JEVINS LAKE UTM Ref. 17TPV304732

Morrison and Muskoka Townships, Gravenhurst Area: 188 ha
Status: Recommend Heritage Area

Site Characteristics

This site is located southeast of Gravenhurst, adjacent to Highway #11. The long, narrow lake-filled depression is relatively deep with coniferous swamp forest, floating sphagnum mats, emergent marsh, and low shrub vegetation dominated by Sweet Gale along the shorelines. Bedrock ridges rise from the lakeshore supporting Pine-Oak barren communities. The barren ridges alternate with marshy graninoid swales, beaver ponds and Virginia Chain Fern poor fens situated in wet depressions underlain by organic deposits.

Surface drainage into Jevins Lake comes mainly from the northeast slope. A series of small creeks, ponds formed by beaver dams and wet depressions drain to the lake. Jevins Lake flows into Cornall Lake to the south along a small creek slowed by beaver dams.

The northeastern end of the site is underlain by somewhat deeper soils which support Red Maple, White Birch, White Pine mixed forests succeeding to Sugar Maple - Beech. In this section are three potholes carved into gneissic bedrock.

Flora and Fauna

Total numbers of species recorded were:

Vascular plants	267 native; 38 introduced
	5 A.C.P.F. with a score of 22 (Low)
Birds	45 observed during the breeding season
Mammals	3
Herpetofauna	10
Butterflies	5

Significant Natural Values and Selection Criteria Met

1. **Distinctive Landform** - (A1) The potholes northeast of Jevins Lake have been identified as an exceptional geological feature within the District of Muskoka (Bajc, 1992). The potholes are clustered along the edge of a gneissic bedrock ridge, with the rims of two intersecting. They range from 1 to 3 m in diameter and 0.5 to 5 m in depth. The deeper potholes are infilled with water and dead forest litter and presumably extend several meters beyond the water line. Based on their location, the potholes are probably sub-glacial in origin, created by the spinning action of stones as a major outburst of water flowed under the ice in late glacial times.

2. **Representation** - (B1) The muddy shoreline of Jevins Lake contains a area of herb-rich shallow emergent marsh dominated by Arrow Arum or Tuckahoe (*Peltandra Virginica*) (normal/organic/very wet). This disjunct population has been present at the site since at least

1985, when it was discovered by Rick Bobbette. Since this is the only known site in Muskoka for this plant, the community contributes to the full range of biotic representation.

3. **Diversity** - (B2) The total number of native plant species related to the size of the area is higher than expected for Muskoka, as shown in Figure 1.

4. **Rare Species** - (B4) Jevins Lake provides habitat for the following rare species:

Vascular Plants
Bulbostylis capillaris Hair Rush [PR]
Peltandra virginica Arrow Arum [NR PR RR]
Sporobolus neglectus Overlooked Dropseed [RR]
Xyris difformis Slender Yellow-eyed Grass [PR]

In addition, one snake, one bird and six plant species were recorded as regionally uncommon.

Ownership and Disturbance

The majority of this site is privately owned, with approximately 28% Crown land. There are a few signs of disturbance associated with recreational use of the area for camping (firepits) fishing (disturbed shoreline vegetation) and hiking (footpaths). A hydro distribution line runs through the northern end of the area. Highway #11 crosses the marshlands at the northern end of Jevin's Lake. Areas further inland from the highway and cottage roads to Gull Lake are less disturbed.

Sensitivity

The sensitivity of this site is related to the function of the wetland (which was evaluated as provincially significant by (MNR in 1992), the presence of rare community and species types, and the preservation of the potholes. Due to the proximity of Highway #11 to the potholes and the Arrow Arum, any future realignment should identify mitigation measures to ensure that these features will be retained. Future development proposed north of Highway #11 should address stormwater and other impacts on the downstream lake ecosystem and wetland function as discussed in the Wetland Policy Implementation Guidelines.

Major Sources of Information

Bajc, 1992; OMNR Bracebridge Wetland Evaluation, 1992; Reid, et al., 1991.