



Ancient Forest Exploration & Research

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SITE VISIT REPORT #1

An Old-growth Forest Assessment for the
John Earle Chase Memorial Park, a Kawartha Land Trust Property
 Peterborough County, Ontario

Written April 4, 2019 and revised November 12, 2019 and March 5, 2020 by Carling Dewar

Site information

Date of visit:	Thursday March 28, 2019				
Property and location:	John Earle Chase Memorial Park (400 acres) Anchor Bay Road, Trent Lakes, ON				
Attendees:	1. Carling Dewar (AFER) 2. Ham Keillor-Faulkner (Kawartha Land Trust (KLT) steward)				
Arrival time:	10:00am	Departure time:	12:30pm	Duration:	2.5 hours
Purpose of visit:	1. Determine if sites contain old-growth forests or trees 2. Based on property site characteristics, determine appropriate topic for a joint event with the Kawartha Land Trust				
Weather and terrain conditions:	Overcast, 9°C. Trails still mostly covered in snow (up to 2 feet in some places) and ice. Gradual elevation changes with some ridges. Easy to access.				
Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ham's dog was with us. • Can access the southeast part of the property via Fire Route 70A (the map labels this as 10A). We parked near the start of this road—see green arrow on map (figure 1). • See supplementary report on the Oak Orchard ANSI (Kaiser, 1987) which overlaps with the east side of the property. 				

Site Description

- This property is mostly second growth but there are a few big trees and a moderate amount of snags/coarse woody debris. White pines are scattered throughout the property.
 - In the southeast, poplar, white oak, red oak, and sugar maple are abundant. One hemlock and a few small elms were found along the trail.
 - In the southwest, there is a maple-oak forest that surrounds an abandoned farm field. Ham noted this is probably the oldest forest on the property. Near the edge of this forest is a stand of young ironwood trees, an indication that soil may have been compacted by grazing cattle. There is a blowdown area (figure 7) and evidence of high-grading (several large stumps present, figures 8 and 9).
- Tall white oak noted south of the fire route and “celery top” white pines observed along the shore of Pigeon Lake.



Figure 1. Map of [John Earle Chase Memorial Park](#) (Kawartha Land Trust, n.d.). Red circles indicate areas visited. Green arrow indicates a parking spot.

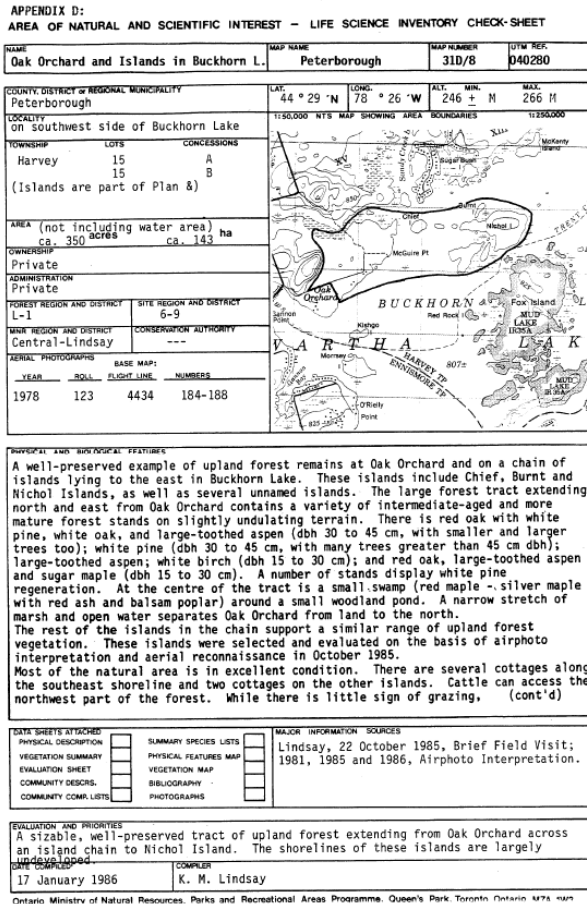


Figure 2. Map and description of the Oak Orchard from Appendix D of the ANSI report (Kaiser, 1987).

Photos

Southeast



Figure 3. Downed woody debris



Figure 4. Oak stand



Figure 5. Large sugar maple (centre) and young paper birch growing on a stump (left).



Figure 6. Large oak; notice buttressing at base.

Southwest



Figure 7. Blowdown area



Figure 8. Red oak growing on a stump

Forest designations¹

Young (Southeast Chase)

Mature (Southeast, southwest Chase)

Old (Southwest Chase)

Old-growth (see note)

Note: There is potential for old-growth trees at this site (figures 5 and 6), but the presence of old-growth forest stands is unlikely.

References

Kaiser, J. (1987). *A Biological Inventory and Evaluation of the Oak Orchard—Nichol Island Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (31D/8 040280)*. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreational Areas Section, Central Region, Richmond Hill.

Kawartha Land Trust. (n.d.). [John Earle Chase Memorial Park](#). Accessed April 4, 2019.

Acknowledgements

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¹ Definitions for designations are in progress.