various species still present today such as bear, beaver, porcupine, squirrel, hare, moose and deer. There are more than 40 species of mammals and at least 119 species of birds known to make their home in the vicinity of Kenora. The mammal population will vary according to the richness of the shrub layer, the two factors are interdependent.

Vegetation and soil information provide a basis for habitat quality or potential for many species. Habitat for an individual species varies according to their needs for food and shelter. For example the Marten and the Fisher both dwell in older coniferous stands of greater than 50 % canopy closure and a diverse under-storey yielding an abundance of prey. Where as, the moose prefers younger forest stands with a rich shrub and herb layer in order to feed on the plants and an adjacent thicker forest for shelter from the winds and snow.

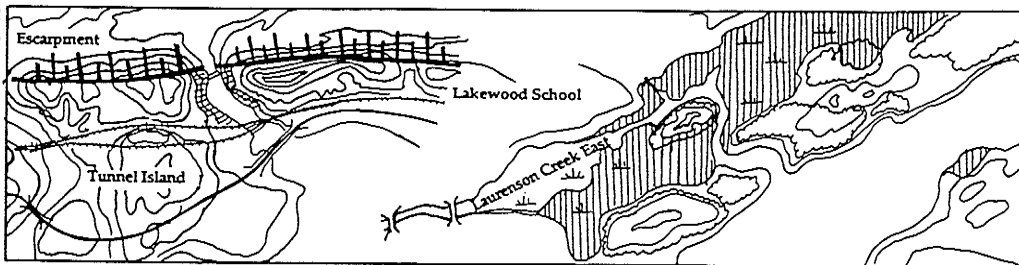
14.8 List of Common Birds found in Kenora

Great Blue Heron	Pileated Woodpecker
Mallard	Gray Jay
Grouse	Blue Jay
Killdeer	Raven Black Bird
Spotted Sandpiper	Herring Gull
Black Billed Cuckoo	Boreal Chickadee
Great Horned Owl	House Wren
Night Hawk	Marsh Wren
Ruby Throated Hummingbird	Robin
Belted Kingfisher	Red-winged Blackbird
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Yellow-headed "
Black-capped Chickadee	White Pelican

Also various ducks, hawks, owls, woodpeckers, flycatchers, swallows, and warblers

From Plan for the Development of Anicinabe Park, 1960.

GEOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY



The Lake of the Woods is a remnant of the Glacial Lake Agassiz. The present shoreline of the lake are believed to have been formed around 1900 B.C. when the glacial lake retreated. At this time, the small bands of the Archaic Indian inhabited the shores and hunted big game in the area. By the time the Europeans entered the area, the Native Indians were more settled and relied on hunting, fishing and gathering for their livelihood and so too, would the new white inhabitants reap the bountiful natural resources of the land.

Two more obvious geological features in the study area lie in the Laurenson creek east area and the forest area north of Lakewood School.

The Laurenson Creek east area is lacustrine clay over glacial fluvial deposits. The area is prone to flooding with poor drainage on low relief. In other words the area is covered mainly by marshland, giving it a zoning or land use value of 'hazardous' for the purpose of building. However, the area is high in habitat value for both plant and wildlife species.

An escarpment runs from an area northwest of Lakewood School to the Norman Dam and west across Tunnel Island. The area is zoned 'rural' in regards to its land use potential, and may be considered high in its interpretive value for its typical Boreal forest vegetation and wildlife value.

CLIMATE

The temperatures of the Kenora area vary from an average of 1 F during the winter months to 67 F during the summer months. The frost free period lasts approximately 84 to 105 days with an average growth period of 154 to 160 days above the low of 42 F.

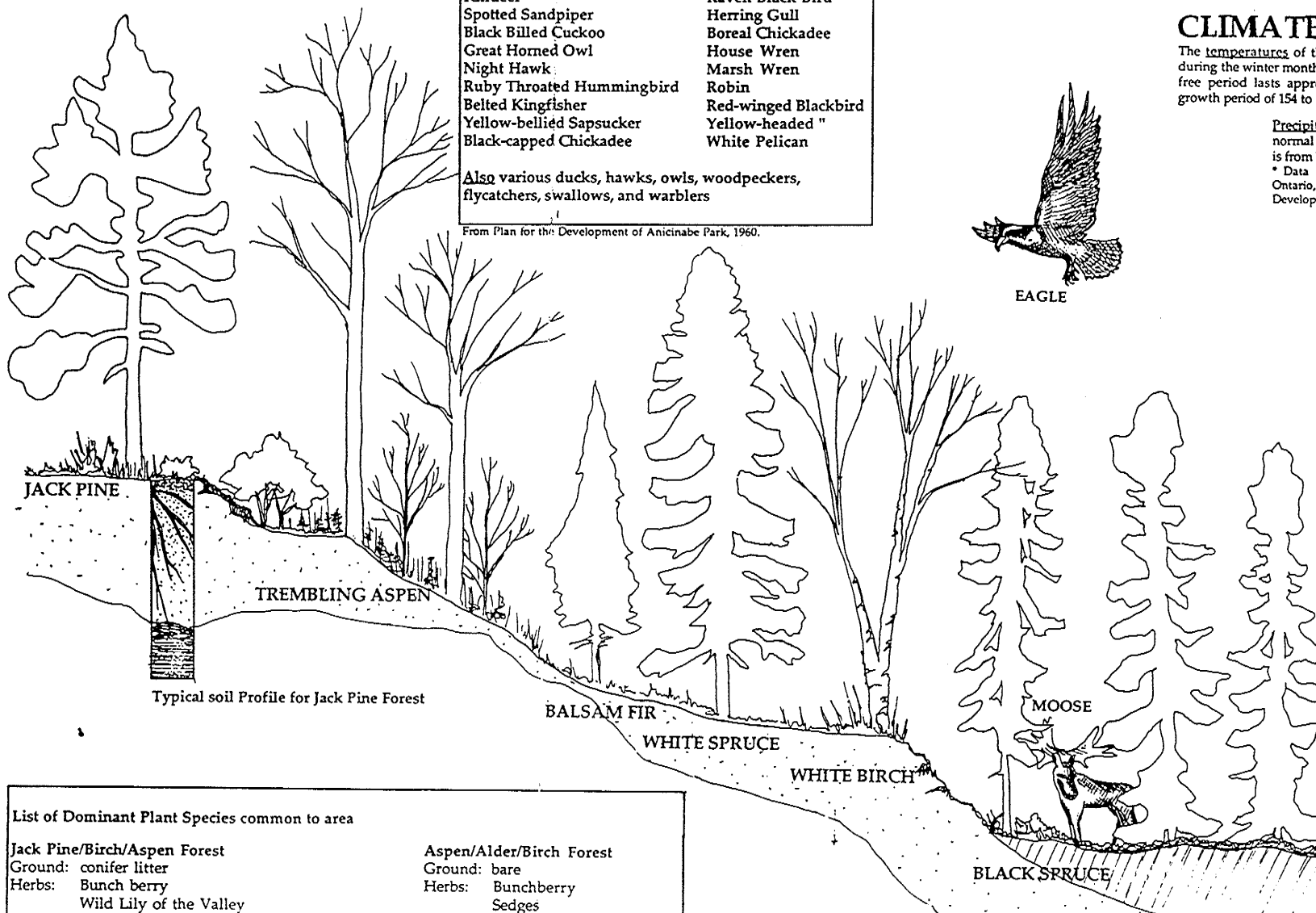
Precipitation averages 16 inches from April 1 to September 30 with a normal annual rainfall of 25 inches. The number of annual rainy days is from 75 to 125 (based on measurements taken in 1919-1939, 1960).

* Data from the Reconnaissance Soil Survey of Parts of Northwestern Ontario, by Hills and Morwick, 1944; and from the Tri-Municipal Economic Development Commission Report, by Jim Doty, 1984.

Winds: The topography and vegetative cover contribute to the shelter and protection of the immediate area of Kenora, moderating the microclimate. The surrounding dense forests help to block the community from harsh northwest winds and stormy southeast winds.



EAGLE



List of Dominant Plant Species common to area

Jack Pine/Birch/Aspen Forest
Ground: conifer litter
Herbs: Bunch berry
Wild Lily of the Valley
Shrubs: Teaberry
Common Blueberry
Beaked Hazel
Labrador Tea

Aspen/Alder/Birch Forest
Ground: bare
Herbs: Bunchberry
Sedges
Lycopodium
Shrubs: Stemless Raspberry
Dewberry
Hazel

From field study, D.Ukrainec, 1991.

MINERALS & SOILS

The entire region of Northwestern Ontario has been affected by several stages of glaciation, mainly during the Pleistocene Era. However, only the deposits of the last glaciation, the Laurentide of Wisconsinian Age, are present in the study area. Ice disappeared from the area 15,000 years ago.

The Kenora area rests upon a crystalline bedrock of Pre-Cambrian Age. A discontinuous mantle of quaternary surficial deposits overlay the rock. Rugged rocky uplands and rocky lowlands dominate the area. The area straddles the Wabigoon belt of mafic metavolcanics and metasedimentary rocks and the English River Gneiss Belt, giving the immediate area a low value of mineral potential.

Through legends such as the 'Creation of Lake of the Woods', Natives have passed on the geological history of the area in a form that may be understood by those not knowledgeable in sciences. The 'treasures' which were said to have been lain beneath the lakes and within the rocky shores by the mischievous Wendigo are in fact present and very well hid. These 'treasures' form the basis of the mineral wealth of the Lake of the Woods region. These minerals include: gold, nickel, copper, silver, uranium, molybdenum, lead, zinc and iron. Of these only molybdenum is present in small amounts within the town area.

The majority of the soils in the Kenora area are unarable or incapable of permanent pasture. The most common limitations of these soils, classed 6 and 7 by the Canadian Soils Capability maps, are moisture deficiencies or excess of moisture, shallowness to bedrock, adverse regional or local climate, low natural fertility, exposure particularly in lakeshore areas, excessive stoniness, and high levels of carbonates.

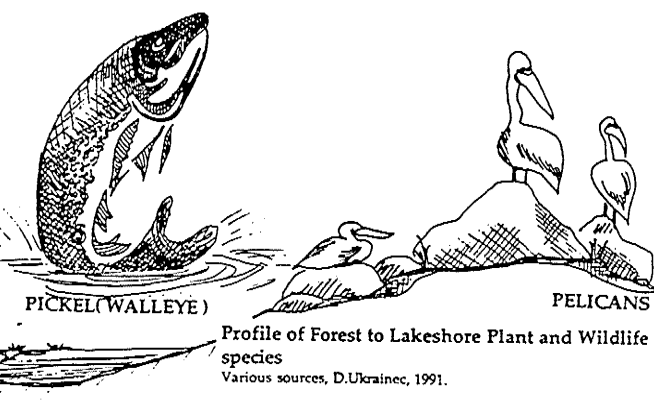
WATER

The general microclimate of the town of Kenora with its cold winters and warm summers is moderated by its location and proximity to a large body of water. This fresh water source, Lake of the Woods, is controlled at a level of approximately 324.3 meters above sea level, while the land lies at a contour elevation of 324.6 meters. The lake has many tributaries, including Laurenson Lake and creek. The Lake of the Woods empties through two channels into the Winnipeg River.

The entire area of Lake of the Woods was not so named during the period of Native inhabitation of the region. The vast area had four sections so different in character that the natives named them individually to reflect their uniqueness. These areas were:

- Lake of the Sandhills (south),
- Lake of the Islands (north),
- Clearwater Lake (west), and
- Whitefish Lake (east).

Once the Europeans penetrated the area, known then as 'Lake of the Islands', the lake became renamed 'Lake of the Woods' due to a misunderstanding of the Native language and similarity between the two words for 'islands', 'Min-es-tic', and 'woods', 'Mis-tic'.



PICKEL (WALLEYE)




HERON

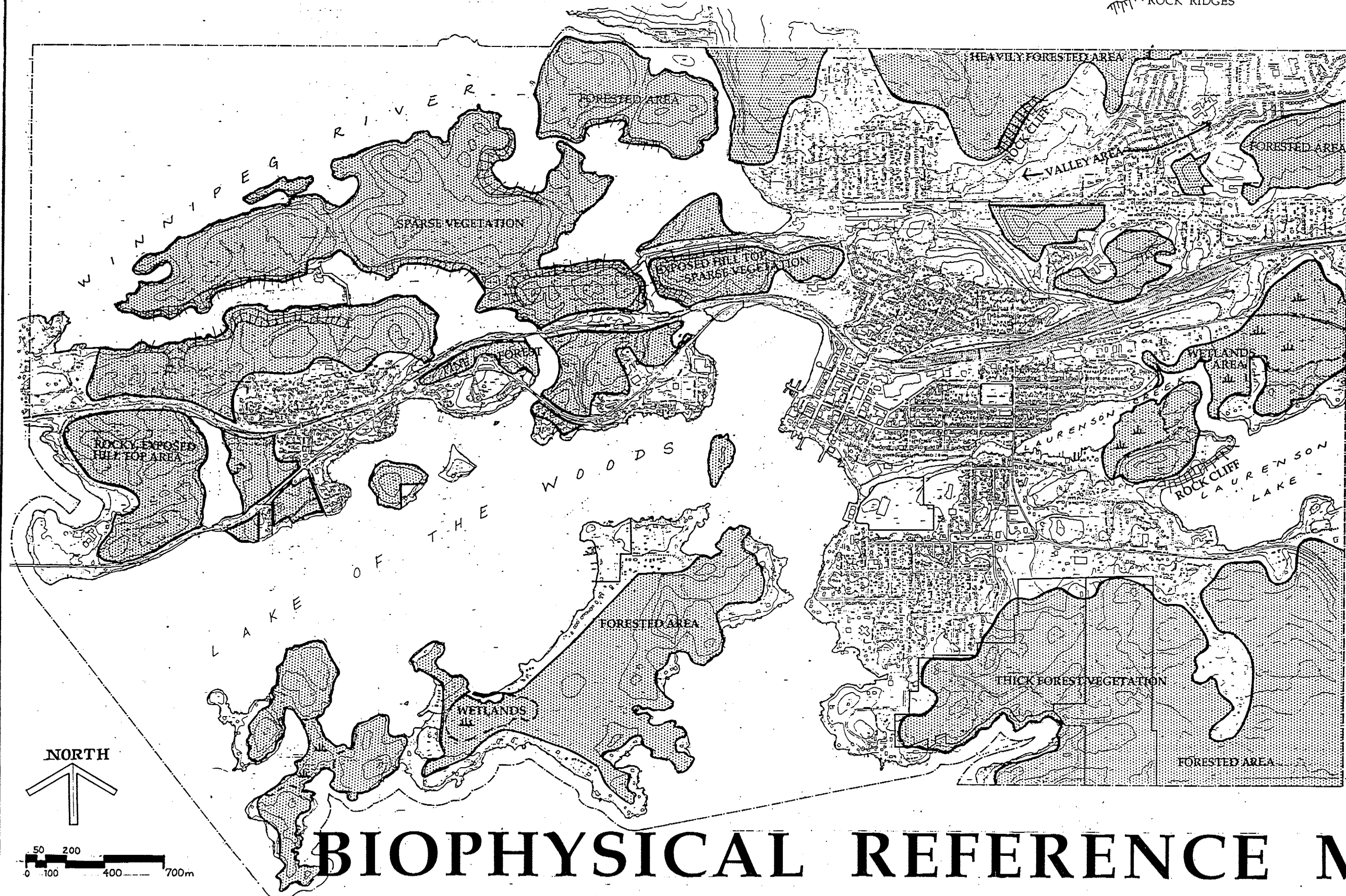
PELICANS

Profile of Forest to Lakeshore Plant and Wildlife species
Various sources, D.Ukrainec, 1991.

BIOPHYSICAL RESOURCES

LEGEND:

- SURFICIAL FEATURES**
 UNDEVELOPED NATURAL AREAS
 MARSHLAND
 ROCK RIDGES



BIOPHYSICAL REFERENCE MAP

OTHER STUDIES

As awareness of the need to organize the form of the community grew in the seventies, the Town of Kenora had a number of studies completed. These past studies include the Kenora Shoreline Development Plan (1979) by M.M. Dillon Ltd., the Town of Kenora Public Parklands Study (1989) by Keewatin-Aski and Hilderman, Witty, Crosby, Hanna & Associates, and the Recreational Master Plan for the Tri-Municipalities of Kenora, Keewatin & Jaffray-Mellick (1992) by the Institute of Environmental Research (1985) Inc. While the Kenora Shoreline Development Plan has laid the basis for further study of the area, each of the studies have made their own major recommendations from different viewpoints regarding the enhancement of the visual quality of the community with specific reference to individual parks and open spaces. The Public Parkland Study made an important comment as to the need to redevelop present neighbourhood areas to accommodate the needs of residents. Rest areas were an important requirement of seniors and more play spaces were desired for children. This study of parks refers specifically to the need for a cohesive image for Kenora's parks. The Recreation Study expressed the general adequacy of recreation facilities was good but passive areas for seating and walking were needed. Both of these studies referred to the deteriorating conditions and poor maintenance of specific parks. All of the results of these studies are summarized and some comments made as to their implementation in Appendix B-2. In Appendix B-3, the development plans for two specific Kenora parks, Anicinabe and the Harbourfront, are discussed. Each of these studies and development plans makes specific reference to the overall parks system of Kenora and its lack of a basic theme or some other organizational scheme. Both plans use historic references in their designs.

TRENDS

Past trends were outlined in the Dillon report indicating that residential, commercial and institutional development would expand, while industrial development would change minimally. Commercial and public facilities had experienced little growth in ten years while tourism accommodations had increased slightly (16% since 1970). Although residential land use had expanded, public open space had not increased nor had commercial recreational facilities increased. Their projections over the next 25 years (1980-2005), showed a regional recreational facilities growth that would increase demand on facilities in the Kenora area. This due to a Ministry disclosure of an annual allowance of 1.25 % cottage development, 2.0 % commercial development and 2.5 recreational development on the Lake of the Woods.

The present and future socio-demographic trend of Kenora were revealed in the Recreational Master Plan of 1992. Current projections indicate a population increase by 2001, with an increase in the number of persons in the '55 and over' category. Work patterns reflect the increase in the number of women going back to work creating a demand on non-traditional time slots for recreational activities. Family oriented activity has and will increase and thus increasing the demand for child care services. Fitness has been accepted as an essential part of lifestyle and with current economic restraints, the need for low cost facilities has increased. The corresponding activities include hiking, biking, and other outdoor use. According to the Campbell's Survey low cost, casual scheduling, proximity to home and little supervision are the leading requirements of recreational facilities.

The growth in tourism and the expected increased demand on recreational facilities, especially at the family and seniors levels of use, will stress the poorly maintained parks within Kenora past an ecologically sensible limit.

COMPARISON OF STUDIES & PRESENT SURVEY

Studies done in the past mainly addressed the practical needs of the community or assessed the existing facilities and their conditions. They point out many problems within specific parks and open spaces of the town and offer immediate solutions but do not address the entire parkland system and community organization as a whole. The history of the community was adopted as a thematic tool for organization in some of the park designs and development plans. However, it was not successfully carried through to the final development of the parks as monetary investment became an issue. Historical themes were never discussed in terms of their effect on and importance to the visual and physical character of the town and thus were allowed to fade.

Comments made in this study's survey regarding the adequacy of facilities support the results of the Recreational Master Plan Study. The results indicate that the recreational needs of the public are being met presently and will be adequate for the future growth of the community. Survey comments with respect to the need for neighbourhood parks support the results of both the Recreational study and the Public Parkland Study, stressing the importance of passive areas for seating and walking paths. The Parkland study suggests the need for rest areas which are important for senior use and the Recreational Study suggests that the number of seniors within the community will increase in the future. The survey of senior residents of Kenora found that seniors wanted rest areas to be developed within neighbourhood parks.

All of the studies done thus far regarding the parks and open spaces of the community have commented on the poor maintenance of facilities in all parks. The Public Parkland Study made reference to the parks as reflective of the natural character of the Kenora. This natural character is identified in specific terms within the public survey as the lakes and forests of Kenora. As indicated in the public survey, these natural features are important to the image of Kenora.

A study of the 'Success of the Kenora Waterfront Development', by D. Ukrainec in 1990, expressed the public's appreciation for the recent redevelopment work done within the downtown core. The study indicates that the public is encouraged by such projects which enhance the appearance of the community and have a subsequent effect of positively stimulating of the economy of Kenora.

A major recommendation referred to in all studies indicates the need for a management plan of the parks and open spaces of Kenora. The Recreation Master Plan and the Kenora Public Parkland Study both make specific recommendations as to the need for a Parks and Recreation Co-ordinator who would be responsible for maintenance, programming, long term management and development. However, from observations of the entire administrative and management structure in regards to the parks studied in this report, there is currently no overall strategy to guide the administration, development and maintenance of these parks and open spaces.

The Kenora Public Parklands Study suggests the need for a cohesive image for Kenora, however, only this study's survey addresses the identification and assessment of the image.

SYNTHESIS OF SURVEY RESULTS AND STUDY RESULTS

The following observations and suggestions are made based on an educated assessment and a detailed field study of the area. They are supported by the comments and results of the independent survey carried out as a part of this study and by comments made in the past study of the Kenora's parklands. Although the studies completed in the past have focused on individual concerns and specific areas of the town from differing viewpoints, all of these reports have made some general comments as to the overall development of Kenora and its need for organization. This study addresses the issue of organization from a community image point of view. This image, based on the accumulation of all resource data, will be identified in the following section.

The following observations regarding the parks and open spaces of Kenora and their contribution to the image of the community, are based upon my experience and knowledge as a former Kenora resident of twenty years and education in the field of landscape design. The rinks of every neighbourhood have always been filled after school and on the weekends during winters in Kenora. These rinks and associated clubhouses are of simple construction and should be maintained within the neighbourhood park amenities. Throughout the year, natural areas provide for cheap and versatile play environments. Toboggan runs often take over wide paths cut through forested areas on any hill in Kenora. Trees become natural climbing apparatuses and provide great fort-building opportunities. From my observations, I would say that the forests are more intensely used than the formal play structures found in many school yards of Kenora. For this reason, these undeveloped forest areas should be preserved in the Official plan for Kenora. The residents of Kenora are very fortunate to have these natural areas to grow up in and enjoy as adults. They provide the spaces for education and inexpensive

involvement in the outdoor environment which current and future trends call for. However, over the past fifteen years of residential and commercial development of the area, activity has increased. Subsequently, many forested spaces have been eliminated or replaced with some poorly executed redevelopment attempts. The loss of forest areas within town limits to future development should be discouraged by legislation. Changes in zoning classifications may help to protect undeveloped rural areas. Interpretive programs could be set up to allow controlled access to ecologically sensitive areas and to encourage education of the public to this important resource. Access to parks such as Coney are limited with the former 'Island Cruise' and 'the Argyle' ships which formerly made hourly trips to the Island having been eliminated. Presently, youth and all others are robbed of the opportunity to partake of the activity on Coney Island, unless they have a boat. A ferry system should be created to re-establish access to Coney Island and encourage use of the existing facilities. With the future increase in population of seniors, neighbourhood parks will have accommodate more passive use. Sporting facilities and active recreation areas, as pointed out by the Recreation Master Plan Study, are already more than sufficient. Rest areas for seating, meeting and viewing, as pointed out by the Kenora Parkland Study are inadequate. Thus, the development of rest areas must become a priority in the future redevelopment of neighbourhood and community parks. Areas of historical significance within the community may be designated and developed as heritage parks and the participation of interested seniors encouraged. The overall visual quality of the parks which was negatively referred to many times throughout this survey and past studies of Kenora should be addressed in redevelopment of parks and in proper maintenance practices to be guided by a Management Plan.

INTRODUCTION

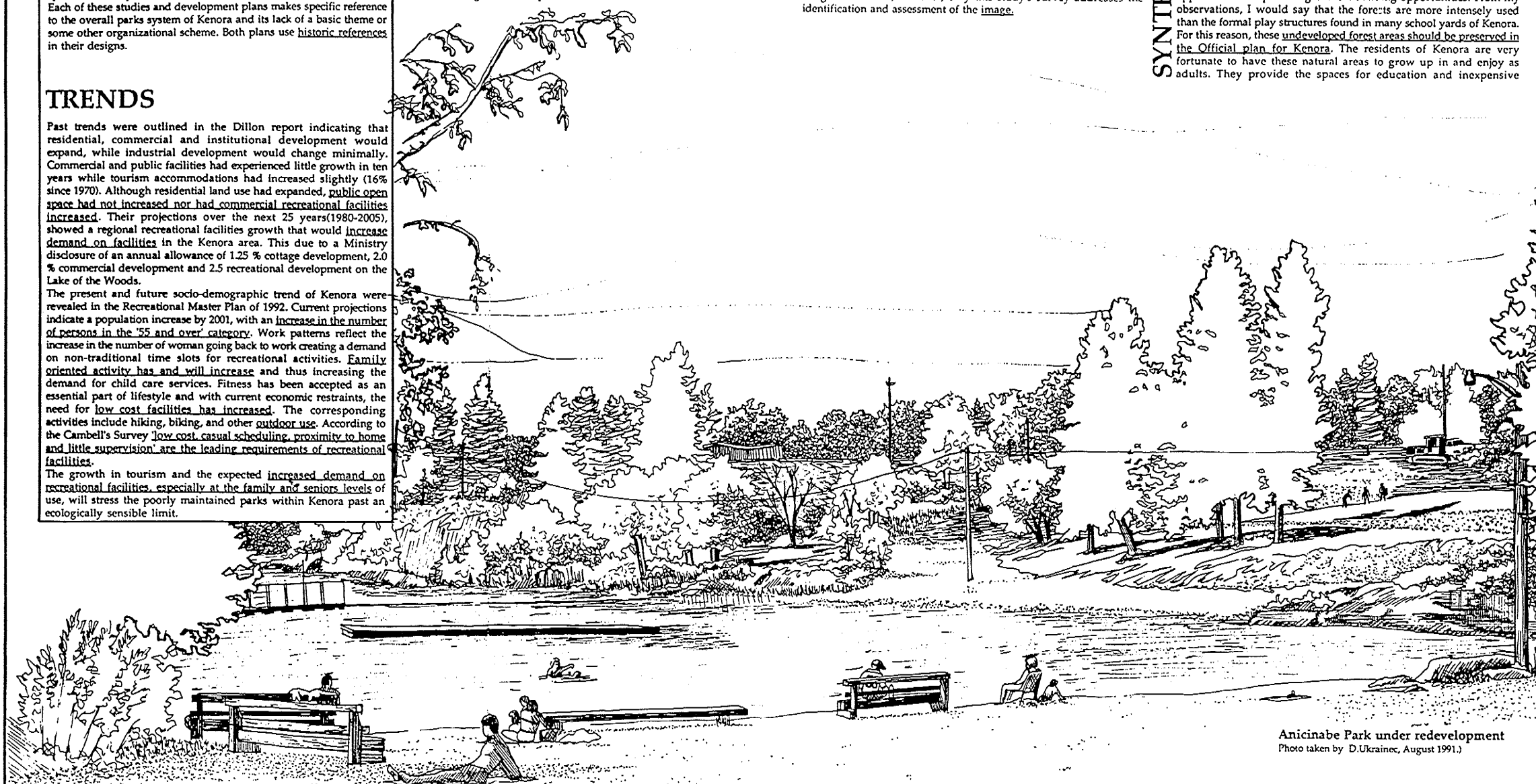
Public perceptions are an important contributing resource, influencing the image of a community by their participation. Since the image involves two parts, the observer and the observed, the views of the observer are investigated in this section of the study. The perceptions of the public observer are measured by:

- a) an independent survey of current views; and
- b) a summary of past studies of public needs in regards to the parks and recreational facilities of Kenora, along with proposed future trends for the community.

This information is summarized and compared in the following text. The results and comments from past surveys may support the independent survey and field study observations.

GOALS OF SURVEY

1. To identify the character of the Town of Kenora as perceived by the public.
2. To determine what the public's views are in regards to the town and its parks.
3. To determine what the public perceives to be the most important parks and open spaces within its community.
4. To determine the open space needs of the public and their preferred facilities for an ideal neighbourhood park.
5. To compare the areas that existed for seniors to play in their youth to the facilities which children use presently, as a means of identifying their open space needs and adequacy of the current parks.
6. To investigate the types of activities that seniors participated in their youth as a means of describing the cultural activity of the community during the early part of the century.
7. To identify the need for and location of a heritage park and to describe the key components within such a park.



Anicinabe Park under redevelopment
Photo taken by D. Ukrainec, August 1991.

PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS

RESOURCE SUMMARY

"In the natural environment of every city, there are elements of both the distinctive and the common. It is to the distinctive features of their natural environment that cities owe their location, their historic growth and population distribution, even the character of their buildings, streets, and parks. Most cities occupy the sites of ancient villages, selected by the original inhabitants for ease of defense, access to supplies of water, fuel, and building materials, and proximity to transportation routes."
- Ann Whiston Spirm, *The Granite Garden*, 1984.

The image of the town of Kenora, like other urban centres, has evolved due to the interaction of its inhabitants with the natural environment, its resources and unique features. This specific natural environment was chosen for the location and development of a settlement of various cultures due to its vast economic potential. While cultural biases have influenced the planning and design of the town, it is the natural resources which are responsible for the location, industrial growth and types of activity which have taken place since settlement by the Europeans.

HISTORY: The historic development of Kenora, both economically and culturally, follows a pattern of discovery and exploitation of the natural resources in the Kenora area. The potential industries of the area, beginning with the fur trade, dictated the site of the settlement. As mining and lumber milling began in the region and the construction of a railway link to the rest of Canada was completed, the town became permanently established and incorporated into the Province of Ontario, in 1892. Not only did the industrial use of the natural resources influence the location of the town, but it eventually would be responsible for its renaming from Rat Portage to Kenora.

BIOPHYSICAL: It is the specific bedrock geology, water, boreal forest elements, wildlife and climate of the Pre-Cambrian shield which distinguish this region from others such as the prairie region. The availability of its natural resources have encouraged development of specific areas within the region such as Kenora. The landform, climate and access to water, forests and mineral resources have influenced the pattern of the settlement, the economic potential of the area and its attraction of settlers from varying cultural backgrounds. The establishment and growth of Kenora has relied on the availability of wildlife, minerals, forests and water. The lakes which cover a large portion of the landscape acted as the major transportation routes before advances in technology allowed the development of land routes across the rocky hills and over the rivers of the area. Since the construction of the CN-CP railway and the Trans-Canada highway, the town has diverted its interests internally to its man made environment on the land and the industrial uses of its forests and minerals. However, as tourism becomes increasingly important to the economy of Kenora, greater attention has once again turned toward the potential aesthetic and recreational uses of land and the water surrounding and within the town.

CULTURE: The diversity of cultures within Kenora has brought with it various methods of planning, design and treatment of the landscape. For instance, the standard grid pattern used for the layout of the original settlement of what is now the downtown area of the present Kenora. The formation of distinct neighbourhoods within the community is also a product of cultural and ethnic divisions. Originally, areas such as Lakeside were dominated by people of Northern European (Scandinavian) decent and the North End area by peoples of Eastern European (Slavic and Ukrainian) origin. The downtown area was once dominated by the British and Scottish. Each district took on the imprint of the ethnic group which occupied it. As the town's population has grown and values and ideas have changed, these divisions or distinct cultural pockets have been eroded and stirred up to reflect the combined interests of the multi-cultural community. Traces of the original settlement patterns and the cultural influences are still evident in the architectural and natural environments.

PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS: Parks and open spaces were key factors in the description of the image received from the public within the documented surveys. Although the public use of parks has changed with the growth of the community, the importance of outdoor activity and involvement with the wilderness surrounding Kenora has remained constant over this period of time. More parks have been developed on the mainland and attention has been drawn away from the island parks to which access is difficult or inconvenient. However, the parks remain an important part of the visual image of Kenora. Concern for physical fitness and lifestyle awareness has created an increased demand for better recreational facilities and has over stressed existing facilities. Management and maintenance has been unable to keep up with overuse of these facilities, partly due to inadequate planning structures. The future demands by the public along with current trends for outdoor activity will dictate the need for better management planning of existing facilities, especially for seniors and family use. The administration, restoration, maintenance and preservation of the parks and open spaces of the community in the future will require a comprehensive plan for their re-organization. This plan will ensure that present and future development and management of the community's parks and open spaces continue to contribute to a positive image of Kenora.

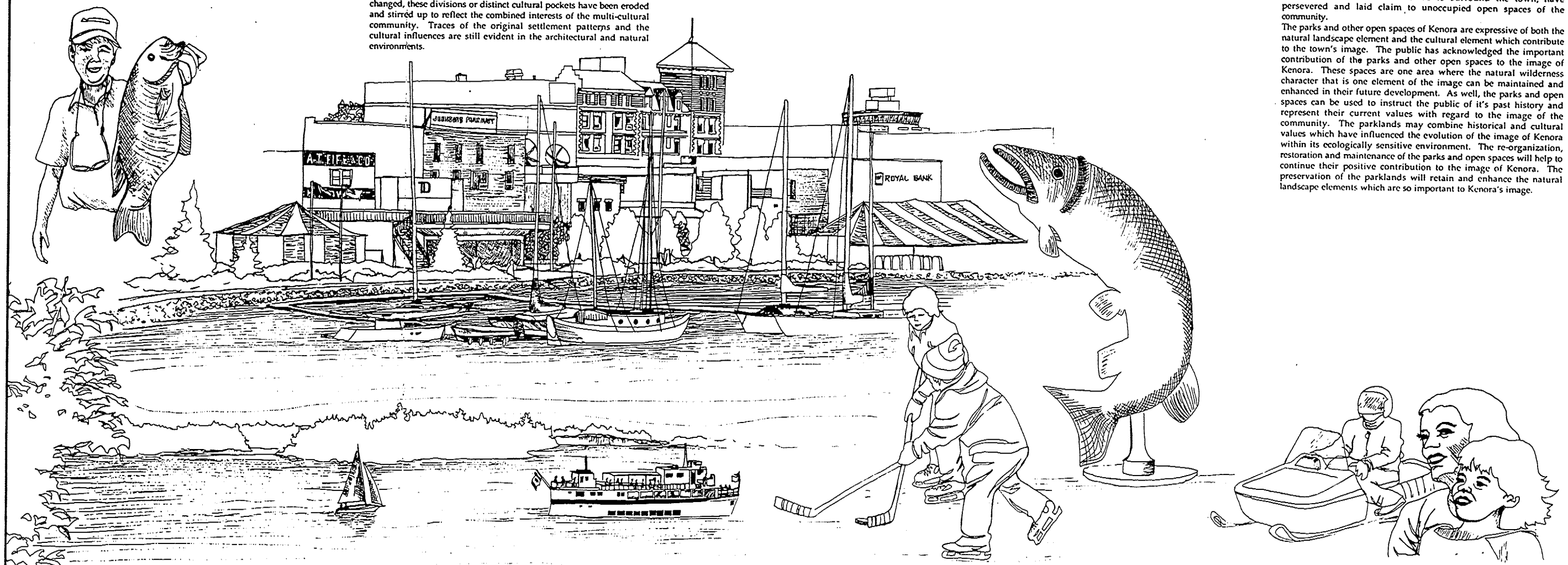
In summarizing the field reconnaissance and the three key contributing resources along with the public perceptions of the image of Kenora, the following points can be highlighted.

1. The history of Kenora follows a pattern of industrial development and use of the natural resources of the area. The activities of the inhabitants of Kenora, both industrial and recreational, are all linked to the availability of and access to distinct features in the wilderness landscape. Their interaction with distinct features such as the pine forests, exposed hills of granite, and access to water, affect the every movement of the people of Kenora. Therefore, it is not surprising that the image of the community that these people hold is dominated by a connection to the natural landscape.
2. Within the natural landscape of Kenora, the lakes and streams, pine forests, rocky terrain, hilly topography, and specific wildlife are all typical characteristics of this region which exists within the Pre-Cambrian shield. This landscape and its distinct features are most obvious within the open spaces of Kenora and the surrounding area. In the completed surveys, the public expressed the importance of these spaces in contributing to the image of their community.
3. The cultural values of the Kenora people are reflected in their use of the land and its resources. Each culture which has come to the area has left an imprint on the natural and built environments of the town. A lack of regard for the natural environment has become evident in the poor maintenance of the parks, disintegration of the shoreline and overuse of facilities. Due to its increasing economic reliance on tourism, the town has become more aware of its effects on this sensitive ecological environment within and surrounding Kenora. However, a lack of consistent maintenance and proper management of the natural spaces of the community itself has allowed parks to deteriorate. As these spaces disintegrate, their ability to have a positive contribution to the image of Kenora dissolves.

IDENTIFYING THE IMAGE OF KENORA

As a review of the cultural, historical and biophysical resources indicates, the most pronounced factor in the evolution of Kenora has been the natural environment. Distinctive features in its wilderness landscape have affected the location, economic growth and population distribution along with the character of the buildings, streets and parks of the town. An analysis of the public perceptions of the image of Kenora shows concern for parks and opens spaces of the community and how they contribute to this image. The image of Kenora, thus, becomes clearer as an intermingling of a specific natural landscape with its inhabitants. Emphasis is placed on the wilderness landscape found within and surrounding the town as a key element of the image. It is the scraggly jack pines clinging to the hillside of exposed rock in your backyard, determined to survive another year of hot summer and below freezing winter temperatures. The image is one of a calm lake disturbed only by a boat and its fishermen who drift along on a hot summer day trying to catch the last big muskie left in the Lake of the Woods. It is a quiet walk along the Harbourfront looking out across the bay at a sky turning a beautiful orange, red and purple as the sun sets behind Bush Island and the Hospital. It's the neighbourhood kids slapping the puck around on an outdoor rink in minus twenty degree weather and having a great time! These are all bits and pieces of the image of Kenora. They involve people interacting with a rugged natural environment which although it has been abused, this wilderness landscape has remained relatively clean and not yet irreversibly tarnished by over development. No matter how overused or mistreated, pieces of the wilderness landscape which existed before the settlement of Kenora was formed and which continue to surround the town, have persevered and laid claim to unoccupied open spaces of the community.

The parks and other open spaces of Kenora are expressive of both the natural landscape element and the cultural element which contribute to the town's image. The public has acknowledged the important contribution of the parks and other open spaces to the image of Kenora. These spaces are one area where the natural wilderness character that is one element of the image can be maintained and enhanced in their future development. As well, the parks and open spaces can be used to instruct the public of it's past history and represent their current values with regard to the image of the community. The parklands may combine historical and cultural values which have influenced the evolution of the image of Kenora within its ecologically sensitive environment. The re-organization, restoration and maintenance of the parks and open spaces will help to continue their positive contribution to the image of Kenora. The preservation of the parklands will retain and enhance the natural landscape elements which are so important to Kenora's image.



A COMPOSITE OF IMAGES OF KENORA

THE IMAGE OF KENORA

SIGNIFICANT LANDMARKS

- A. POST OFFICE
 B. KENRICIA HOTEL
 C. INN OF THE WOODS
 D. CN/CP RAILWAY STATION
 E. CPR RAILWAY
 F. KENORA RECREATION COMPLEX
 G. BOISE CASCADE PULP & PAPER MILL

SIGNIFICANT VIEWS

1. LAKE OF THE WOODS
 2. LAURENSON CREEK EAST RURAL LANDS
 3. THE ISLANDS OF NORMAN BAY
 4. DOWNTOWN KENORA AND THE HARBOURFRONT
 5. MACLEOD PARK, THE GOODWILL GEISER AND THE BACKGROUND LANDSCAPE

LEGEND:**WILDERNESS LANDSCAPE**

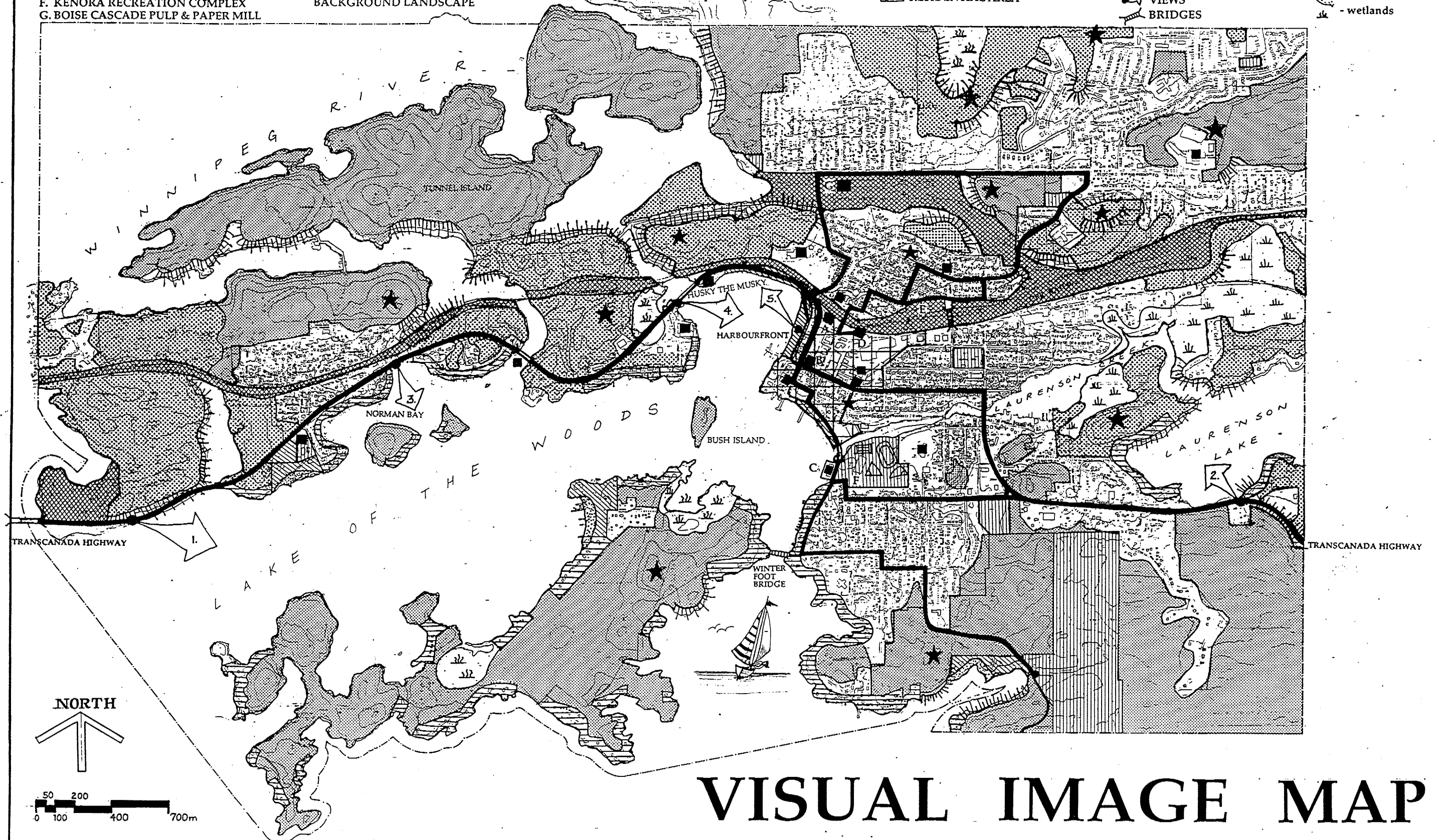
- dense understorey
 - sparse vegetation & exposed rock
SHORELINE
 - active waterfront area
 - privately maintained

- URBAN CORE**
RECREATION FACILITIES
SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRIAL AREA
RESIDENTIAL AREA

- MAJOR PATH**
MINOR PATH
LANDMARKS
VIEWS
BRIDGES

NATURAL LANDSCAPE FEATURES

- ★ - high points
 - rock cuts
 - beaches
 - wetlands



PHASE TWO

Introduction

Phase one of this study has identified that the natural wilderness landscape is a major element of the image of Kenora, and that the parks and opens spaces of the community have a key role in expressing this element. The parks and open spaces also express the cultural activity of the people within their natural environment. This next phase of the study will seek to enhance the ability of the parks and other open spaces to express the image of Kenora through their re-organization, restoration and preservation. The design principles which are a part of the process of organizing the parks and open spaces of this community are explained in the first section of this phase. The enhancement of the image of Kenora is addressed in a set of recommended objectives and corresponding actions for the future development and management of the parklands. As part of the actions to be taken, the reclassification and re-organization of the parks and opens spaces based on their contribution to image is outlined in separate plans for each class.

Process of Design

'Any existing, functioning urban area has structure and identity, even if only in weak measure. Almost always, a potentially powerful image is hidden in the situation itself, as in the palisades of Jersey City, its peninsular shape, and its relation to Manhattan. A frequent problem is the sensitive reshaping of an already existing environment: discovering and preserving its strong images, solving its perpetual difficulties and, above all, drawing out the structure and identity latent in the confusion.'

The shapings and reshapings of an environment should be guided by what might be called a "visual plan" for the city: a set of recommendations and controls which would be concerned with visual form on an urban scale.'

-Kevin Lynch, *The Image of the City*, 1960.

The preparation of a 'visual plan', as suggested by Lynch, is the basis for this next phase of the study. The plan which will guide future development of the parks and open spaces of Kenora builds on the analysis of the existing form and public image of the area as outlined in the field reconnaissance and surveys of phase one of this study. This analysis concluded with a series of diagrams and comments illustrating the significant characteristics contributing to the public's image of Kenora including the basic visual problems and opportunities, the critical image elements and the element interrelations with their detailed qualities and possibilities for change. With this analytical background and his own knowledge of design techniques a designer can proceed to develop a visual plan for the parklands whose objective is to strengthen the public image of the community.

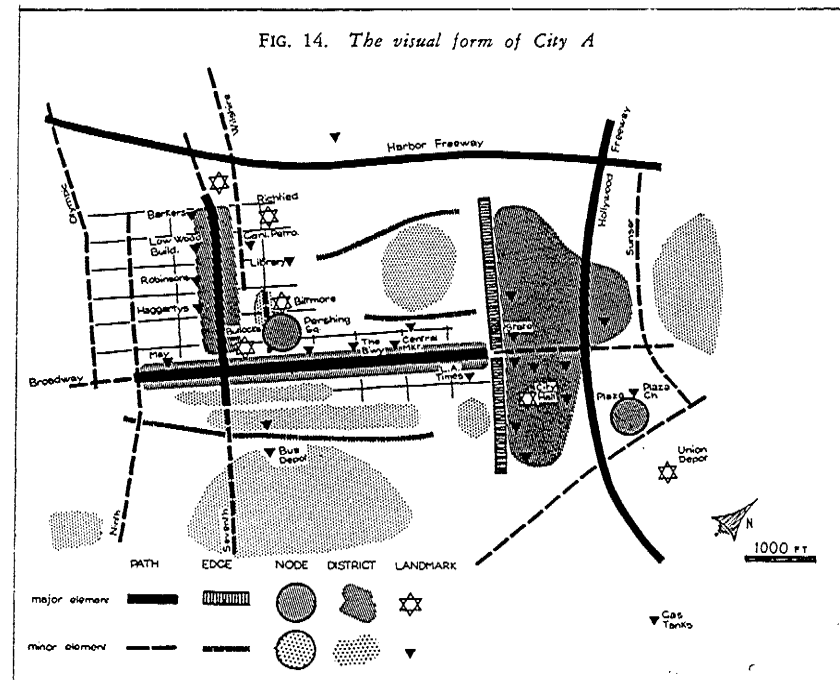
The visual plan may prescribe the location or preservation of hierarchy of paths and spaces, and the establishment of thematic units for districts, or the creation or clarification of nodal points. Above all, the plan should deal with the interrelations of elements, with their perception in motion, and the conception of the city as a total unified form.

The visual plan may influence the form of physical changes which occur within the city for other reasons. Thus, such a plan should be accommodated within all other aspects of planning for the town, to become a normal and integral part of the comprehensive plan for the community's future development. Like all other parts of comprehensive town plan, the parks and open spaces plan would be under a continuous state of revision and development as the needs of the community change over time. The controls employed to achieve the visual form at city scale may range from general zoning provisions, administrative review, and persuasive influence over private design, to strict controls at critical points including the design of public facilities.

The final objective of a visual plan for the parks and open spaces of Kenora is not only to effect the physical shape of the community but the quality of the image it presents. Thus, it becomes equally important to improve the perceived image of Kenora by training the observer through educational programs and other activities which encourage public involvement in their natural environment. Heightening the observer's attention, enriching his or her experience, is one of the values of preserving form and image of the city.

(Paraphrased from *The Image of the City*, published in 1960 by Kevin Lynch and applied to objectives for the town of Kenora's parklands. This book provided the basis for much of this study of imageability.)

Refer to Appendix C for a more detailed review of planning and design theories.



Kevin Lynch, *The Image of the City*, 1960.

Application of Design Process and Theories to the Community of Kenora

In Phase one of this study, the examination of the resources identified the key elements and characteristics contributing to the perceived image of Kenora. It becomes apparent that the natural setting and the interaction of its inhabitants with this wilderness landscape is the basis for the image of Kenora. The discovery and exploitation of the natural resources of the area has led to the use of local materials in the architecture of the town, the type of industrial development and economic growth of the community and the kinds of outdoor recreational activities of the people who live in or visit Kenora. An interaction of a specific biophysical factors which come together in the area of Kenora along with a diversity of cultural interests are expressed in the parks and open spaces which make an important contribution to the image of Kenora.

The parks and open spaces of Kenora are most convenient and easily modified as a vehicle for the interpretation and preservation of the natural character and cultural history of the community. This may be achieved by drawing upon the key characteristics and elements of the image that have been identified in phase one of this study. The application of the design principles and site planning methods, as explained, in the management of the parklands of Kenora will aid in the reinforcement and preservation of the image of the community. The introduction and use of the image as a conceptual basis for future development of the parks will establish a method for organizing the parks into a cohesive system. As well, this process will aid in the solution of other related issues such as maintenance and administration of the parks by providing these structures with an organizational scheme for the community.

In order to heighten the image of Kenora and facilitate the visual identification of the community within its parks and open spaces, the isolated elements of paths, edges, districts, nodes and landmarks together with landscape planting and other site furnishings become building blocks in the process of adapting the form of the urban environment with its natural and cultural setting. Since the image is a two-way process between observer and observed, it is possible to strengthen that image either through symbolic devices or by reshaping the surroundings. The design process, which is based on a set of recommendations by the study, applies a total orchestration of the landscape elements in order to knit together a cohesive system of parks which is consistent with the image of Kenora.

DESIGN PROCESS & PLANNING PRINCIPLES

<p>Objective 1</p> <p>To re-organize the management strategies and reclassify the parks and open spaces according to their contribution to the image of Kenora.</p> <p>The image of Kenora may be used as a basis for reclassifying the parks and open spaces of the community with respect to their individual contribution to that image. These spaces may be used as a vehicle of expression and enhancement of the image of Kenora. The re-organization of the parks and open spaces should include a classification system which categorizes the parks according to their contribution to image. It will acknowledge the importance of both the cultural and the natural resources which influence to the image of Kenora. The classification system for the parks should form the basis for guidelines which will direct their future development, management and maintenance. The consistent application of this new classification system will enhance the ability of the community to express its image.</p> <p>Refer to Classification of Parks map</p>	<p>Action 1</p> <p>1.1 Classification System for Kenora's Parks and Open Spaces</p> <p>An organizational structure is required for the parks and open spaces of Kenora that will allow the development of a management system which will encourage maintenance appropriate to the parks classification. The classification system proposed is based on the individual park's contribution to image. The following categories or classes are recommended on the basis of the research and analysis found in phase one of this report. The classes are: Natural, Cultural Heritage, Recreational/Sports, and Leisure/Social. The parks are classed according to historical, cultural and biophysical references to the community. Certain characteristics within the individual parks contribute to a general image for the park and allows them to be fit into the listed categories. For example a park which has been designated as a Natural Open Space is an undeveloped natural landscape area that contains certain significant natural characteristics such as a marsh or a White Pine forest. These distinct features contribute to the natural wilderness element of the image of Kenora. Thus, the role of a Nature park will be to enhance the natural character of the community and may have a secondary role in educating the public in regard to its sensitive natural environment which is important to the overall visual image of Kenora. A map of the new classifications for parks and the corresponding individual park classification maps are presented in the following sheets:</p> <p>Classification of Parks & Open Spaces A Natural Open Spaces B Cultural Heritage Parks C Recreational/Sports Parks D Leisure/Social Spaces</p> <p>This classification structure and its recommended definitions should be used as a guide to direct future development of the parks and open spaces of Kenora. All parks and open spaces should be designated, developed and maintained according to the new classification of parks and open spaces. The classification system as outlined in the following maps should form the basis of a revised zoning map.</p> <p>Paths of Connection or Linkage</p> <p>An important part of the organization of spaces is their linkage to one another whether it is made physically or visually. A pathway that leads from one space to the next forms a physical connection between the two spaces. The consistent use of a piece of furniture in a distinct style, color and material in two separate spaces may imply a visual connection between the two spaces. The organization of a system of parks will use both of these physical and visual methods to organize and combine various parks into a network of spaces.</p> <p>The linkage of the parks was a concern expressed by the public in previous studies that were researched. The connection of the parks referred to in the new classification system is part of an effort to set up a new organizational structure. The use of both physical and visual linkages are addressed in the following ways.</p> <p>Materials: Between all classes of parks the common palette of materials and colours should be used to visually link spaces. For example, <u>wood</u>, <u>granite</u> and <u>brick</u> may be the basic building materials for paths and landscape furnishings. The treatment of these material will differ within each class of park and is defined on the following maps of a specific park class.</p> <p>Signage: Throughout a pathway system connecting all parks, the design of the signs should include large bold print and specific symbols for legibility at street level from a car, bike or pedestrian depending on the location of the sign along a walking or driving path. The lettering, style, size and symbols used on the signs should be consistent within the entire parks system. A consistent use of a material such as <u>wood</u> for all signage in parks and along connecting paths will visually link parks. These signs may be painted according to a colour coding system to be developed specifically for the parks. The colour will be important in expressing and linking the different classes of parks outlined.</p> <p>Views: Where possible views to structures, buildings landform or other significant points should be clear. These views may act as a directional guide or a point of reference to lead the observer along a path to a desired destination. A view may also be opened up for aesthetic value within the context of a space. Views may be controlled by design. For instance, the specific placement of trees or structures can block out certain objects or lead the eye of the observer to a specific view. Spaces can be manipulated to create optimal positions to view a desired subject. A clear view along a path is important to visually link spaces.</p> <p>The overall plan of the pathway system is shown on each map of the new Classification of Parks. While consistent materials, and signage and clear views will visually link the parks, the consistent width of a path and the various markings for each level of use will physically link together the individual park spaces. The spaces of pathway that link all parks and open spaces within the system should be identified within a redevelopment plan for the parklands and appropriately designated on a zoning map which addresses the reclassification of the parks as outlined on the 'classification' map. The designation of these pathway spaces within the zoning plans and in the town's by-laws will safeguard administrative control and maintenance of continuous physical and visual connections between the parks.</p>
<p>Objective 2</p> <p>To restore or rehabilitate existing parks and open spaces within the community in order to enhance their physical appearance and condition so as to be consistent with the image appropriate to their classification.</p> <p>Specific parks and open spaces are in need of restoration and rehabilitation due to past inconsistencies in and poor quality of maintenance. This issue may be addressed in the preparation of a redevelopment plan for the parks and open spaces of Kenora.</p>	<p>Action 2</p> <p>2.1 Recommendations to be addressed in a Redevelopment Plan of Kenora's Parks and Open Spaces.</p> <p>A plan directing the future restoration, regeneration and rehabilitation of the existing parks and open spaces should be prepared that is consistent with the re-organization of these spaces within the new classification system explained in Action 1.1 of this study. The new organizational structure outlined will provide a framework to guide and define a new plan for redevelopment of the parklands.</p> <p>The following parks are in need of specific attention within a redevelopment plan for the parks and open spaces of Kenora. They are listed according to their new classifications.</p> <p>Natural Open Spaces</p> <p>The <u>Laurensen Creek West</u> area beside the Recreation Centre should be protected under the new zoning class OS 1 and remain undeveloped as parkland. Efforts should be made to rehabilitate the creek shoreline area and restrictions be enforced on the water.</p> <p>The <u>Laurensen Creek East</u> area should also be protected under the new zoning class OS 1, however, sensitively developed by professionals, a landscape architect and a marine biologist, as a marsh interpretive area.</p> <p><u>Lakewood adjacent lands and Tunnel Island rural areas</u> should be combined and connected as a nature trail system under Open Space class One.</p> <p>The area known as <u>Blueberry hill on Coney Island</u> should be protected under the new zoning class of OS 1.</p> <p><u>Bush Island</u> should remain undeveloped and protected under the new zoning class OS 2.</p> <p>Cultural Heritage Parks</p> <p>The <u>green belt</u> area should be developed as a heritage park area, re-zoned as OS 2, for the recognition of the former gold reduction works in the area of MacLeod park.</p> <p><u>First avenue Laundromat park</u> should be developed as a heritage park, re-zoned OS 2, recognizing the importance of the Rat Portage lumber fleet to the former mill at the present recreation centre site.</p> <p>The <u>Cameron Bay</u> area should be developed as a heritage park, re-zoned OS 2, recognizing the importance of the saw, and flour mills to the area and may be connected to the Norman dam due to its importance in providing power to the mills.</p> <p>Recreational Parks & Leisure Spaces</p> <p><u>Norman Park</u> should remain a neighbourhood leisure area and developed only as specified as a Recreational/Sports area and Leisure/Social waterfront area.</p> <p><u>Central Park</u> should be redeveloped as a neighbourhood leisure and recreational area and connected to the foot bridge overpass to the North End.</p> <p>The <u>Ridout Community clubhouse</u> area should redeveloped as a neighbourhood leisure space with a seating area added along the shoreline. Traffic should also be restricted or discouraged past this point. If a major transport route is developed through this area, the clubhouse should be relocated and a neighbourhood park developed elsewhere at the cost of the industry.</p> <p><u>Lakeside Community clubhouse</u> and rink should be relocated to the proposed site behind the A & W Ball Park and developed as a small scale recreational area along with a leisure rest area space for neighbourhood use.</p> <p>The <u>Minto</u> area requires a leisure rest area for its immediate neighbourhood use. This may be developed on the land adjacent to Kin Valley school. A rink may not be required, however, playing fields and seating areas are needed to accommodate this family area.</p>

THE OBJECTIVES
AND ACTIONS

Through the examination and synthesis of the resources of Kenora, the natural wilderness landscape and the interaction of the people with their natural environment are identified as the major elements contributing to the image of the community. The parks and open spaces of the town contribute significantly to the image of Kenora and are one of the most appropriate areas to be used as vehicles for the expression and enhancement of that image. The next step in this study of the image of Kenora is to outline a set of recommended objectives and corresponding actions that will enhance the contribution of the parks and open spaces to the image of Kenora. The intent of this study states that once the image is clarified, the second part of the study will seek to enhance that image through the re-organization, restoration and preservation of the parks and open spaces of Kenora. The administration and maintenance of the parks is also addressed to ensure the continuing contribution of the parks and open spaces to the image. In order to carry out this intent, the

RECOMMENDATIONS

Objective 3

To designate, protect and preserve the parks and open spaces of Kenora.

Once the parks and open spaces of Kenora are reclassified according to their contribution to the image of Kenora, the Official plan and Zoning Bylaws should be revised to ensure the preservation and protection of these spaces. The outlined classification structure for the parks and open spaces is important to the enhancement of their ability to contribute to the image of Kenora. Therefore, the Official Plan and Zoning Bylaws for the Town of Kenora should reflect this importance on a governing level. The adoption of this new organizational strategy for the parks within these official plans will guide the future development of the parks and open spaces and ensure their consistent maintenance. Many of the undeveloped open spaces are crucial areas where the natural wilderness landscape exists within the town boundaries. Their visual character is important to the image of Kenora. These spaces are recognized for their significance and included in the new parks classification system. The current zoning plan should be revised to include these spaces if the new parks classification system is to be effective. The current zoning classification of many spaces, such as rural or hazard, would have to be changed to follow their new classification. Some new spaces must be reclassified and would be designated as parkland or open space. These new spaces are currently zoned under a different heading. The protection of shoreline and water lots adjacent to open spaces, as well as connecting spaces of pathways between parks, should be addressed within the amendments to the current zoning plan.

Action 3

3.1 Rezoning recommendations to be accommodated within the Official plan and Zoning By-Laws for the Town of Kenora

The parks and open spaces shown on the parks classification system must be included and their new classifications accommodated within the current zoning by-laws and Official Plan for the town in order to ensure the consistent and proper management of the parks and open spaces. A revise zoning plan would use the following headings which are consistent with the classification of parks within the system outlined in Action 1.1:

- OS 1 Natural Open Spaces
- OS 2 Cultural Heritage Parks
- OS 3 Recreational / Sports Parks
 - a Large Scale Facilities
 - b Small Scale Facilities
- OS 4 Leisure / Social Spaces
 - a Low intensity activity - Rest areas
 - b Moderate intensity activity - Waterfronts
 - c High intensity activity- Events & Festival areas
- OS 5 Connecting paths/routes*
- OS 6 Shoreline and water lots

*The spaces of pathways which connect the parks to one another will have to be rezoned to accommodate their designation within the zoning map. The width of these paths will be dictated by their function as a bike or foot route.

The following spaces should be designated and protected under the Official Plan and Zoning By-Law for Kenora. They include areas formerly zoned as rural and hazard. These areas, which in some cases are important to micro climate, may act as buffers to residential or institutional use and are important in expressing the wilderness character of the visual image of Kenora. These indicated natural areas, rezoned as OS 1 to be minimally developed for interpretive use, are important to the proper education and preservation of their natural environments which contribute to the town's image.

Present Rural Lands not to be developed:

Forest north of Minto Residential area- This area provides a natural background and wind barrier for an intensely developed hillside residential area.

Beaver Brae Adjacent land - The natural setting of this rocky hill top area covered by a mixed Jack Pine forest is important to the visual character, activity and microclimate of the area of Beaver Brae school and its adjacent residential neighbourhoods. This undeveloped area is a play area and informal trail network for the high-school students and people living in the area.

Stoney Mountain/ Evergreen Hill - The exposed rock cliff in this area and the high hill provide interesting view points and acts as an open space area which along with the mill rail tracks divide at the North End Neighbourhood from the Evergreen Neighbourhood. The hillside is intensely used by children of both neighbourhoods and the by students of the elementary school. Within the forest area at the top of the hill informal trails lead to views out over the Laurensen Creek East area and access to snowmobile trails leading outside of the Town boundaries.

Norman Bay Island - This one remaining island which has not been cut over for cottage use, is important to the view from the mainland as one approaches the downtown area of Kenora. This island is quintessential to a view of the Lake of the Woods, which is part of image of Kenora. The vast view out onto the open lake which an observer experiences on approaching Kenora from the west is narrowed by this and another island which enclose Norman Bay, drawing the eye of the viewer inward toward a forest lined path which leads into the heart of Kenora. The island also acts a shield to winds off the lake, protecting the bay and calming the waters for the marina.

Land North of west highway adjacent to the Norman bridge This area contains a remnant Pine forest which sits high on the cliffs overlooking the west channel of the Winnipeg River. This natural area provides a dramatic backdrop to a bridge whose entrance and exit have native images cast on the columns.

Areas with natural interpretive value and capability:

These parks which fall within the Heritage and Nature classifications, should have a primary function of educating the public. Interpretive areas would be developed as an essential part of the design of the individual park.

Laurensen Creek East- This new park may be the main Nature park within Kenora and would serve to educate the public about the sensitivity and diversity of the wetland ecosystem.

MacLeod park and the Cameron Bay areas would be the primary interpretive parks displaying the history of Kenora. Since much of the industrial development of Kenora has centered around the water, these main Heritage parks are specifically important due to their location along the shoreline and main routes which are easily accessible to tourists. The historical reference of these parks is based on their use of the natural resources of the area, namely water power used in the flour and saw milling industries and wood used for rail ties and lumber.

Anicinabe Park, classified under the new system as a Leisure/ Social Space, shall be the special case due to its cultural and ecological value. The purpose of this park is threefold. First, it is a significant cultural heritage site to the native aboriginal community of Kenora. Second, the park makes a significant contribution to the natural landscape image of the town as the largest existing parkland within the town limits. (The park contains most of the typical Boreal forest zones, with lakeshore, Jack Pine forest and mixed Aspen forest communities all present.) And third, Anicinabe Park is a major area of leisure and social activity for the general community of Kenora. This park should be developed to accommodate all three of its functions, and should include interpretive facilities which focus on the importance of the native community and the preservation of this important piece of natural parkland. Anicinabe Park is a large block of land which may be developed to various levels of intensity and activities.

Rural lands north of Norman Bridge, classified under the new system as a nature area, should remain undeveloped and preserved as a remnant Red and White Pine forest which originally covered a greater part of Norman and Tunnel Island.

Objective 4

To control the maintenance and management of the parks and open spaces of Kenora.

In order to ensure proper and consistent administration, management and maintenance of the existing parks and open spaces within the community, the re-organization of the parks which is outlined in the new classification system must be supported by the appropriate management plans and administrative structure. The management plan is to be a reference manual and schedule for the adequate maintenance of all facilities within the parks system. The plan should outline the technical aspects of planting, the standards to be maintained and the use and styles for built structures within the park. A clear structure of administration for the parks should be developed to ensure the consistent direction and enforcement of the management plan and maintenance practices.

Action 4

4.1 Recommendations for Management plan

A plan is required in order to ensure the continuous and consistent maintenance of the parks and open spaces of Kenora according to the new classification system outlined in Action 1.1 (refer to Action 4). This plan should outline specific use and treatment of plants, lighting, seating, pathways, edges and other landscape elements referred to in the re-organization of the parks. Standards for maintenance practices and a schedule for development of parks should be included with specific standards for all park amenities. The following specific recommendations should be included in the management plan.

Plants: The plants and their distribution pattern found within the urban context may represent their distinction from the surrounding wilderness landscape. Thus, the layout may be more formal and the plants more traditional in the downtown area where surrounded by hard surface landscaping. Where a park reflects some historical significance, the plants and layout may be part of an effort to restore of the original design used in the area. The use of indigenous plant material (Boreal Forest species) should be encouraged where appropriate in all parks. This is especially true in the rehabilitation of existing undeveloped open spaces where a visual connection of the parks to the surrounding wilderness landscape may be maintained and provided. Where appropriate and indicated in the descriptions of parks within the new classification system, ornamental species may be used to offset features and distinguish a formal space from a nature space. Individual plant species shall be chosen according to their hardiness, desired characteristics and suitability to the site. Soils capability, solar orientation, exposure and moisture shall all be taken into account.

Nurseries: Plants used to replace dying or infected plants may be grown on site in larger community parks such as at Anicinabe Park, within designated areas to be placed in an inconspicuous area of the park. The town may designate one of the open space areas which are presently undeveloped within the community to develop its own nursery to feed major replanting and management programs.. Most parks, with the exception of the Nature parks, may be subject to tender to a local nursery with specific quality and species requirements attached to the tender. These parks, as in all parks in the community should be subject to regular inspection in order to ensure quality standards are being met and maintained.

A **Landscape Architect**, whose general knowledge of plants along with the capability of design and site planning, should be employed within the Parks and Recreation Department to supervise the design, maintenance and management of the parks system. This would ensure the quality of parks be maintained and the goals of the system be ensured.

Built structures should be of simple construction using local materials and craftsman as available.

4.2 Administrative structure

A structure such as the following is recommended to organize the supervision and the implementation of future development plans and maintenance of the parks and open space system that has been outlined. This administrative structure would be managed by a Parks and Recreation Co-ordinator whose responsibility would be to ensure the consistent management and quality of implementation of the system goals.



General framework

The general layout and design of the parks should follow the outline of the new classification of parks which is based on their contribution to image as explained in Action 1.1 of the 'Recommendations' Section of this study. The linkages between these parks is also explained within the recommendations of 'Action 1'. A network of pathways which connect all of the parks is shown on this map and the treatment of the paths within each class of park is outlined on the individual classification maps to follow.

The following additional recommendations regarding the parks and open spaces of Kenora are made to ensure a consistent image.

Materials: wood, rock and brick

Where it is possible, the various landscape furnishings for the parks should be produced in the Kenora district. The recommended materials include wood in the form of cut or whole logs, wood timbers; rocks, crushed or large, such as quartz and granite; and brick which is manufactured in the area. The treatment of material within the individual parks of a specific classification will be consistent, but each Class will be treated differently to reflect the character of park.

The **landscape furniture** such as seating, planters, signage, lighting, edge treatment and pathways found within the parks should follow the appropriate style and materials treatment indicated within the definition of the classification.

The landscape furnishings found within the **urban parks** of the 'downtown' area should use materials and styles which reflect the important features of the entire community, such as its industry, commerce, and cultural activity as it is associated to the natural resources of the area. Significant buildings have already been designated for preservation within the town but they are only a small part of the cultural resource of the community. Since cultural and ecological elements are so important to the image of Kenora, the parks and open spaces associated to significant events in the downtown area should also be designated for heritage protection. These areas include the C.P.R. gardens and the Museum's Memorial Park. The activity associated with the waterfront area of the downtown district has also had a contribution to the image of Kenora and its historic significance should be addressed in the design of amenities in the Harbourfront Park.

The Lake of the Woods was indicated by residents who were involved in the survey as an important natural feature of Kenora. Where possible views and paths leading to the lake should be encouraged in order to draw attention to this natural resource.

This map will form the basis for designating parks and open spaces within a revised zoning map. These spaces must also be addressed within the Town's zoning by-laws. As stated in the 'Action 3.1', the spaces of pathways which connect the parks, as indicated on this plan, must also be designated to ensure their consistent management.

LEGEND:

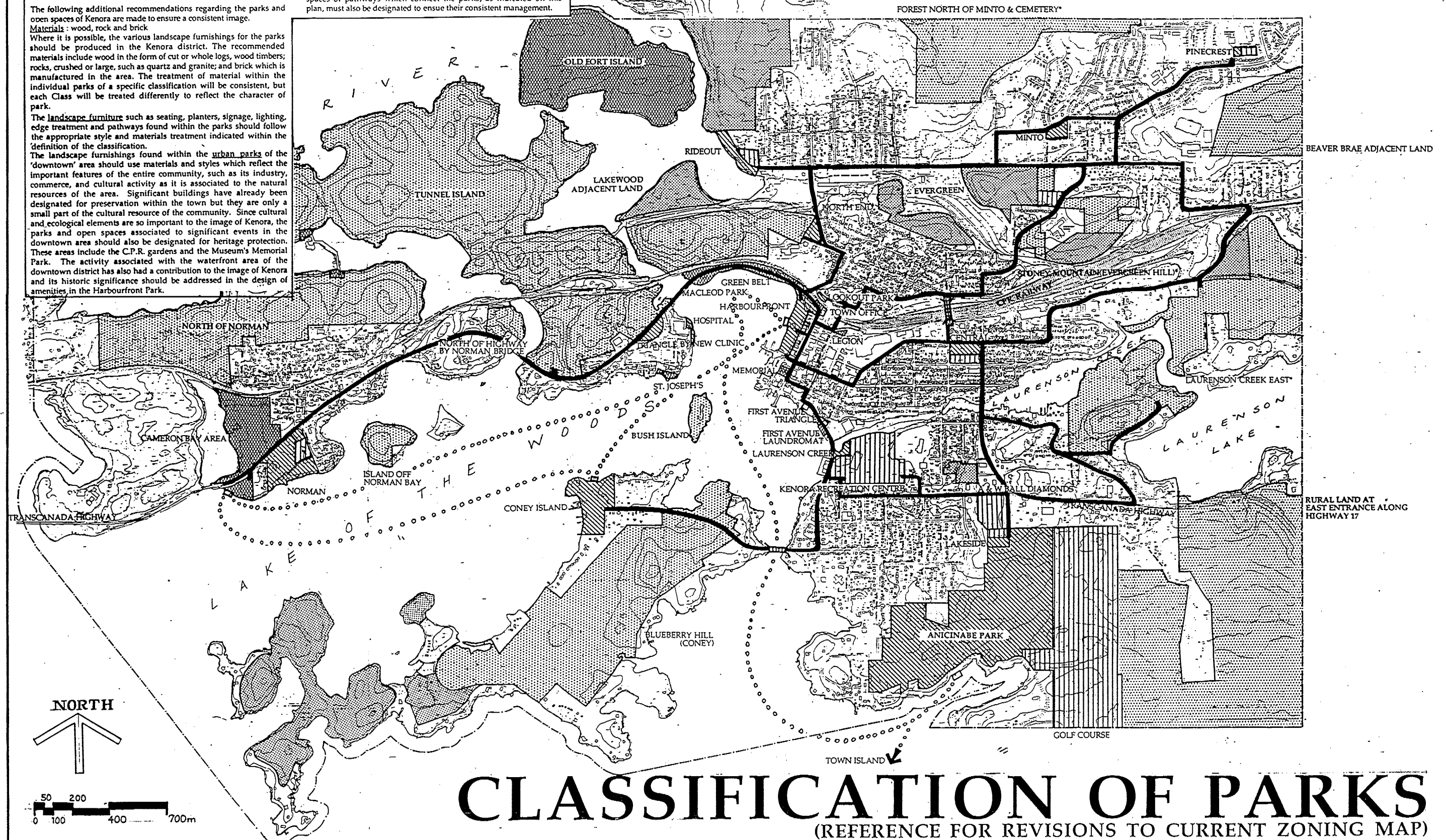
PARKS

NATURAL OPEN SPACES
ADDED AREAS- RLS, M1 (OS 1)
CULTURAL HERITAGE
PARKS (OS 2)

RECREATIONAL /
SPORTS PARKS (OS 3)
LEISURE / SOCIAL
SPACES (OS 4)

LINKAGES

BIKE/RUN & WALK PATH OS 5
WATER CONNECTIONS
FOOT BRIDGE



NATURAL OPEN SPACES

Zoning: OS 1

Definition: Natural open spaces are those which are currently undeveloped spaces with ecologically sensitive environments. These spaces have formerly been zoned as rural or hazard areas where development was not encouraged due to poor structural capabilities or rocky terrain. These areas important in creating a natural wilderness setting for Kenora. As stated at the conclusion of phase one, this natural character is a major element contributing to the image of Kenora. Therefore, it is important to acknowledge, preserve and maintain these areas as natural open spaces. The natural open spaces may be designated as OS 1 within a revised zoning map and protected from future formal development which would negatively impact on the visual image of the community. Habitat and plant species should be monitored in areas where adjacent urban development threatens sensitive ecosystems and wildlife habitat.




Appropriate use: These areas should remain undeveloped for formal use. They may continue to be used by neighbourhood children and adults as natural play spaces and unorganized interpretive trails.

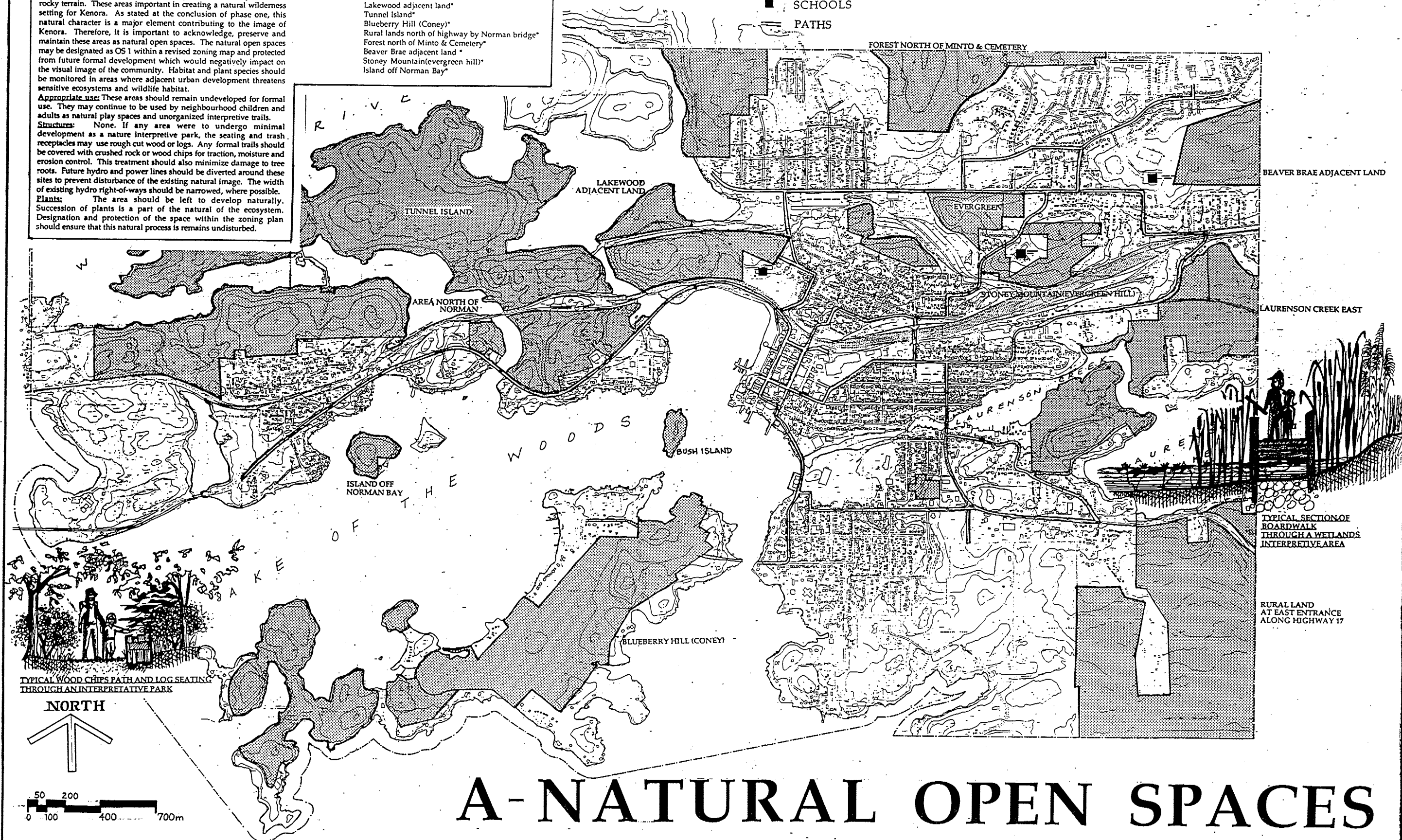
Structures: None. If any area were to undergo minimal development as a nature interpretive park, the seating and trash receptacles may use rough cut wood or logs. Any formal trails should be covered with crushed rock or wood chips for traction, moisture and erosion control. This treatment should also minimize damage to tree roots. Future hydro and power lines should be diverted around these sites to prevent disturbance of the existing natural image. The width of existing hydro right-of-ways should be narrowed, where possible.

Plants: The area should be left to develop naturally. Succession of plants is a part of the natural of the ecosystem. Designation and protection of the space within the zoning plan should ensure that this natural process is remains undisturbed.

List of spaces: Laurensen Creek (beside Rec. Centre)
Laurensen Creek East*
Laurensen Creek behind Gould road
Tenth Avenue (pocket on Laurensen Creek)
Bush Island
Lakewood adjacent land*
Tunnel Island*
Blueberry Hill (Coney)*
Rural lands north of highway by Norman bridge*
Forest north of Minto & Cemetery*
Beaver Brae adjacent land*
Stoney Mountain (evergreen hill)*
Island off Norman Bay*

LEGEND:

-  NATURAL OPEN SPACES
-  SCHOOLS
-  PATHS



A-NATURAL OPEN SPACES

CULTURAL HERITAGE PARKS

Zoning: OS 2

Definition: These parks contain architecture or other remnants of historical significance to the community. They may be the site of a historic event or an important industry. The development and maintenance of these parks is important to the preservation of the significant cultural and historical resources which contribute to the image of Kenora.

Appropriate use: Intensive use by public and tourists. Interpretive programs and facilities may be developed within these parks with specific reference to activities or events which took place on or near the site. A 'historic walk' may be developed along the routes indicated on the map of the Cultural Heritage Parks. This path would lead the observer through the various parks and past significant points of interest which may be explained on interpretive panels along the side of the route.

Structures: The style of the furnishings used in the parks including seating, planters, and on other landscape furnishings should be reminiscent of and important period of history. Historic artifacts may be used as landscape furnishings. The design of fixtures may be molded or hand crafted. The treatment of pathways, such as the use of brick unit pavers and rail tie edging, should be used consistently in all cultural heritage parks to maintain a visual linkage between the parks of that class.

Plants: Ornamental plants may be used. Where possible, the restoration of a specific historic area with its original layout and design of gardens and the similar use of plants should be encouraged.

Maintenance level: medium to high

List of spaces: First Ave. Laundromat: Rat Portage Lumber Co. Fleet Memorial Park: War monument and cultural history Legion: YMCA gardens, CPR gardens Cameron Bay area: saw mill, flour mill and hydro MacLeod Park: existing references to lake use Green belt: Sultana Gold Mine and Reduction Works Town Office space: Old Post Office St. Joseph's Hospital Library CPR Foot Bridge Old fort Island: former site of trading post

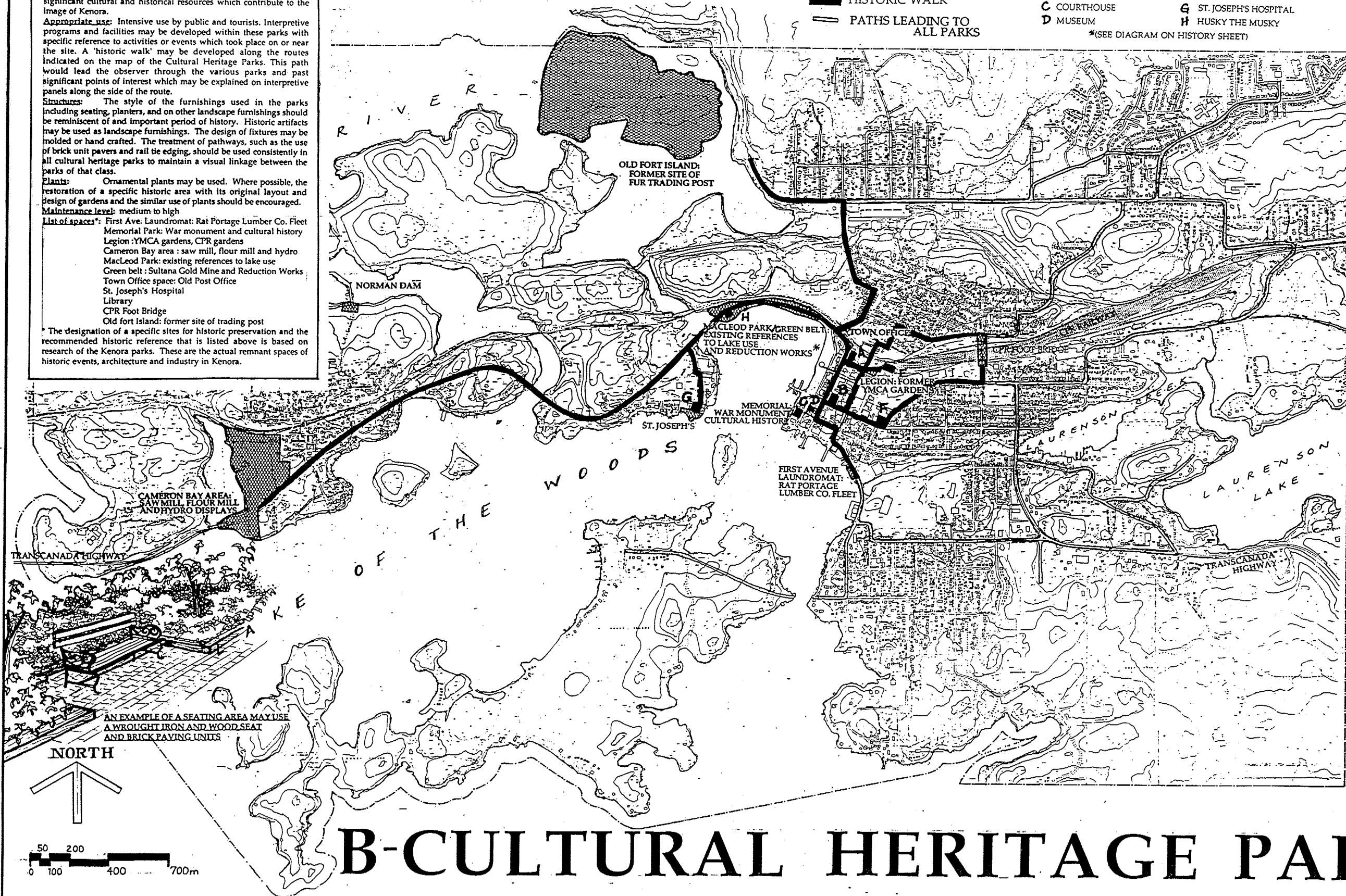
* The designation of a specific sites for historic preservation and the recommended historic reference that is listed above is based on research of the Kenora parks. These are the actual remnant spaces of historic events, architecture and industry in Kenora.

LEGEND:

- CULTURAL HERITAGE PARKS
- 'HISTORIC WALK'
- PATHS LEADING TO ALL PARKS

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE

- A OLD POST OFFICE*
 - B KENRICIA*
 - C COURTHOUSE
 - D MUSEUM
 - E CPR STATION*
 - F FIRE HALL
 - G ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL
 - H HUSKY THE MUSKY
- *(SEE DIAGRAM ON HISTORY SHEET)



B-CULTURAL HERITAGE PARKS

RECREATIONAL / SPORTS PARKS

Zoning: OS 3-A Large scale facilities / High intensity activity
OS 3-B Small scale facilities / Medium intensity activity

Definition: These spaces accommodate high to medium intensity sporting activities on an large scale for community use or at a smaller scale for neighbourhood use. The large scale parks contain major recreational facilities such as baseball diamonds, soccer fields, tennis courts, track, golf course, winter sports areas, and arena complex. The smaller scale areas contain a neighbourhood rink and clubhouse and may also have an open play field for baseball or other unorganized sports. The Recreational / Sports parks are import in accommodating the various outdoor activities and the cultural activity of the individual neighbourhoods and the entire community. This interaction of the public with its outdoor environment is a significant element of the visual image of Kenora.

Appropriate use: Intensive recreational use by large to small groups and individuals. Participation in these areas is community or neighbourhood related and will reflect the desired sports needs of the community. Sports group as well as the general public should be a part of the design process in the development and management of such parks. Small Recreational Parks should be associated and connected to leisure rest areas within the neighbourhood. Both walking and bike paths should be developed to physically link the recreational parks. A signage system along bike paths should also be developed to indicate the various lengths of different routes. The paths could be extended outside the study area around Rabbit Lake or to the TransCanada Highway. The lettering, size and style of signs should be readable at eye level for the person on foot or on a bicycle.

Structures: The construction of landscape furnishings such as planters, benches and retaining walls may be of heavy wood timbers for durability and visual appearance of strength that is associated to the image of recreation and sports. Asphalt paving may be used on bike paths and other hard surface activity areas. Gravel and grass on fields as appropriate. Cut granite paving stone with thick wood edging may be used on walking paths throughout the recreational parks. The image of these parks should be bold and contemporary.

Plants: The design of planting areas should allow for shaded and sunny areas. The use of indigenous plants is recommended.

Maintenance level: high

List of spaces:

OS 3-A Kenora Recreation Centre
A & W Ball Diamonds
Golf Course

OS 3-B Lakeside
Rideout
North End &
Evergreen
Pinecrest & Minto
Central
Norman

LEGEND:

RECREATIONAL PARKS



OS 3 - A LARGE SCALE FACILITIES



OS 3 - B SMALL SCALE FACILITIES



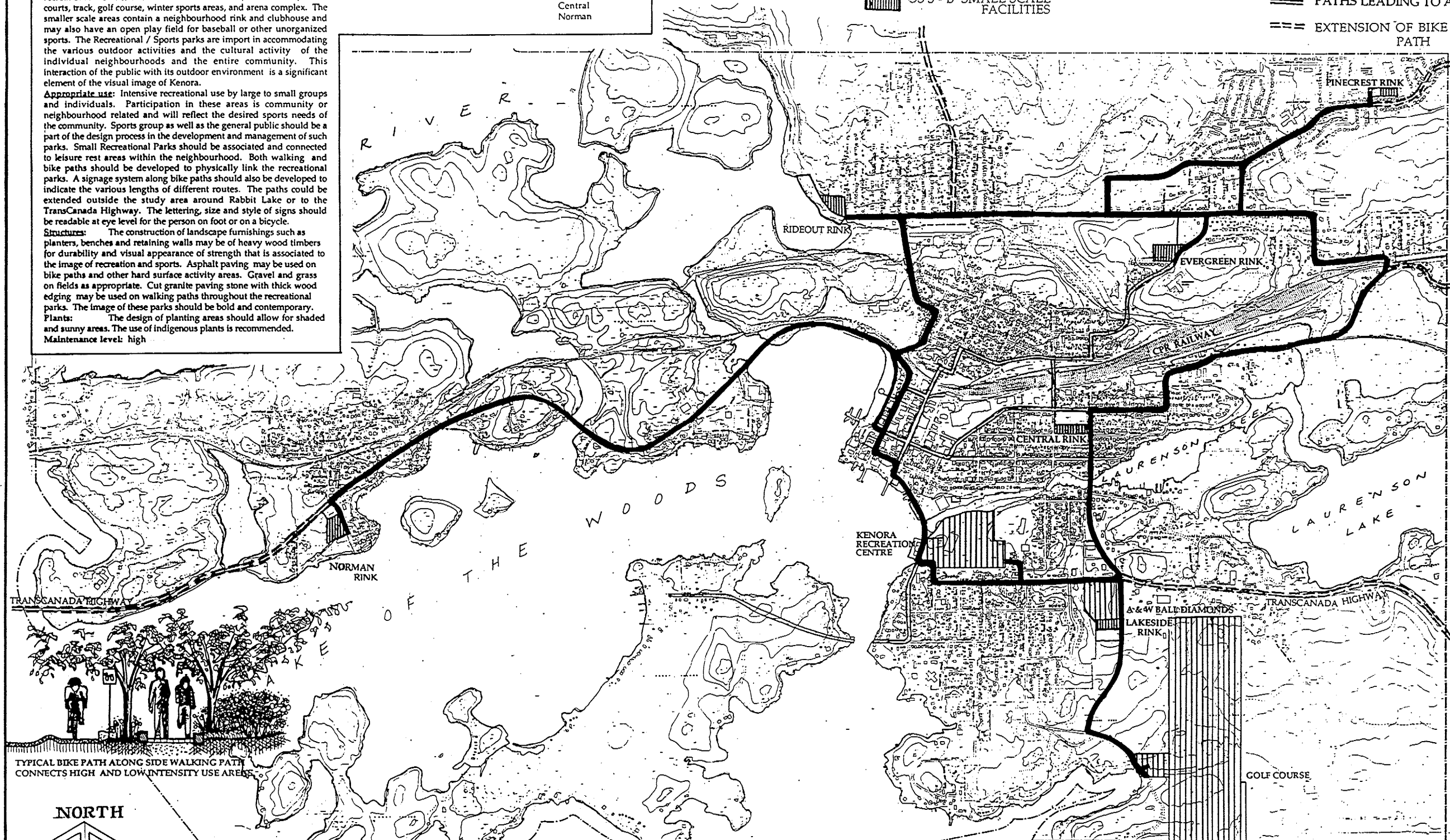
ASSOCIATED LEISURE SPACE

LINKAGES

BIKE/RUN & WALK PATH

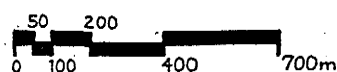
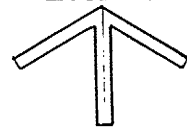
PATHS LEADING TO ALL PARKS

EXTENSION OF BIKE PATH



TYPICAL BIKE PATH ALONG SIDE WALKING PATH
CONNECTS HIGH AND LOW INTENSITY USE AREAS

NORTH



C-RECREATIONAL SPORTS PARKS

LEISURE / SOCIAL SPACES

Zoning: OS 4 - A Low intensity activity / Rest areas
OS 4 - B Medium intensity activity / Waterfront areas
OS 4 - C High intensity activity / Community events areas

Definition: These community and neighbourhood use spaces all contain facilities and features which correspond to a leisure type activity. This classification is subdivided into smaller units according to the intensity of the activity and the function of the spaces. Low intensity activity takes place in a rest area where paths, seating, children's play structures and small open field areas serve the needs of the immediate neighbourhood or urban space. The moderate intensity use areas contain waterfront activities such as docking, access to water, beaches and barbecue areas. The spaces can accommodate individuals, families of larger groups of people. The high intensity use areas are mainly for larger group or community gatherings such as festivals, tourism events and other cultural activity. These large scale parks serve the leisure needs of residents and visitors of the community, containing major leisure facilities, parking, washrooms and concessions. The Leisure / Social Parks should reflect the contemporary cultural values and needs of the community. These areas are important for the interaction of the public on a less stressful level with the outdoor environment. This interaction contributes to the image of Kenora.

Appropriate use: These areas will be under low to high intensity use for individuals or large groups. The space must accommodate leisure activities such as resting, sun-tanning, picnicking and barbecuing. The park should provide areas of use for all age groups from youth to adult to seniors. Play spaces, rest areas, beaches, performance stages and parking facilities are among the areas to be included in the design. The Leisure parks should be connected via walking and biking paths to Recreational parks. A water route is mapped out to link the Anicinabe, Coney Island and Norman beaches to each other and to the downtown Harbourfront park. The path follows a similar path which is currently taken by the MS Kenora.

Structures: The design of seating, planters and other landscape furnishings should be contemporary. The treatment of materials such as wood should be smooth and precisely cut to represent the formal character of the park. A design for the seating within rest areas may include a space on the back rest for an engraving or neighbourhood emblem which is significant in some way to the specific district. Crushed rock with wood timbers edging may be used on paths within the neighbourhood rest areas and cut granite pavers in more formal urban rest and waterfront areas. The waterfront parks may have a nautical theme for the design of landscape structures and should use similar design and finely crafted details reminiscent of the former boat building industry of Kenora.

Plants: Ornamental plants may be used in the downtown urban parks and carried over in other rest areas. The use of indigenous plant material should be encouraged in neighbourhood rest areas to visually link these spaces with the surrounding landscape. In waterfront areas, the reintroduction of natural lake shore species would enhance and support the water associated image.

Maintenance level: high to medium

List of spaces:

OS 4 - A Norman	OS 4 - B Anicinabe
Lakeside	Coney Island
Rideout	Norman Beach
Central	Town Island
Evergreen	
Pinecrest	
North End	OS 4 - C Harbourfront
Minto	
First Ave Triangle	
Lookout Park	
Hospital	
Triangle by new clinic	

Many neighbourhoods which were historically settled by various ethnic groups have maintained traces of the cultural influence in the architecture and landscape of the area. These traces may be enhanced and encouraged through the design of decorative elements on landscape furniture. A standard piece of wood furniture like a planter or a bench may be designed to include a space for a distinct decorative pattern or neighbourhood emblem. For example, the emblem for the Lakeside park may refer to its northern European heritage, or the North End/Evergreen park emblem may refer to eastern European patterns. The newer areas such as the Minto or Pinecrest residential areas have a more contemporary design for its emblem. A contest may be held to design the neighbourhood emblem. The use of these decorative emblems on seating and planters will enhance the cultural character of the individual park while the standard piece of furniture will maintain the visual connection of all neighbourhood parks.





Water plays an important role in the moderation of the microclimate in certain areas of Kenora, keeping the temperature from reaching extremes in both winter and summer months. The inclusion of water in neighbourhood rest areas is a desired element suggested by survey respondents.

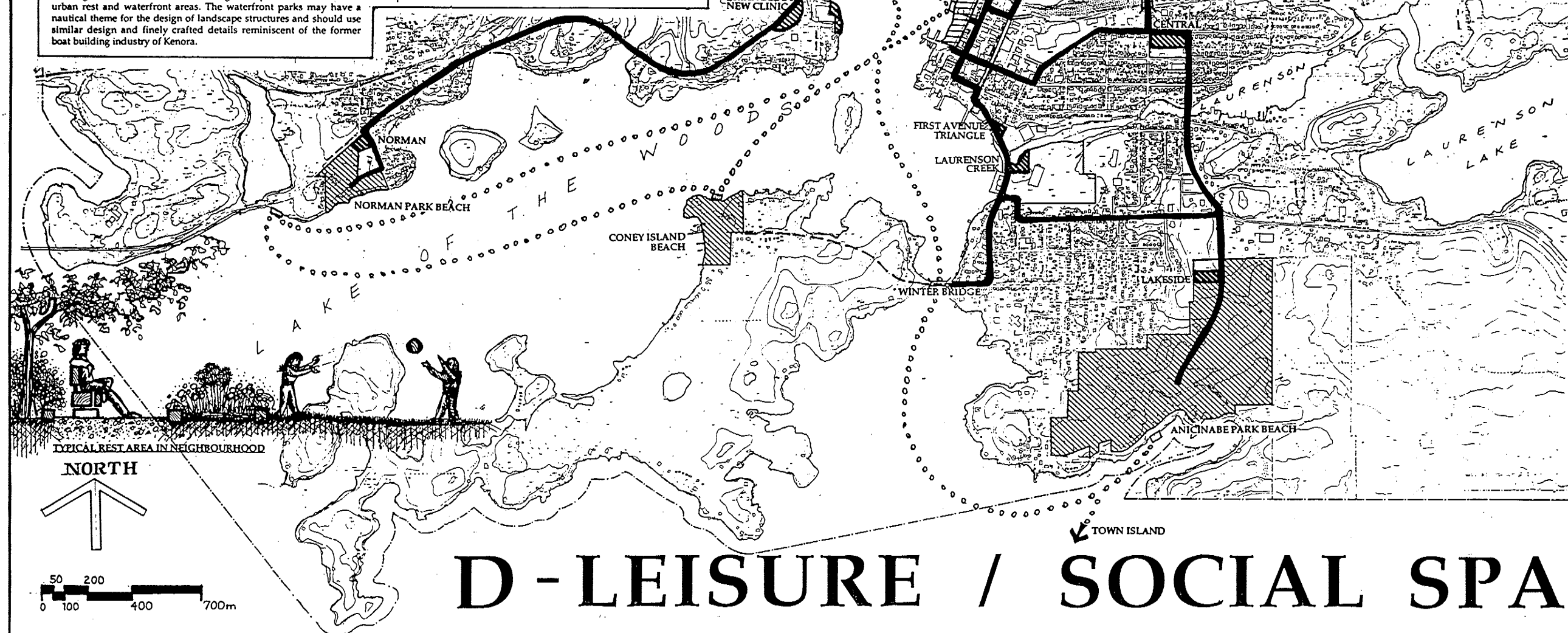
LEGEND:

LEISURE / SOCIAL PARKS

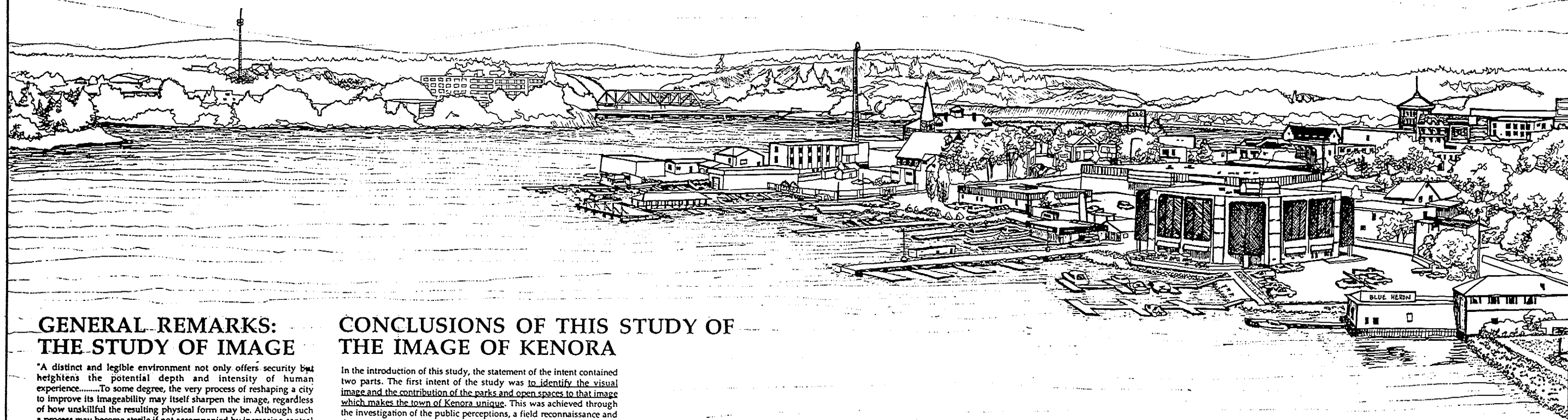
 OS 4 - A LOW INTENSITY ACTIVITY - REST AREAS	 OS 4 - C HIGH INTENSITY EVENTS & FESTIVAL AREA
 OS 4 - B MODERATE INTENSITY ACTIVITY - WATERFRONTS	 ASSOCIATED RECREATIONAL SPACE
 SCHOOLS	

LINKAGES

 BIKE/RUN & WALK PATH
 PATH
 WINTER PATH
 WATER CONNECTIONS



D - LEISURE / SOCIAL SPACES



GENERAL REMARKS: THE STUDY OF IMAGE

"A distinct and legible environment not only offers security but heightens the potential depth and intensity of human experience.....To some degree, the very process of reshaping a city to improve its imageability may itself sharpen the image, regardless of how unskillful the resulting physical form may be. Although such a process may become sterile if not accompanied by increasing control and judgment, even awkward 'beautification' of a city may in itself be an intensifier of civic energy and cohesion."

-Kevin Lynch, *The Image of the City*, 1960.

The ability of the town such as Kenora to express a cohesive image of its community within its parks and open space system will influence the reaction of an observer. A distinct and clear image will leave a vivid impression in the mind of observers and may have either a positive or negative effect on their use of this environment.

"Large scale imageable environments require a certain standard of planning and management in order to maintain their ability to express the changing image of a community. The spatial organization of contemporary life, the speed of movement, and the speed and scale of new construction, all make it possible and necessary to construct such environments by conscious design." (paraphrased, from Lynch, 1960) This study points out one approach to planning and design which addresses the image of a town in the organization of its parks and open spaces. Such a well planned environment speaks of the individuals of a specific community and their complex society, of their history and aspirations for a better place for living, of their natural setting, and of the complicated functions and activities which take place within their urban landscape. The establishment of a clear organizational structure and a vivid identity are the first steps in developing strong symbols for urban development. A well organized system may help to create a sense of place which in turn enhances human activity within it and encourages stimulation of memory and image within the mind of the observer.

CONCLUSIONS OF THIS STUDY OF THE IMAGE OF KENORA

In the introduction of this study, the statement of the intent contained two parts. The first intent of the study was to identify the visual image and the contribution of the parks and open spaces to that image which makes the town of Kenora unique. This was achieved through the investigation of the public perceptions, a field reconnaissance and the examination of the historical, cultural and biophysical resources of the community. The element found to be most important to the image of Kenora is its natural landscape. However, the unique quality of the image of Kenora is a result of the interaction of the people and their specific wilderness landscape. The activities of the people of Kenora in and around the water and their attitude toward the surrounding rocky and sparsely vegetated landscape has led to a visual image of the town. This image contains specific qualities and characteristics. The qualities reflected in the image are a result of the way in which the public views and treats its natural resources. The characteristics that are part of the image include distinct features of the wilderness landscape such as the shoreline of Lake of the Woods or the jack pines growing on an exposed hill of rock. It is these distinct features which dominate the visual image of Kenora. This natural element of the image is most evident in the parks and open spaces which exist within and surrounding the town. The parklands, therefore, become the most convenient and appropriate spaces in which to address the second intent of the study. Phase Two of the study addresses the second intent which was to enhance the imageability of Kenora and the ability of the parks and open spaces to contribute to that image through their re-organization, restoration and preservation. The parks and other open spaces are already playing an important role in representing the interaction of the cultural, historical and natural resources which contribute to the image of the community. In this final phase of the study a set of recommended objectives and their corresponding actions was formulated to aid in the re-organization, restoration and preservation of the parks and open spaces of the community in order to heighten their contribution to the image of Kenora. A new

organizational structure for the parks and open spaces is outlined to guide their future development, management and maintenance. The re-organization of the parks and open spaces was addressed in a new classification system. The new classes of parklands included Natural Open Spaces, Cultural Heritage Parks, Recreational facilities and Sports Parks, and Leisure or Social spaces. All of the existing parks and open spaces were placed into a class which reflected their significant contribution to the visual image. The treatment of structures, plants, signage, and other elements of the landscape plan of the park are described in the text that accompanies the map of each classification along with an explanation of the appropriate usage and functions of the designated parks. These recommendations are based on the concerns of the surveyed public, known design principles and planning methods which seek to enhance the image of park. The recommended restoration and rehabilitation of the existing parks will improve the visual image of the parks and the overall look of the community. An administrative structure which includes the addition of a Landscape Architect on staff is recommended to support and to direct the future redevelopment of a parks system. The application of these recommendations will enhance the ability of the parks and open spaces to express the image of Kenora and will enhance the overall imageability of the town.

CONCLUSION

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APPENDICES

- Appendix A: FIELD STUDY**
 - A-1 List of Parks and Open Spaces of Kenora**
- Appendix B: PUBLIC SURVEY AND PAST STUDIES**
 - B-1 Questionnaires: General, Seniors and Youth**
 - B-2 Other Studies**
 - B-3 Specific Park Development Plans**
- Appendix C: PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN AND SITE PLANNING**

Appendix A-1
List of Parks and Open Spaces of Kenora

Existing Parks and Open Spaces (zoning)

Community Parks	Total Area:	133.6 acres
Anicinabe (OS)		100.0
Coney Island (OS)		12.6
Norman (OS)		11.0
Town Island (OS)		10.0 acres
Waterfront Parks	Total Area:	9.5 acres
Harbourfront (OS/HZ)		5.0
MacLeod Park / Greenbelt (OS)		3.5
First Ave. Laundromat (HZ)		
Neighbourhood Club/Park	Total Area:	n/a
Lakeside (R)		
Central (OS)		3.5 acres
Rideout (OS)		
Evergreen (OS/M2)		
Pinecrest (OS)		
Norman (OS)		
Kin Valley Area* (C1)		
School areas	Total Area:	n/a
King George (I1)		
Evergreen (I1)		
Pinecrest (I1)		
Kin Valley (I1)		
Lakewood (I1)		
Beaver Brae (I1)		
Thomas Aquinas (I1)		
Mount Carmel (I1)		
Sports Facilities	Total Area:	n/a
Kenora Recreation Centre (I2)		19.0 acres
A & W Ball Diamonds (OS)		4.6 acres

Golf Course (OS)

Pocket Parks	Total Area:	1.4 acres
Memorial (I2)		0.4
Legion (C2)		0.1
Library (C2)		0.2
Town Office (C2)		0.1
Shoppers Mall (C2)		0.1
First Avenue Triangle (R1)		1.0
Main Street corner (C2)		0.3
Lookout Park (R2)		0.1
Hospital and St. Joseph's (I2)		
Triangle by new clinic (I2)		
Special Open Spaces (Rural / Hazard lands)		
Laurenson Creek-beside Rec. Centre (SA)		
Laurenson Creek east (RU/HZ/SA)		
Laurenson Creek behind Gould road (RU/HZ)		
Tenth Avenue-pocket on Laurenson Creek (HZ)		
Bush Island (OS)		
Forest north of Minto & Cemetery (OS/RU)		
Beaver Brae adjacent land (RU)		40.0 acres
Lakewood adjacent land**(RU)		
Blueberry Hill-Coney Island (RU/HZ)		
Stoney Mountain & Evergreen hill (RU/M2)		
Rideout bay shoreline (OS)		
Cameron Bay area-Norman (RU/HZ/OS/M2)		
Tunnel Island (RU/HZ)		
Rideout on Winnipeg River (RU)		
North of Norman (RU)		
East Entrance on Highway 17 (RU)		

Appendix B-1
Questionnaires: General
Seniors
Youth

General questionnaire:

The following is a set of questions which was distributed to a selected individuals currently living in Kenora. Individuals were chosen based on their knowledge of the community and the areas of town in which they presently live. Members of the business community, news reporting and tourism trades were interviewed using the questionnaire.

Occupation: _____ Age _____ Sex _____
Number of years living in Kenora: _____ Neighbourhood: _____

1. Name those parks with which you are familiar.
For example : Neighbourhood Parks, Sports facilities, Community Parks, Other open spaces
2. a) What images comes to mind when you think of Kenora's parks in general ? (What Impression do you have of the parks ?)
b) What parks and features within these parks stand out the most in your mind ?
3. a) What images come in to your mind when you think of the Town of Kenora ?
b) In a few sentences describe the Town of Kenora.
c) What makes Kenora unique or different from any other community ?
4. a) In your opinion, what are some ways in which the parks of Kenora could be made to better express the distinct character of Kenora ?
b) How could the parks be better identified ?
5. a) Which parks within the Town of Kenora do you consider to be the most important: i. to the community
ii. to tourism
b) How could these parks be made more obvious and attractive for visitors ?

Seniors interview:

The following questions were asked of seniors who had spent a better part of their lives in Kenora. The interview took place at the New Horizons Seniors Centre in Kenora.

1. What area of Town did you grow up in ?
Where do you live now ?
2. What areas were your favourite outdoor places as a child to:
- play in on a regular basis?
- visit occasionally ?
3. What sorts of outdoor activities did you participate in as a child and where ?
4. What outdoors activities do you participate in currently?
Where do you partake of these activities ?
5. When you have guests visiting from out of town, where do you bring them in order to show them Kenora ?
6. What areas of Kenora do you consider to be most historically significant and why ?
If a heritage park were to be built in Kenora, what area of town should it go in ? What types of things would you like to see as part of this heritage park ?
7. If a neighbourhood park were to be built in your area, what sorts of things would you like to see as part of this park ?

Youth questionnaire:

The following set of questions were given to a grade five class at an Elementary school in Kenora. The questionnaire was given out to pupils and questions read aloud in order to ensure a unified comprehension of the questions asked.

1. Where neighbourhood or area of town do you live in ?
2. Where are you favourite places to play outside ?
3. Draw a map of Kenora on the back of this sheet.
-Put a X on the spot where you live.
-Draw your favourite places to play on the map and mark them with a star (*).
-Draw other places that you have gone to play on your map.
4. Where do your Mom and Dad go to play sports or just to spend some time outside ?
5. If you could build a park in your neighbourhood, what sorts of things would you put in it ?

Appendix B-2

Past Studies:

1979: M.M. Dillon Ltd. - Kenora Shoreline Development Plan

1989: Keewatin-Aski and Hilderman, Witty, Crosby, Hanna &
Associates - Town of Kenora Public Parklands Study

1992: Institute of Environmental Research(1985) Inc. - Recreational
Master Plan for the Tri-Municipalities of Kenora,Keewatin
& Jaffray-Mellick.

Shoreline Development Plan:

"The most valuable natural asset which the Town of Kenora possesses is its waterfront. To date, its economic and aesthetic potentials have not been realized."

-M.M.Dillon, Kenora Shoreline Development Plan, 1979.

The major recommendations which came from this report centered on the waterfront areas of downtown and resulted in the Kenora Waterfront Development Plan of 1984, designed by Marshall, Macklin, Monaghan Ltd. The report also led to other work on the southern shore of the downtown area. Some of their other suggestions were as follows:

- shoreline on the west entrance to the town, near Cameron Bay should be acquired from Boise and developed as a major marina, seaplane base, and heavy equipment transportation dock;
- the area of parkland near Cameron Bay should become an extension of Norman park and preserved as parkland;
- better signage should be placed on parks, Norman in particular
- the shoreline at the Norman Hotel should be developed as a marina with a boat launch and the islands to the south of this area preserved, with no further development allowed;
- the rural areas of Tunnel island and north of Norman should be protected from development; and
- the Laurenson Creek should be cleared to improve boat access, docking and a picnic areas put in at the Recreation Centre.

The major focus of their development proposal was on providing major marina facilities and was a direct response to their survey of public needs. The questionnaire results indicated that the public was generally dissatisfied with the condition and adequacy of docking, boat launches, parkland, park facilities, shoreline accessibility and general conditions within the shoreline parks. The majority (76 %) of the people surveyed noted a preference for a 'natural, beautiful shoreline' with 'clean water and other natural elements'. One element that 82 % of the respondents did not want was more parking and refuse along the waterfront.

Map 1 - Shoreline Development Plan (proposals)

M.M.Dillon, Kenora Shoreline Development Plan, 1979.

Kenora Public Parkland Study:

"The majority of open space areas(in Kenora) are in a natural condition and many support mature mixed forest. Typically, many of these parcels have not been developed because of the rugged terrain and bedrock outcropping. **The undeveloped parcels are important elements contributing to the visual character and appeal of the Town of Kenora....The positive image of Kenora has been in part due to parks.**"

-Keewatin-Aski and Hilderman, Witty, Crosby, Hanna & Associates, Town of Kenora Public Parklands Study, 1989.

This study of the public parklands for Kenora focused on the inventory of the existing facilities within the town and investigated the public response towards these facilities in regard to adequacy and needs. The report points out the need for a management plan for all parks and open spaces within the community and presents the poor quality of maintenance that has led to the parks' disintegration. The study recommends that many of the **undesignated spaces that are essential to sustaining the natural character of the community** be zoned for protection. The needs of residents were expressed in questionnaire and interview form and identified the need for a more neighbourhood park facilities and redevelopment and reorganization of current sports facilities. Rather than establishing new parks, it was recommended that the existing parks be redeveloped. However, **a heritage park and a natural park were suggested.**

Specific needs of respondents included: playgrounds in neighbourhoods, rest areas natural passive areas, bike paths, accessibility for seniors, better signage and marketing, access to Coney Island, and the protection of Laurenson Creek.

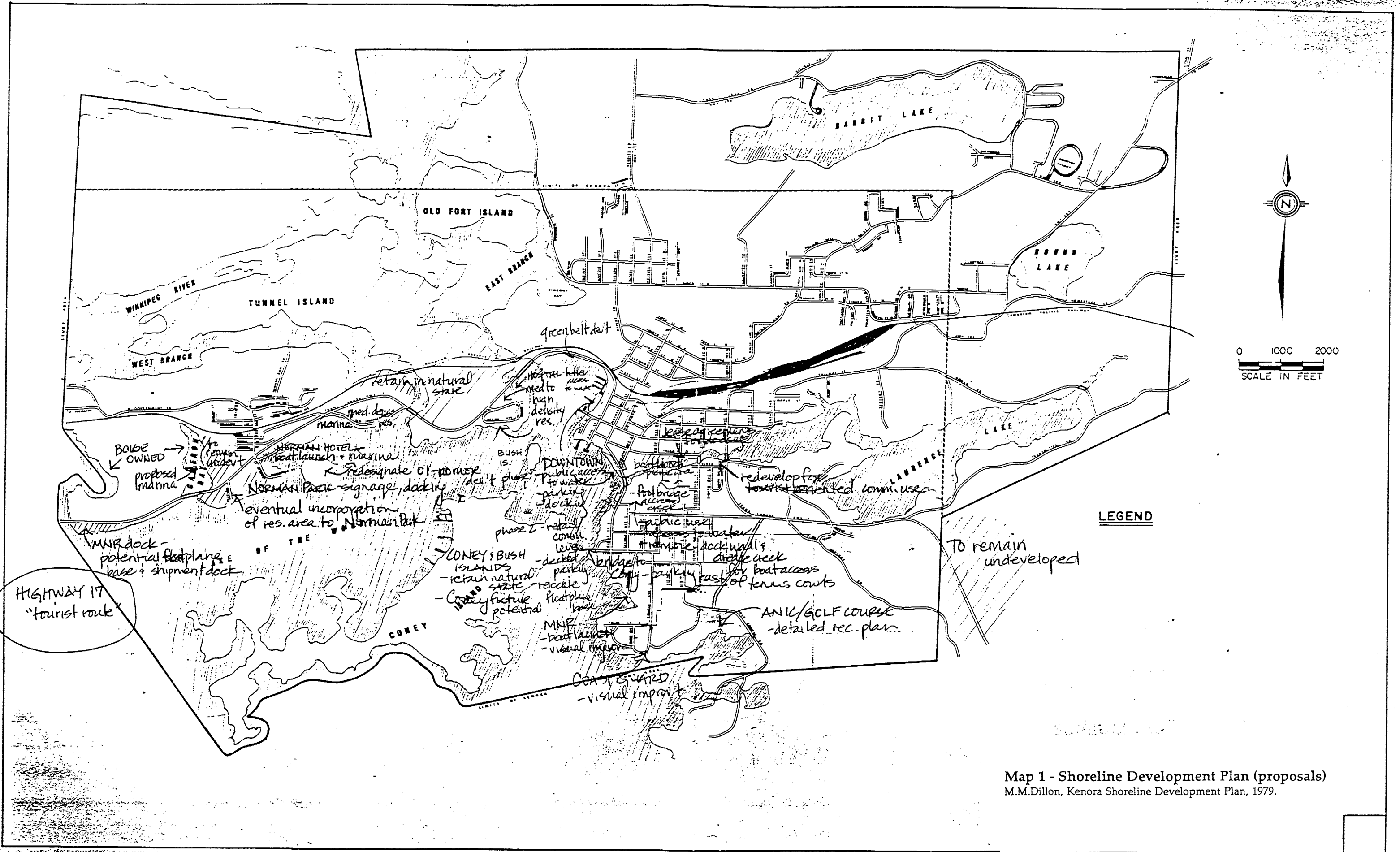
Map 2 - Kenora Public Parkland Study (proposals)

Keewatin-Aski and Hilderman, Witty, Crosby, Hanna & Associates, Town of Kenora Public Parklands Study, 1989.

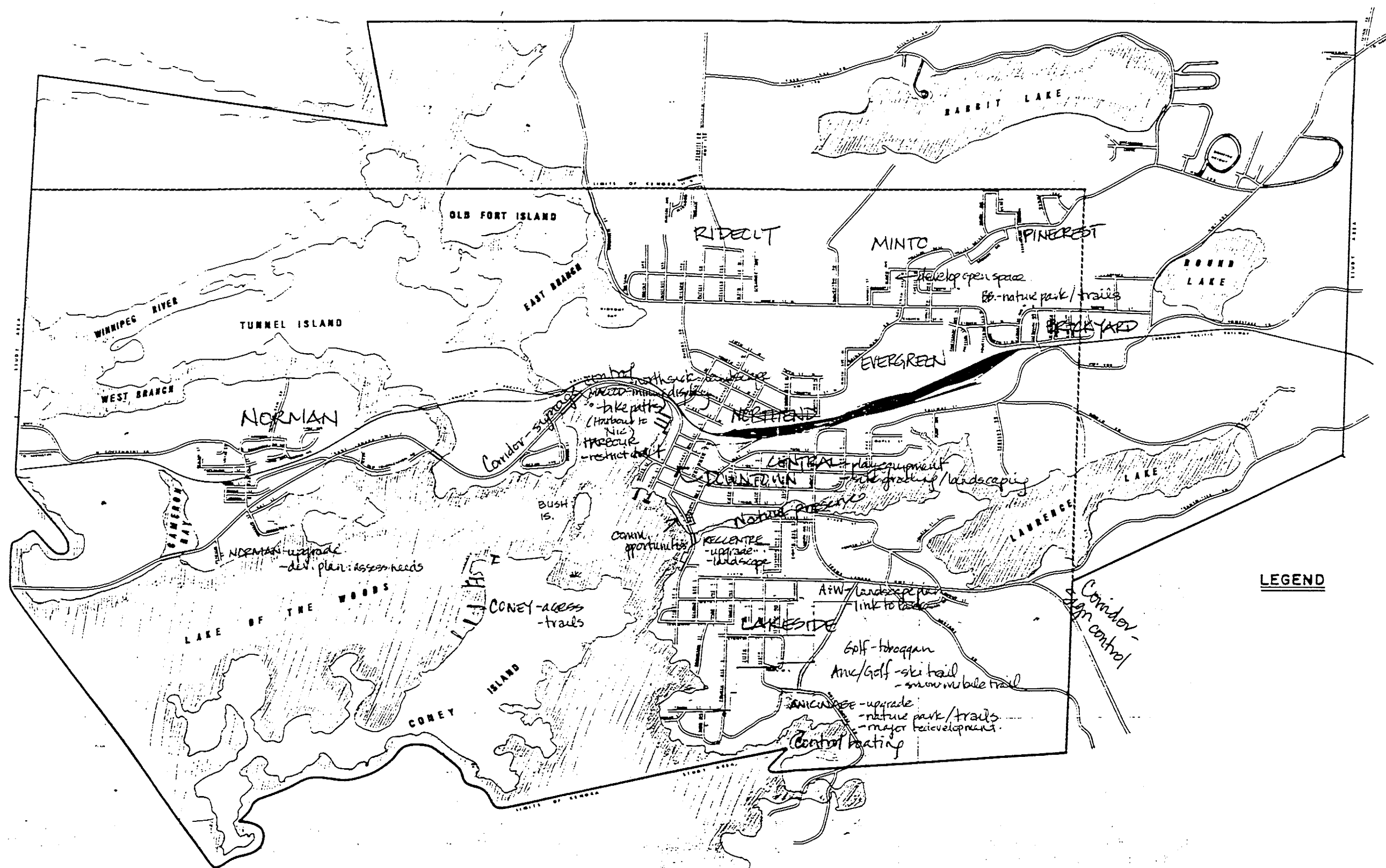
Recreation Master Plan: This study reviewed the recreational needs of the community. According to their evaluation of the existing facilities, the area provides an adequate supply of leisure, recreation and parks and open space facilities. The future requirements of the leisure sector indicated that two baseball diamonds, one rink and one tennis court would meet demands. However the rink and tennis court should only be built if there is a definite demand. The ball diamonds could be provided internally by lighting an existing field and upgrading another. The current and future recreational facilities demand will require a full time programmer or director position be created. The parks and open space areas require better signage and **promotion within a set theme to be created for the community.** The growth in the seniors sector would require pleasant passive seating areas be created. One of the major recommendations from this study would see the adoption of a consistent format for the classification of the parks and open spaces of the area. The study suggests three levels of parks, 'neighbourhood', 'community', and special open spaces'. A limit on the sizes of these parks is given in order to avoid adding more spaces that are too small to meet recreational functions and needs of the community. The study includes definitions of each level of park, its type and function within the system. The acknowledgement is made on behalf of the entire parks system for a required maintenance plan and a **future development strategy** to ensure consist and competent development of the parks. The report, reflects the suggestions made in the Parklands report of 1989 which recommends that open spaces be defined and designated in the Official Plan for Kenora. Parkland dedication policies are suggested to ensure open space requirements are met by developers.

Map 3 - Recreational Master Plan (future plans)

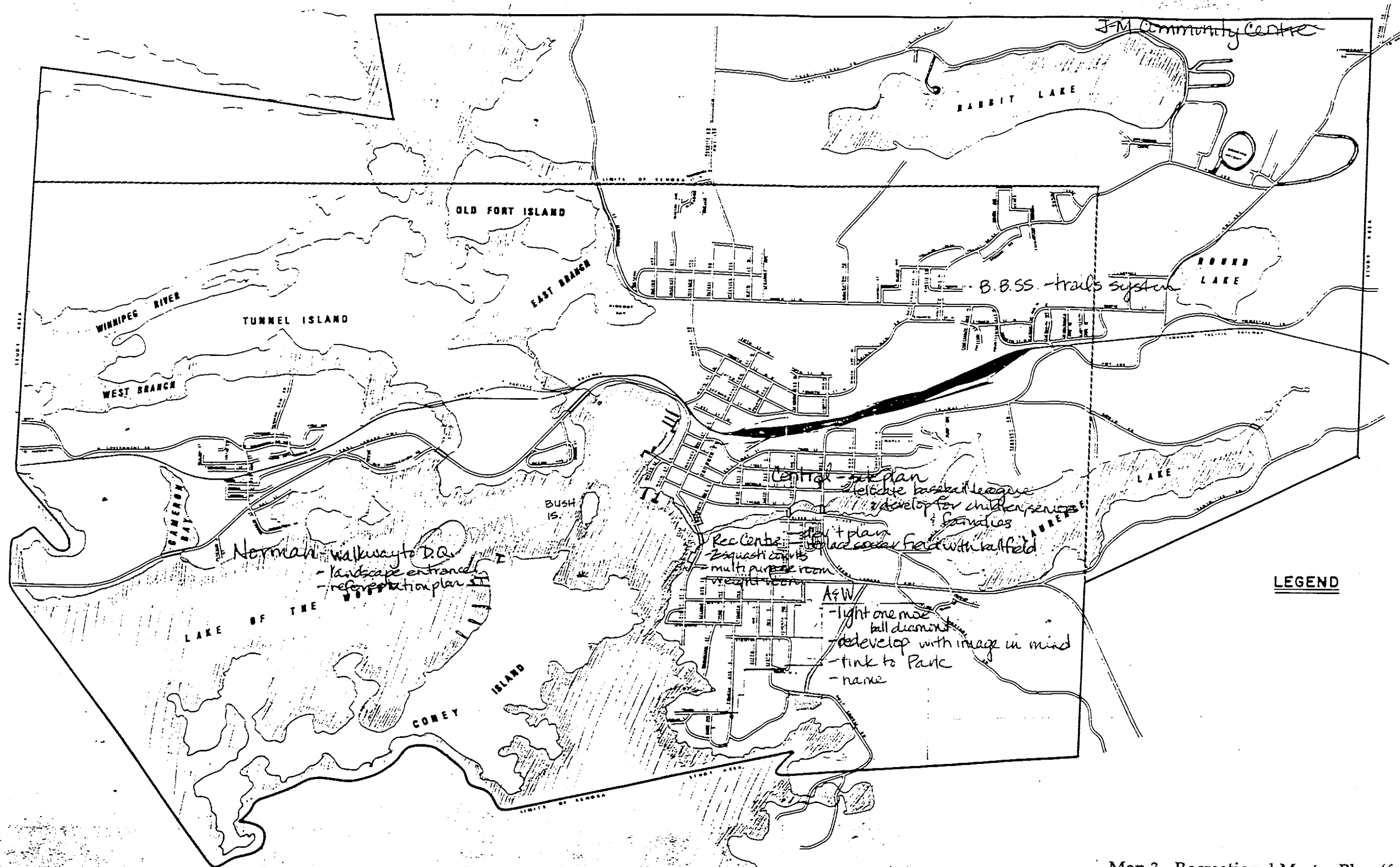
Institute of Environmental Research(1985) Inc., Tri-Municipal Recreational Master Plan Study, 1992.



Map 1 - Shoreline Development Plan (proposals)
M.M.Dillon, Kenora Shoreline Development Plan, 1979.



Map 2 - Kenora Public Parkland Study (proposals)
 Keewatin-Aski and Hilderman, Witty, Crosby, Hanna & Associates, Town of
 Kenora Public Parklands Study, 1989.



Map 3 - Recreational Master Plan (future plans)
 Institute of Environmental Research(1985) Inc., Tri-Municipal Recreational
 Master Plan Study, 1992.

Appendix B-3

Specific Park Development Plans

1960: Recreation Consultants of Ontario Ltd. - Anicinabe Park
Development Plan

1984: Marshall Macklin Monaghan Ltd. - Kenora Waterfront
Development Plan

The Anicinabe Park plan is worthy of noting because many of the ideas that were suggested by the original designers, Recreation Consultants of Ontario Ltd., are applicable to the current redevelopment of this and other parks in the Kenora area. The original concept for the park was the 'preservation of heritage and the Native culture'. The objective of the park while preserving the natural environment of Kenora was to 'serve tourist demand' and to 'make available an area in which nature education could be carried on'. The history of Kenora and the Native culture was extensively researched. As a result, the park was named for and was to be developed to reflect the original inhabitants of the area, the Ojibway. Buildings were to take shape similar to Native wigwams(winter use), wigiwaman(summer use) and sweat lodges. The park was also subjected to ecological research and as a result, was to become a display and preservation area of the distinct ecosystem of the region. The park was divided into three major zones: a major activity area subject to intense development; a camping area to have a limited number of sites and facilities; and a wildlife preserve or conservation area with trails, lookout, day camp and areas for limited winter sport. The third area was to replace the golf course area whose lease would be terminated.

Funding, along with other factors influenced a resulting plan that is not as extensive as the concept. The golf course area is still under operation and the threat of its redevelopment is nil. However, the area does have many informal trails surrounding and through it runways. During the winter months the area is intensely used for cross country skiing and tobogganing. The camping area and beach area are currently under redevelopment with more formal use areas being added and better access encouraged.. No interpretive trails are existing or planned. Other than the name change, few of the original ideas were actually carried through to the final design of Anicinabe.

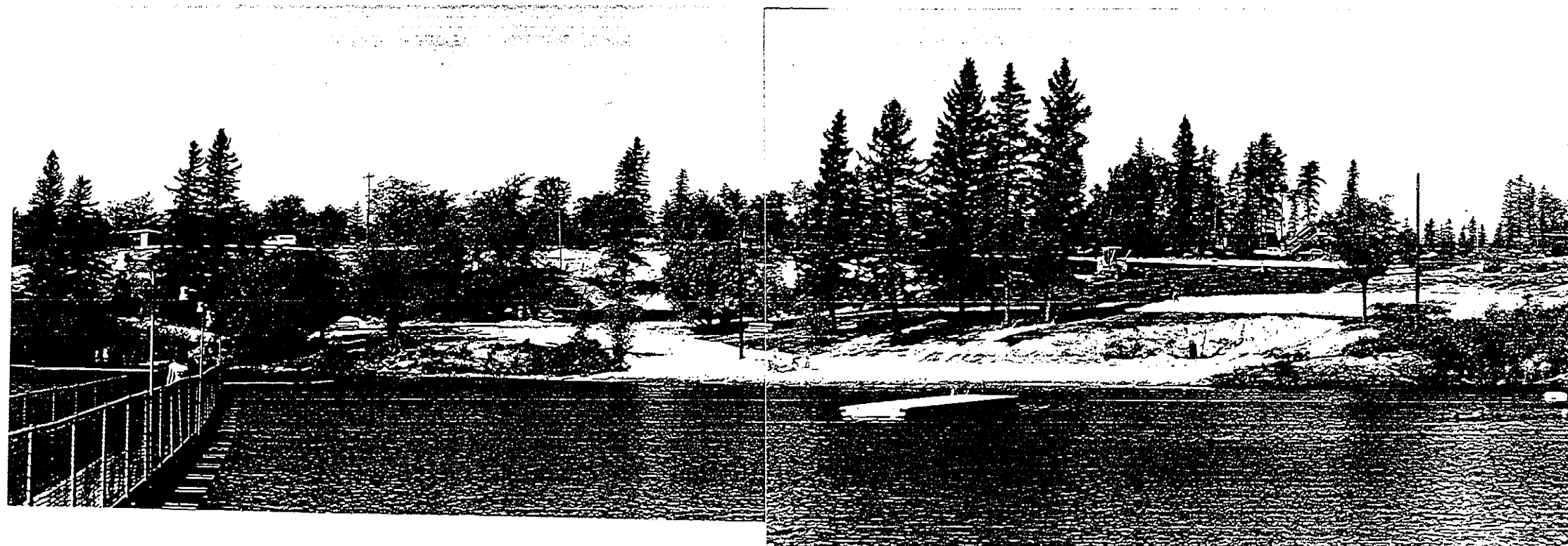
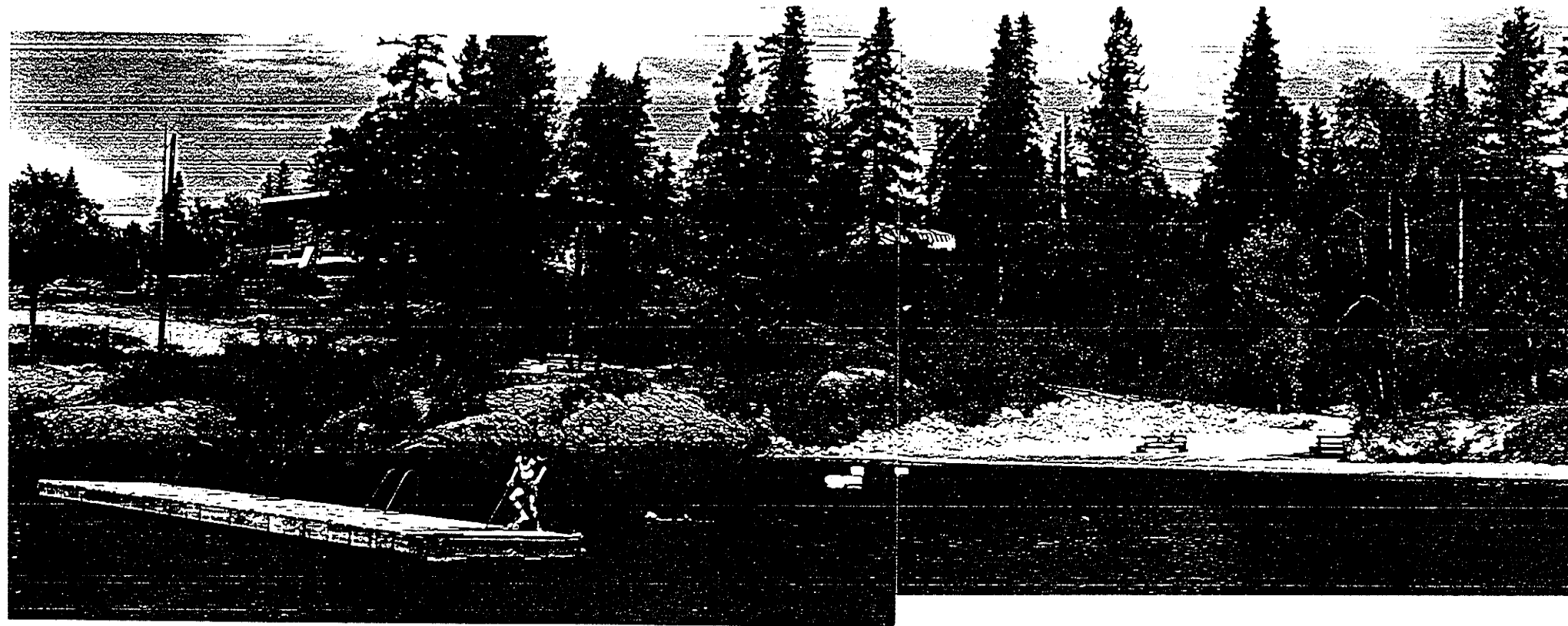
Map 1- Anicinabe(under current redevelopment)

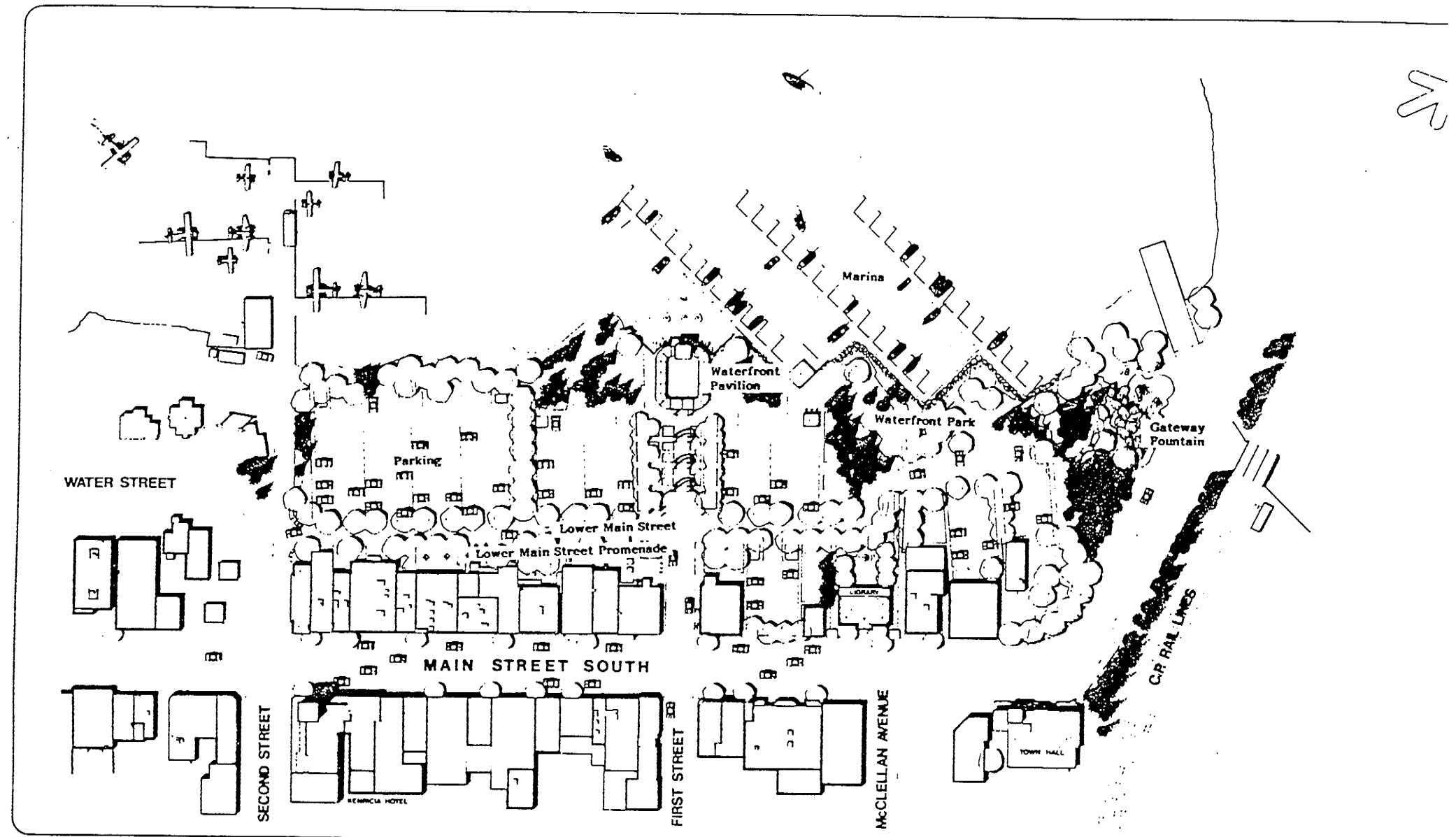
From photos taken by D. Ukrainec, 1991.

The Waterfront Development Project was also presented by the designers, Marshall Macklin Monaghan Ltd., with a heritage or historical theme. The history again was researched and areas were identified for their historical significance. The Waterfront was, of course, the main focus of the study and its historical significance noted. Activities such as fur trading, steamboat operations, sawmills, and the rowing club were all positioned at the waterfront at one time. The 'Argyle' passenger excursion boat was one of many water-oriented activities which also took place at the downtown waterfront area. MacLeod Park was once the location of a gold reduction works while the recreation Centre was the home to the Rat Portage Lumber company and its fleet of steamboats. The recommended development proposal for the waterfront included historical reference as well as a natural parkland, to be created along the shoreline and used to conceal the large parking areas. Issues such as public access to the water, open space areas, increased docking and parking areas, and the view of the harbour from the west entrance to the town were key elements in the design. Unfortunately, the final design has little to do with the history of the waterfront in Kenora as suggested by the historical theme. The Harbourfront design does solve many practical issues and requirements for the downtown parking and docking problem.

Map 2- Waterfront Development Plan (1984)

Marshall Macklin Monaghan Ltd., Kenora Waterfront Development Plan,1984.





**TOWN OF KENORA
WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

**FIG. 7
DETAILED SITE PLAN**

M Marshall Macklin Monaghan
Consulting Engineers, Architects, Planners
0 5 10 20 30 40 50m
Project No. 30-A314-R02 Jan 198

Principles of Design and Site Planning

The idea of landscape congruence or the blending of a city's form with its natural landscape, is not a new one. Ever since man first chose to manipulate his surroundings in order to fit his need for a suitable living environment he has followed various sets of rules that responded to the landscape and climate in his location. These rules were not formerly organized until the 1400's, by Leon Batista Alberti, who based his set of planning principles on Pliny's theories of 100 A.D.. These principles of site planning could be applied on a small scale to villas, which were the cottage retreat of the Renaissance era, or on a larger scale to entire towns. The rules encouraged the form of the community to respond to the distinct features of its landscape, and climate. Such rules or principles of organization were applied in rural areas of Florence, Italy, fulfilling the needs of the residents and taking advantage of the unique surroundings. The general principles may be applied to any area and can be summarized as:

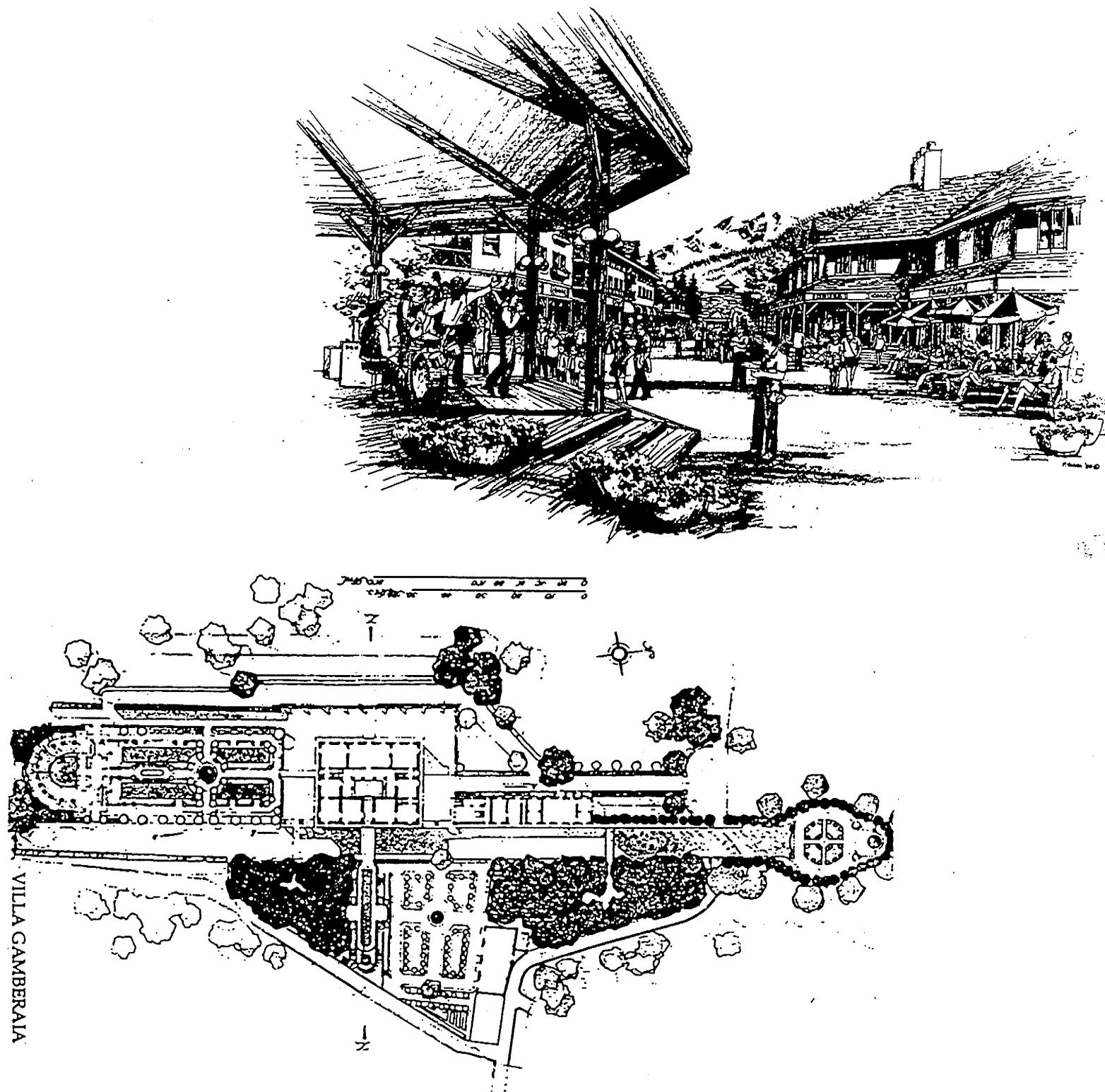
1. Gardens should be treated as extensions of the outdoor living spaces. Built forms should be strongly linked to the landscape by architectural extensions. Outdoor spaces should respond to the functional needs of the user.
2. Natural features are to be acknowledged and used in the layout of the design. A hillside location is preferred for its views, good drainage and exposure. Proximity to water is important in moderating the micro climate of an area. Unique features should be taken advantage of in design layout.
3. Elements of the design should respond to and fit in to the topography of the landscape. Terraces and stairs may be used in order to overcome hilly topography.
4. The linkage of spaces and elements in the design are to be addressed using visual and physical axes and avenues .

These basic principles of site planning have been adapted and applied to a greater or lesser extent in modern town planning. The concepts of ecological common sense, human sensitivity and aesthetic quality are added to the process in the design of a place for people. Whistler, British Colombia, although mainly a resort community is an example of a distinct town whose planning addresses the functional needs of the community while acknowledging the character of its specific geographic position within the mountains. This community, while distinctive in its location, is made unique by its architecture of northern European influence and use of local materials in its landscape furnishings. The design of the resort makes use of its natural resources to accommodate the main function of the resort as a major ski area. The natural environment is acknowledged within the form of the community through its sensitive layout and use of landscape elements which reinforce the overall image of a mountain community. The location of the resort at the base of the mountains allows for natural climatic protection and ease of access to ski hills. The landscape furnishings make use of materials such as wood and rock cut in the area. Here is proof that built form and site can be made compatible with their natural setting, respectful of their context. The evocation of the sense of place comes from the town's response to its natural surroundings while accommodating its main functions. As exemplified in Whistler, this sensitivity and reflection of the landscape in the form of the community helps to enhance the image. This type of sensitive and informed planning can be applied to any town.

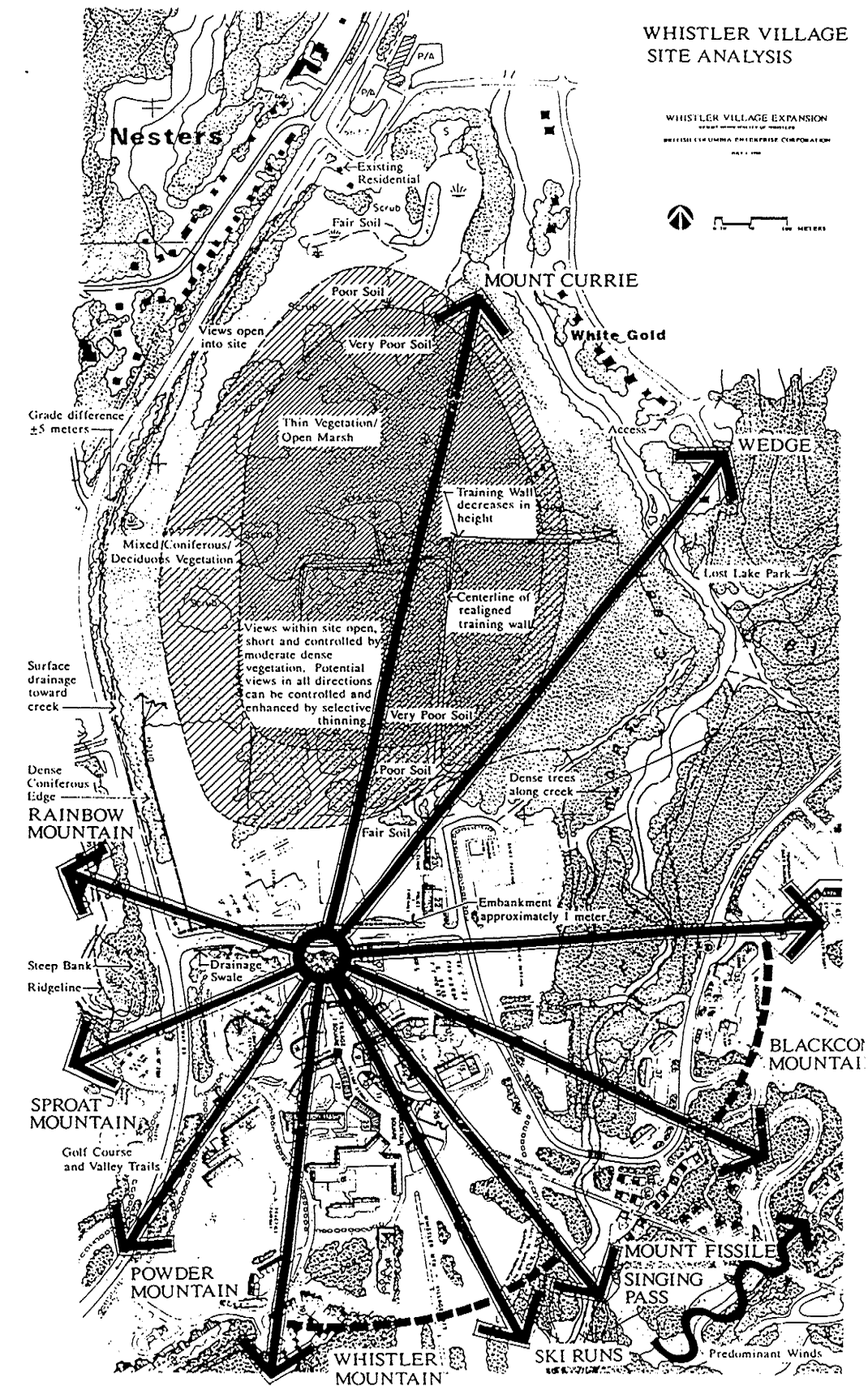
The process of site planning seeks to connects the requirements of the community to the distinct features of the landscape while maintaining a sensitivity for the natural ecology of the site. The following criteria are investigated during the inventory and analysis of the site and its resources. This information becomes the basis for the layout of the design and a means of identifying the unique qualities of a site and the specific needs of the community.

1. Context
2. Geology and soils
3. Topography and drainage
4. Vegetation and wildlife
5. Microclimate
6. Visual and physical survey
7. Social factors- legal regulations, historic associations
economic variables

The synthesis of this information can provide an overall concept or theme for the development and organization of a design. In the case of this study of Kenora, the examination of the resources provides a basis for the organization of Kenora's parks and open spaces, which may help to enhance the image of the community. The application of the knowledge acquired in the analysis and synthesis phase can result in a design that is sensitive in its structuring and layout to the needs of the community and the natural environment of a given community. This process of investigation, planning and design should help to enhance the distinctive qualities of an area. Consistency and careful design of details such as planting, pathways, landmarks, seating, and other site furniture will contribute to the image and identity of a site.



Villa Gamberaia, outside Florence Italy
From Study of Renaissance Landscapes, by D. Ukrainec, 1991.



Site Analysis Plan and Image Sketch of Whistler Village
in British Columbia
From Design of Mountain Communities, 1990.