



Kejimikujik

National Park and National Historic Site of Canada

Management Plan

2010



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Kejimikujik

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National Historic Site of Canada

Management Plan

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**For more information about the management plan or about
Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site of Canada:**

Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site of Canada
3005 Main Parkway, P.O. Box 236, Maitland Bridge, NS B0T 1B0

tel: 902-682-2772, fax: 902-682-3367
e-mail: kejimikujik.info@pc.gc.ca
www.parkscanada.gc.ca/kejimikujik

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Foreword



Canada's national historic sites, national parks and national marine conservation areas offer Canadians from coast to coast to coast unique opportunities to experience and understand our wonderful country. They are places of learning, recreation and inspiration where Canadians can connect with our past and appreciate the natural, cultural and social forces that shaped Canada.

From our smallest national park to our most visited national historic site to our largest national marine conservation area, each of these places offers Canadians and visitors several experiential opportunities to enjoy Canada's historic and natural heritage. These places of beauty, wonder and learning are valued by Canadians—they are part of our past, our present and our future.

Our Government's goal is to ensure that Canadians form a lasting connection to this heritage and that our protected places are enjoyed in ways that leave them unimpaired for present and future generations.

We see a future in which these special places will further Canadians' appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of Canada, the economic well-being of communities, and the vitality of our society.

Our Government's vision is to build a culture of heritage conservation in Canada by offering Canadians exceptional opportunities to experience our natural and cultural heritage.

These values form the foundation of the new management plan for Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site of Canada. I offer my appreciation to the many thoughtful Canadians who helped to develop this plan, particularly to our dedicated team from Parks Canada, and to all those local organizations and individuals who have demonstrated their good will, hard work, spirit of co-operation and extraordinary sense of stewardship.

In this same spirit of partnership and responsibility, I am pleased to approve the Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site of Canada Management Plan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jim Prentice', written over a horizontal line.

Jim Prentice
Minister of the Environment

Recommendations

Recommended by:



Alan Latourelle
Chief Executive Officer
Parks Canada



Linda Frank
Field Unit Superintendent
Mainland Nova Scotia Field Unit
Parks Canada

Executive Summary

This new management plan for Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site of Canada provides strategic direction for Parks Canada's three mutually supportive mandate areas: the protection of ecological and cultural resources, the facilitation of meaningful visitor experiences, and the delivery of public education and awareness programs. The plan was developed with partner, stakeholder, and visitor involvement and applies to all elements of Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site of Canada and the coastal portion of the park, Kejimikujik National Park of Canada – Seaside.¹ The plan includes a 15-year vision, provides Parks Canada staff with a framework for decision making, and will be the primary accountability document for Kejimikujik over the next five years.

Kejimikujik was acquired from the province in 1967 and was formally established as a national park in 1974 to protect a representative example of the Atlantic Coastal Uplands Natural Region for Canadians to discover and enjoy. Kejimikujik Seaside was acquired from the province in 1985 and was designated as part of Kejimikujik National Park in 1988 to provide protection for the unique coastal attributes of the region. In 1995, the inland portion of Kejimikujik was designated as a national historic site because it is a significant Mi'kmaw cultural landscape that attests to Mi'kmaw occupancy of the area since time immemorial.

Kejimikujik is unique – it is the only national park where a majority of the landscape has received a designation as a national historic site. This management plan considers and respects the ecological values associated with the national park and the cultural and historical values associated with the national historic site. The ongoing strategic and

operational management of Kejimikujik will be based on this principle of consideration and respect.

This management plan reflects Parks Canada's approach to integrated planning and management by treating each mandate area – protection, visitor experience, and education – as mutually supportive. Integration means looking at issues holistically: that is, planning for visitor experience entails also planning for protection; making decisions about protection means also considering actions for visitor experience and public appreciation and understanding and vice versa.

Strategic goals and priority actions that will be undertaken during the life of this management plan include:

Collaboration and Shared Leadership

Kejimikujik's strong relationships with the Mi'kmaq, visitors, partners, and stakeholders enhance Parks Canada's resource protection, visitor experience, and education mandate.

Collaboration and shared leadership is a priority for Kejimikujik, particularly working to strengthen existing collaborative relationships with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. Key actions to achieve this goal will include undertaking projects of mutual interest, working with representatives of the Mi'kmaw communities to establish a Mi'kmaq Advisory Committee and to identify opportunities for Mi'kmaw involvement in other advisory committees, identifying and carrying out Mi'kmaw Ecological Knowledge studies, finding a mutually acceptable solution for the application of admission fees to Kejimikujik for the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, and increasing efforts to involve Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youth in park management and activities.

¹For the remainder of this management plan, Kejimikujik National Park of Canada – Seaside will be referred to as Kejimikujik Seaside.

Parks Canada is also committed to furthering the engagement and involvement of visitors, partners, and stakeholders in the implementation of the vision and strategic direction outlined in this plan. Key actions that will contribute to this goal are establishing a Kejimikujik advisory board with broad partner, stakeholder, and visitor representation, exploring cooperative association options for Kejimikujik Seaside, supporting and contributing to regional partnerships in the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve, including working with the Southwest Nova Biosphere Association and the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute, strengthening collaborative efforts with tourism partners at the provincial and regional level, and increasing efforts to collaborate with others who share similar protection, education, and experience mandates, such as the Friends of Keji Cooperating Association.

Maintaining Ecological Integrity

The native biodiversity and processes of Kejimikujik's forest, wetland, freshwater, and coastal ecosystems are maintained and/or restored with the involvement of the Mi'kmaq, local communities, visitors, youth, and stakeholders. Stressors to ecosystems are minimized and/or mitigated.

Key actions that will help maintain Kejimikujik's ecological integrity include increasing opportunities for the Mi'kmaq, local communities, academia, governmental and non-governmental partners, visitors, and youth to be involved in Kejimikujik's ecosystem science and management program, implementing a comprehensive ecological monitoring program, working with species at risk recovery teams to develop and implement recovery plans, completing and implementing fish and fire management plans, developing a vegetation restoration plan for Jeremy's Bay Campground, and conducting research, monitoring, and active management on invasive species, including European green crab and glossy buckthorn, to control population levels and restore affected species and habitats.

Commemorative Integrity and Cultural Resource Protection

The cultural resources that attest to Kejimikujik's rich history are not impaired or under threat and their values are respected, understood, celebrated, and communicated.

Key actions that will help to achieve Kejimikujik's commemorative integrity and cultural resource protection goal include completing cultural resource inventories and evaluations at Kejimikujik inland and Kejimikujik Seaside, completing a Commemorative Integrity Evaluation for the national historic site, working with the Mi'kmaq and other partners to complete a comprehensive cultural resource management plan, conducting research in identified priority areas, and exploring options for presenting archaeological and historical objects related to Kejimikujik.

Visitor Experience

Visitors have multiple opportunities to enjoy and discover Kejimikujik's diverse natural systems and rich cultural landscape. Through meaningful experiences, visitors develop a sense of connection to Kejimikujik.

Parks Canada is developing a visitor experience program to guide investment decisions in interpretation, visitor facilities, and visitor services. Key actions that will help Parks Canada facilitate meaningful visitor experiences include conducting research to better understand the motivations, needs, and preferences of existing and potential visitors, conducting research to evaluate the state of visitor experience and to assess the results of management decisions, preparing a visitor experience plan to guide the redevelopment of Jeremy's Bay Campground, working with the Mi'kmaq to complete an interpretation plan for the Mi'kmaw cultural landscape, assessing and improving recreational opportunities, enhancing personal interpretation at Kejimikujik Seaside, facilitating backcountry linkages to the Tobeatic Wilderness Area and the Shelburne River, and increasing promotional and pre-trip planning efforts with partners to position Kejimikujik inland and Kejimikujik Seaside as "must see" destinations.

Public Outreach Education

Public outreach education programs enhance opportunities for Canadians to enjoy, discover, and learn about Kejimikujik's diverse natural systems and rich cultural landscape at home, at leisure, at school, and in their communities. These programs encourage natural and cultural heritage stewardship, relate to individuals' personal lives, and provide an opportunity to create a sense of connection to Kejimikujik.

Key actions that will contribute to Kejimikujik's public outreach education goals include conducting social science research to confirm target outreach audiences, continuing to create and deliver learning opportunities for local and Mi'kmaw youth in collaboration with educational partners, refreshing and consistently updating the Web site to inspire discovery of Kejimikujik, increasing the profile of Kejimikujik, and developing a strategy to reach out to urban audiences, particularly youth and new Canadians.

Administration and Operations

Kejimikujik operates in an efficient, fiscally responsible, and environmentally sound manner in order to achieve Parks Canada program objectives.

Key actions to help meet this goal include removing decommissioned infrastructure at Grafton Lake and Canning Field, reviewing the operational use of the Fire Tower road and reducing vehicular traffic where possible, exploring options for a new administration building and seasonal staff accommodations, and implementing the environmental management system plan.

Zoning and Declared Wilderness Areas

This management plan includes zoning plans and proposed declared wilderness areas for Kejimikujik inland and Kejimikujik Seaside. Both of these tools will help support management objectives by ensuring that rare and/or sensitive ecological and cultural resources have strong protection. Zoning is an integrated approach by which land and water areas are classified according to ecosystem and cultural resource protection requirements and their capability to provide opportunities for visitor experiences. The proposed declared wilderness areas will provide an additional degree of regulatory protection for large portions of Kejimikujik inland and Kejimikujik Seaside. Parks Canada will initiate the process to declare these wilderness areas following the tabling of this management plan in Parliament.

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1.0 Introduction



Dale Wilson

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Parks Canada Agency prepares management plans to ensure that decisions affecting its protected heritage places are consistent with its mandate and policies. The management planning process is one of Parks Canada's best opportunities to engage Canadians at a strategic level and provides Aboriginal Peoples, partners, visitors, and other interested parties a meaningful opportunity to be involved in setting priorities for protected heritage places that the Agency administers.

Management plans are Parks Canada's primary public accountability documents and are approved by the Minister responsible for the Agency and tabled in Parliament. Plans include a long-term vision and strategic goals and actions to achieve objectives. They are reviewed and updated every five years to ensure that they remain relevant

and responsive. The plans serve as an agreement between Parks Canada's managers and the Agency's Chief Executive Officer and help ensure accountability between the Minister and the Canadian public.

1.2 A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR KEJIMKUJIK

The last management plan for Kejimikujik was tabled in Parliament in 1995 and applied only to the national park. This updated management plan is the result of a recent review process and applies to all elements of Kejimikujik – the inland portion of the national park, which is also a national historic site, as well as the coastal portion of the park, Kejimikujik Seaside. This management plan provides Parks Canada staff with a framework for decision-making. It will guide the development of future business plans for the Mainland Nova Scotia

Field Unit and Kejimikujik's work planning processes.

The strategic direction outlined in this management plan is in accordance with national park and national historic site legislation and policy. All of the commitments outlined in this plan are achievable within the existing financial capacity of the Mainland Nova Scotia Field Unit. This plan will remain valid until the next management plan is approved by the Minister and tabled in Parliament.

This management plan has been developed with broad public involvement.² While many valuable operational considerations have not been included in this strategic document, key themes communicated by partners, visitors, and other stakeholders have been incorporated. Parks Canada is committed to further involving interested parties during the implementation of this plan.



Dale Wilson

² See Appendix A: Summary of Public and Aboriginal Involvement for an overview of the public and Aboriginal consultation and involvement efforts undertaken during the course of this management plan review.

2.0 Parks Canada Agency



Kejimikujik Seaside. Ron Garnett

2.1 MANDATE

Parks Canada's mandate is framed around three mutually supportive areas:

- Protection of heritage resources,
- Facilitation of opportunities for meaningful visitor experiences, and
- Providing public education about Canada's heritage.

On behalf of the people of Canada, we protect and present nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage, and foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensure the ecological and commemorative integrity of these places for present and future generations.

(from Parks Canada Agency's Charter)

The challenge for each one of Parks Canada's national parks, historic sites, and marine conservation areas is to deliver programs that link all three of Parks Canada's mandate areas while highlighting what is unique and special about that particular place. Each of these mandate areas is treated in this management plan as closely entwined and mutually supportive. The successful integrated delivery of all three mandate areas can be accomplished only with the support and ongoing involvement of the Canadian public.

Ecological Integrity

The *Canada National Parks Act* (2000) defines ecological integrity for national parks as "a condition that is determined to be characteristic of its natural region and likely to persist, including abiotic components and the composition and abundance of native species

and biological communities, rates of change and supporting processes.” An area has ecological integrity if it has all of the native plants and animals that would normally be expected to live in that region, if their populations are healthy and likely to survive into the future, and if the landscape they live in continues to be shaped by the natural processes (such as fire, flooding, and predation) that would normally occur there.

Commemorative Integrity

Commemorative integrity refers to the health or wholeness of a national historic site. A national historic site will have achieved commemorative integrity when:

- The resources directly related to the reasons for the site’s designation as a national historic site are not impaired or under threat;
- The reasons for the site’s national historic significance are effectively communicated to the public; and
- The site’s heritage values (including those not related to national significance) are respected by all whose decisions or actions affect the site.

Parks Canada prepares a Commemorative Integrity Statement (CIS) for each national historic site it administers. This document is an elaboration of what is meant by commemorative integrity for a particular national historic site. The CIS describes what is commemorated at the national historic site and why, and identifies the cultural resources that are directly related to the reasons for the national historic site’s designation. The CIS also describes other cultural resources that have regional or local significance but are not necessarily related to the national historic site’s designation. Messages of national significance and regional/local significance are also listed. The CIS is a key document used to ensure the protection and communication of a national historic site’s heritage values.

Meaningful Visitor Experiences

Parks Canada is committed to facilitating opportunities for Canadians to have meaningful visitor experiences in national parks, national historic sites, and marine conservation areas so that visitors may create a personal sense of connection to the heritage place. “Connection to place” is a concept that expresses the emotional, intellectual, and spiritual attachment Canadians and visitors feel towards Parks Canada’s natural and cultural heritage places. Fostering connection to place promotes heritage stewardship and will ensure that Parks Canada continues to be relevant to Canadians.

In order to better facilitate visitor experiences, Parks Canada must understand actual and potential visitors’ needs and expectations, such as why they visit and what they are interested in doing. Programs that highlight what is unique and special about a particular area need to be responsive to societal and tourism changes and trends.

Public Outreach Education

Parks Canada aims to reach out to Canadians through communication and public outreach education opportunities so that they may discover and learn about Parks Canada’s heritage places at home, at school, at leisure, and in their communities. In doing so, Parks Canada hopes to increase understanding and appreciation of the significance of Parks Canada’s heritage places and promote stewardship and connection to place.

2.2 LEGISLATION AND POLICY

A common legislative and policy context influences the management of all protected heritage areas owned and/or administered by Parks Canada.

- Various statutes provide legislative support for achieving the Parks Canada mandate. The 1998 *Parks Canada Agency Act* established Parks Canada as a separate agency. The *Parks Canada Agency Act* confers on Parks Canada the responsibility to ensure the commemorative integrity of national historic sites. The *Canada National Parks Act*, enacted in 2000, modernized the Agency's historic role, but also continued the legislative tradition of dedicating national parks to the people of Canada for their benefit, education, and enjoyment, charging the Agency to ensure that they are maintained and made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. This Act also affirms the maintenance or restoration of ecological integrity as the first priority when considering all aspects of the management of national parks.
- Parks Canada Guiding Principles and Operational Policies (1994) includes the National Parks Policy, the National Historic Sites Policy, and the Cultural Resource Management Policy. These policies provide direction on many management issues that are not addressed in this plan.
- The Parks Canada Guide to Management Planning (2008) outlines Parks Canada's principles of management planning, the roles and responsibilities during the management planning process, as well as requirements for public consultation.

- Parks Canada has in place Prevention Guidelines that support staff in taking both proactive and reactive actions to protect natural and cultural resources, and ensure that visitors enjoy a quality experience, including ensuring respect of other visitors' experiences and safety. Supporting the Agency's prevention strategies is a specialized law enforcement capacity. However, the Agency's emphasis is on fostering a culture of conservation and respect among visitors for protected heritage places, preventing incidents from occurring, and solving problems before they escalate and require law enforcement measures.

2.3 MONITORING AND REPORTING

Monitoring and reporting is an essential part of the management planning cycle. Parks Canada has developed a suite of indicators to monitor the condition and trends of national parks and national historic sites in terms of the Agency's three mandate areas, protection, visitor experience, and public outreach education. State of the Park and Site Reports, compiled in 5 year intervals, report on the result of this monitoring work. The reports also assess performance in achieving desired results identified in the management plan. Parks Canada will complete the first State of the Park and Site Report for Kejimikujik in 2010. Another report will be completed within five years to inform the next management plan review process.

3.0 Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site of Canada



Visitors enjoying the view of Mills Falls. Dale Wilson

3.1 ESTABLISHMENT

Kejimikujik was acquired from the province in 1967 and was formally established as a national park in 1974. Kejimikujik Seaside was acquired from the province in 1985 and was designated as part of Kejimikujik National Park in 1988. In 1995, the inland portion of the park was designated as a national historic site.

3.2 ROLE AND SIGNIFICANCE

The National Parks System

The National Parks System Plan provides a framework for park establishment in Canada. The plan is based on a land classification system that divides the country into 39 distinct terrestrial natural regions, as defined by their unique combination of physical and biological characteristics. One of the goals of Parks

Canada is to establish at least one national park in each of these 39 natural regions.

Kejimikujik was established to protect a representative example of the Atlantic Coastal Uplands Natural Region, which is characterized by gentle, boulder-strewn barrens, tranquil forests, softly flowing rivers, and shallow rock-studded lakes and is framed by a rock-girded sea coast of world-renowned beauty. Kejimikujik Seaside was added to the park to provide protection for the unique coastal attributes of this region.

The National Historic Sites System

Kejimikujik is part of a broad-ranging program of commemoration, including places, persons, and events of national historic significance. These heritage commemorations come into being on the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC), an arms-length advisory board to the Minister responsible for Parks Canada.



A Mi'kmaw Interpreter shares Mi'kmaw cultural heritage with visitors. Brian Townsend

Parks Canada administers 167 of the more than 900 national historic sites nation-wide that form the National Historic Sites System. The balance of the sites are owned and cared for by provincial and municipal governments, by non-governmental, religious, and community organizations, by businesses, and by private citizens.

Each national historic site is recognized as making a significant contribution to Canadian history. The inland portion of Kejimikujik was designated as a national historic site because it is a significant Mi'kmaw cultural landscape that attests to Mi'kmaw occupancy of the area since time immemorial. Kejimikujik continues to be a very important area for the Mi'kmaq.

3.3 DUAL DESIGNATION

Kejimikujik is unique – it is the only national park where a majority of the landscape has received a designation as a national historic site. This management plan considers and respects the ecological values associated with the national park and the cultural and historical values associated with the national historic site. The ongoing strategic and operational

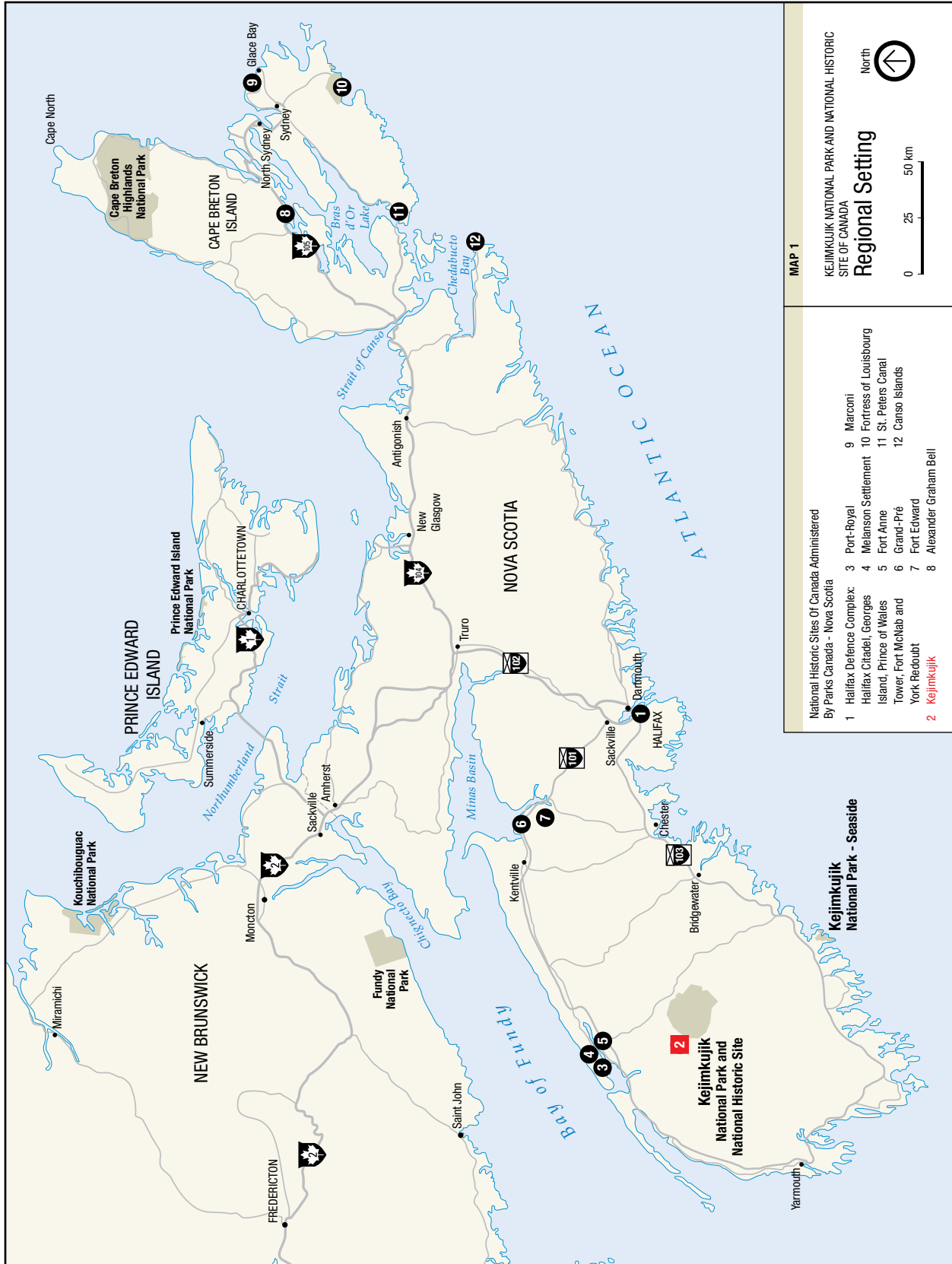
management of Kejimikujik will be based on this principle of consideration and respect.

3.4 REGIONAL SETTING

Kejimikujik is positioned within the Queens, Annapolis, and Digby regional municipalities of Nova Scotia. The inland portion (381 km²) and Kejimikujik Seaside (22 km²) combine to protect a total area of 403 km². The local economy is natural resource-oriented and is largely dependent upon forestry, fisheries, and tourism. Other industry includes small farms, managed blueberry fields, and recreational cottage and resort development (see Map 1: Regional Setting).

The inland portion of Kejimikujik is bounded by a mixture of private and Crown land, including the provincial Tobeatic Wilderness Area (900km²). Together, Kejimikujik and the Tobeatic Wilderness Area form the largest protected wilderness area in the Maritimes. The nearest village, Caledonia, is 18 km to the east. There are approximately 2,500 permanent residents in the area.

Kejimikujik Seaside is situated on the coastline of Queens Regional Municipality and is bounded by private and Crown land. The



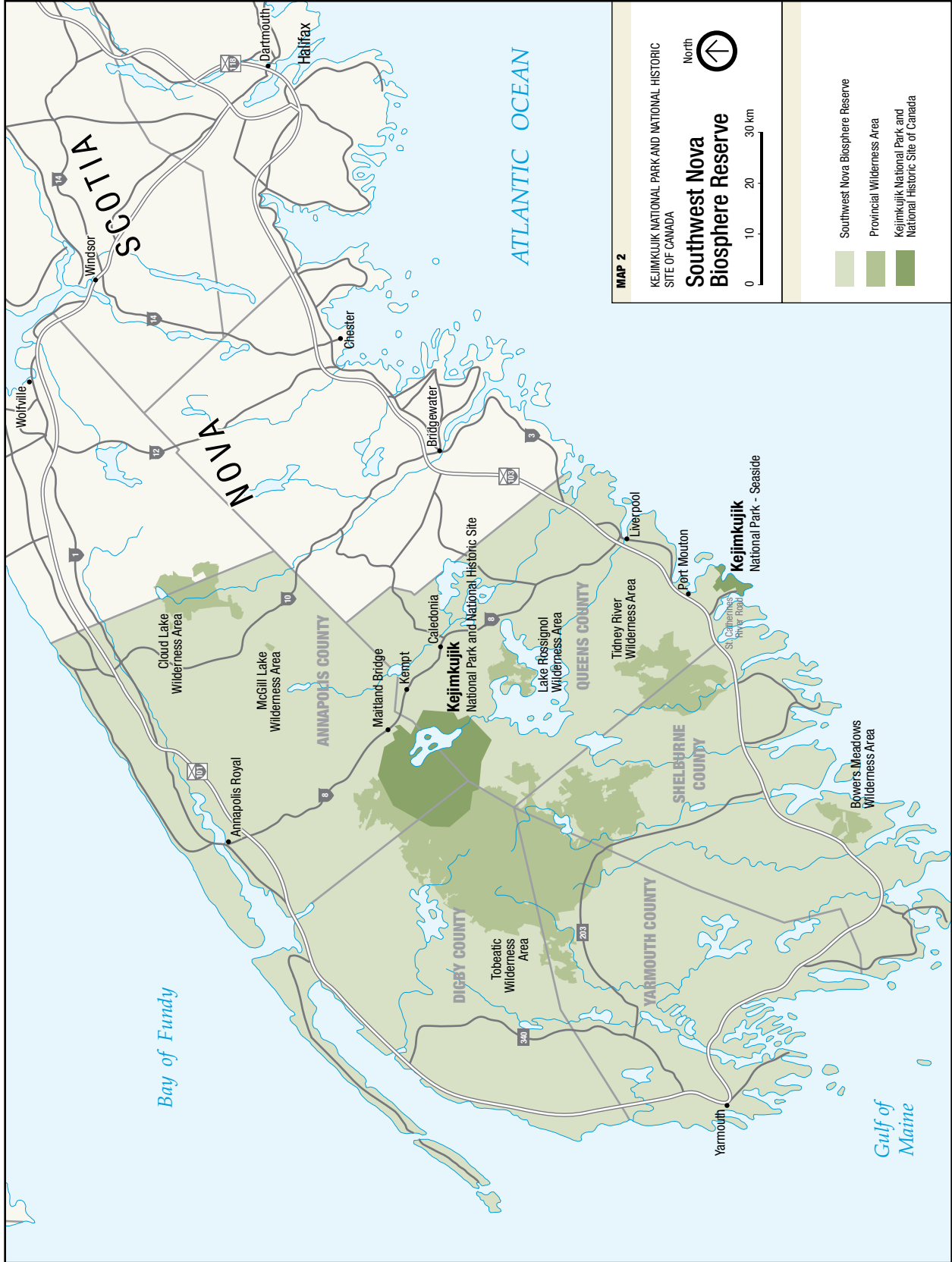
MAP 1
 KEJMKUJIK NATIONAL PARK AND NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA
Regional Setting

0 25 50 km

North

National Historic Sites Of Canada Administered By Parks Canada - Nova Scotia

1	Halifax Defence Complex:	3	Port-Royal	9	Marconi
	Halifax Citadel, Georges Island, Prince of Wales Tower, Fort McLab and York Redoubt	4	Meanson Settlement	10	Fortress of Louisbourg
		5	Fort Anne	11	St. Peters Canal
		6	Grand-Pré	12	Canso Islands
		7	Fort Edward		
2	Kejmkujik	8	Alexander Graham Bell		



villages of Port Joli and Port Mouton lie to the west and east of Kejimikujik Seaside respectively. Thomas H. Raddall Provincial Park is located nearby. The nearest town, Liverpool, is 25 km to the east.

The Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve
Biosphere reserves represent important ecosystems and supporting cultures and are designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as demonstration areas for innovative approaches to conservation and sustainable development. Each biosphere reserve contains one or more protected core areas, which serve as reference points on the natural state of the ecosystem and a focus for conservation efforts. The surrounding area of cooperation forms a sustainable working landscape.

In 2001, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated 5 counties of southwest Nova Scotia (Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne, and Queens) as a biosphere reserve in recognition of the area's rich biodiversity and cultural history (see Map 2: Biosphere Reserve).

Kejimikujik inland, the Tobecoic Wilderness Area, and a portion of the Shelburne River (a Canadian Heritage River³) function as the core protected area for the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve. This biosphere reserve is the second largest in Canada and was the first to be designated in Atlantic Canada. It focuses on regional cooperation, sustainable development, and conservation.

Heritage Tourism

Parks Canada helps to anchor Canada's international reputation for heritage tourism. Southwestern Nova Scotia is one of Atlantic Canada's premiere tourism destinations, attracting visitors from the Atlantic region, other parts of Canada, the United States, and abroad. Kejimikujik plays an important role in the tourism industry of southwestern Nova Scotia. The inland portion is a primary

destination for visitors within the province and Kejimikujik Seaside is a popular day-use area for coastal travelers.

Species at Risk

Due to ancient geophysical, sea-level, and climatic events, Kejimikujik and its surrounding greater region has a large concentration of rare species for an area of its size. Many of these plants, insects, and animals are considered to be species at risk, and are protected under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) and the *Nova Scotia Endangered Species Act*. In Kejimikujik, there are several listed species, including mammals such as the American marten and mainland moose, reptiles such as the Blanding's turtle and Eastern ribbonsnake, birds such as the piping plover and rusty blackbird, insects such as the monarch butterfly, and plants such as the water-pennywort (part of the Atlantic Coastal Plain flora).

3.5 HISTORY

Kejimikujik Inland

The Mi'kmaq have lived and traveled in the Kejimikujik area for at least 4500 years. Mi'kmaq occupation and use may have been much longer; however, archaeological objects dating to earlier periods have not yet been found.

At the time of European expansion into North America, the Mi'kmaq occupied a vast territory in what is now Atlantic Canada, including a portion of the Gaspé Peninsula. According to oral traditions, their overall territory was divided into seven districts. The district of *Kespukwitk* ("land's end") covers southwestern Nova Scotia and includes Kejimikujik.

The arrival of Europeans to the Americas had a profound impact on all indigenous peoples, including the Mi'kmaq. Diseases led to a terrible death toll, and there were numerous conflicts over land. In the specific case of the Kejimikujik area, many changes occurred.

³ Parks Canada is the lead agency responsible for the Canadian Heritage Rivers System. In 1997, the Minister responsible for Parks Canada approved the designation of the Shelburne River as a Canadian Heritage River. Located just outside Kejimikujik's boundary, the Shelburne River flows 53 kilometres through the heart of the western interior of Nova Scotia. The Shelburne River is accessible via canoe from Kejimikujik.

Settlers of European descent arrived in the area in the 19th century to establish farms and/or to log the forests and mine for gold. While these developments expanded the economy, they also contributed to a gradual displacement of the Mi'kmaq in certain areas.

In the mid-1800s, eleven Mi'kmaq families requested land grants around Kejimikujik Lake from the contemporary government of Nova Scotia, which at the time was still a colony of Great Britain. In 1842, Joseph Howe (then Indian Commissioner) granted their request. Also during this time, the Mi'kmaq in the area became renowned for their guiding expertise for international sportsmen.

Over the years, much of Kejimikujik was selectively harvested for white pine and red oak. Since the early 1900s, Kejimikujik has been popular with many tourists and outdoorsmen. Recreational activities focused mainly on fishing and hunting. The development of the Kedge Lodge signified the importance of the Kejimikujik area as a major regional destination. Several other cottages and resorts were also built at that time.

The Mi'kmaq continued to guide well into the 20th century, often working for sportsmen's lodges on Kejimikujik Lake (including Kedge Lodge). The guiding profession peaked in popularity in the 1950s but declined rapidly in the 1960s. Lumbering was also a major commercial employer for the Mi'kmaq. The Mi'kmaq have continued to hunt, fish, and gather food plants and traditional medicines in the Kejimikujik area over the years and the area is still of great importance to their communities today.

The lands of what is now Kejimikujik were acquired by the Province of Nova Scotia and transferred to Parks Canada in 1965.

Kejimikujik Seaside

The Mi'kmaq used Kejimikujik Seaside for hunting and gathering while camping in the surrounding harbours. Although only one Mi'kmaq artefact has been found within Kejimikujik Seaside, large campsites in nearby Port Joli tell a story that is over two thousand years old, and are considered among the most important archaeological sites in Nova Scotia. The oldest known archaeological sites found to date within Kejimikujik Seaside are associated with late 18th-century pre-Loyalist and Loyalist settlers. Over the next 150 years, land speculators controlled most of the property. A few settlers attempted to transform the land into agricultural lots capable of supporting their families, despite the fact that the land was poor for both crops and livestock.

In 1887, William A. Kinney purchased 2000 acres of land, including Black Point. This marked the beginning of the acquisition of all of the Kejimikujik Seaside lands by the Kinney family. Kinney set up a livestock farm including a flock of 1000 sheep, houses, barns, and outbuildings (including a sheep dip). Kinney suffered financial difficulties and lost the property in 1925 to foreclosure. The land was then sold and resold to a number of local families and was acquired by the province of Nova Scotia in 1974 and transferred to Parks Canada in 1985.

4.0 Vision for the Next Generation



Brian Townsend

Parks Canada, Mi'kmaw partners, stakeholders, visitors, and the public worked together to develop the vision (see following page), which serves as the overall, integrated goal of this management plan. The vision offers an inspirational view of the future to guide planning and day-to-day decision-making for Kejimikujik. The strategies and actions outlined in this management plan help to achieve the vision.

4.1 ABOUT THE VISION

In collaboration with Mi'kmaw partners, the circular format of the Mi'kmaw Medicine Wheel was selected as the best means for presenting the vision for Kejimikujik. The Medicine Wheel is an important symbol for

the Mi'kmaq. The circular shape represents the continuous cycles of life and suggests the cyclical, interconnected nature of all relationships and interactions. The elements of Parks Canada's mandate – represented by the words Protect, Respect, Connect, and Collaborate – are integrated, inseparable, and mutually supportive. There are no hard lines delineating the various vision elements. The colours and images blend and cycle into one another emphasizing the inherent connections between visitor experience, commemorative integrity, ecological integrity, and working collaboratively. All four elements contribute to the whole of Kejimikujik and must be in place in order to achieve this desired view of the future.

Kejimkujik

A vision for the next generation

From the rich diversity of forests, lakes, and streams of the interior to the beaches and dunes of the rugged coast, this is a place where the people have shaped the land and the land has shaped the people since time immemorial.

RESPECT
Mi'kmaw heritage is respected, shared, and celebrated – Kejimkujik is a sacred place where the Mi'kmaq connect spiritually and emotionally to their ancestors, where the natural and cultural resources that attest to their legacy are respected and presented for future generations, and where Mi'kmaw culture thrives through gatherings, celebrations, and ceremonies.

PROTECT
Nature Fouriteses – The forests, wetlands, freshwater, and coastal ecosystems that characterize this region of southwestern Nova Scotia are healthy and whole. Kejimkujik offers a protected haven for native plants and animals and the evolution of natural processes.

COLLABORATE
We work together – Staff, Aboriginal Peoples, partners, communities, and visitors work together to plan and manage Kejimkujik for future generations. We are known for excellence in scientific, traditional, and cultural research and outreach programs promote sound natural and Mi'kmaw cultural history. Our presentation and inspire stewardship in the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve management and in the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve.

CONNECT
People connect with nature, culture, ancestors, family, and friends – Kejimkujik is a peaceful place to experience the wonders of nature and to discover the rich cultural heritage of the Mi'kmaq. Diverse, year-round opportunities offer the chance to pause and reflect, to learn and enjoy. Lifetime memories are created here through personal connections with nature and culture, which can include camping beneath towering hemlocks, travelling historical Mi'kmaw canoe routes, or listening to the pounding of the Atlantic coastal surf.

As the centre of the Mi'kmaw District of Kespukwitk (meaning "Land's End") and the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve, Kejimkujik is a place where nature and culture are respected, intertwined, and inseparable.

Photos clockwise from top: Pavia Canada; Jonathan Sheppard; Dave Wilson; Parks Canada

5.0 Collaboration and Shared Leadership



Volunteers share the experience of monitoring a family of piping plovers at Kejimikujik Seaside. Duncan Smith

Canada's protected heritage places exist for all Canadians. While Parks Canada plays a custodial role for these special places, fulfilling our protection, education, and visitor experience mandate is a shared undertaking and a shared responsibility.

Collaboration and shared leadership is a priority for Kejimikujik, particularly working to strengthen existing collaborative relationships with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. Parks Canada also seeks to strengthen support for

Kejimikujik amongst visitors, partners, and stakeholders and to increase opportunities for interested people to influence and contribute to Kejimikujik's activities. This priority is demonstrated by the many actions identified in this chapter and throughout this plan. As part of this priority, Parks Canada is committed to forming a Mi'kmaq Advisory Committee and a Kejimikujik advisory group that will review annual progress towards achieving the vision and strategic direction outlined in this plan.

5.1 WORKING WITH THE MI'KMAQ OF NOVA SCOTIA⁴

Building relationships with Aboriginal communities is a priority for Parks Canada. Section 35 of *The Constitution Act* (1982) recognizes and affirms the Aboriginal and treaty rights of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. The Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia claim unextinguished Aboriginal title, treaty rights, and other Aboriginal rights throughout Nova Scotia and adjacent areas of the offshore, including on the federal lands of Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site of Canada. The Mi'kmaq are currently involved in treaty negotiations with the Province of Nova Scotia and Canada.

Parks Canada entered into a process of consultation on this management plan with representatives of the thirteen Mi'kmaq First Nations in Nova Scotia through the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs and with the Native Council of Nova Scotia. These consultations provided a good opportunity to share information and build on the collaborative relationship that exists between Parks Canada and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia.

The main issues raised during these consultations were with respect to admission fees to the park for the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, hunting, harvesting, and fishing access in Kejimikujik, co-management of Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site, and the identification of opportunities for Mi'kmaw involvement on advisory committees related to national parks and national historic sites. Also added to the discussions were the issues of identifying and carrying out Mi'kmaw Ecological Knowledge studies, the sharing of archaeological information, the involvement of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youth in park management and activities, and the importance of working with others on ecological integrity issues. Accommodations appropriate for the management plan process have been included in this plan document, while other identified issues will be addressed at the main Made-in-Nova Scotia Negotiation Table.

The Mi'kmaw Network

In 2001, following Kejimikujik's designation as a national historic site, Parks Canada approached Mi'kmaw leaders to seek guidance on establishing an advisory committee of Mi'kmaw representatives to provide advice and input to Kejimikujik staff relating to the management planning process. The resulting committee, known as the Mi'kmaw Network, contributed substantially to the development of this management plan. The structure of the Mi'kmaw Network included one representative from Acadia First Nation, Annapolis Valley First Nation, Bear River First Nation, Glooscap First Nation, the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, the Union of Nova Scotia Indians, the Mi'kmaq Association for Cultural Studies, and the Grand Council.

Parks Canada is committed to working with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia on many aspects of Kejimikujik, including programs and initiatives that focus on the protection of natural and cultural resources, the facilitation of meaningful visitor experiences, and public outreach education.

5.2 PARTNERING AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Parks Canada seeks to broaden its base of support by engaging its stakeholders and partners, and encouraging shared leadership in the development and implementation of the vision and strategic direction for each protected heritage place. This management plan was developed based on this principle. As a result of on-going collaboration, open communications, and the provision of opportunities for meaningful involvement in initiatives, Kejimikujik enjoys support from many stakeholders and partners, including the Mi'kmaq, the scientific community, the tourism industry, local businesses, non-governmental organizations, and others. Kejimikujik will continue the inclusive engagement that led to this management plan – through annual implementation reporting, monitoring and evaluation,

⁴ Unless otherwise specified in writing, any and all input from, work, cooperation, and collaboration by, and participation and involvement of the Mi'kmaw Network in developing or carrying out this management plan are not intended to be, and shall not be construed or interpreted to be, consultation for legal purposes respecting claimed Mi'kmaq rights or title.

and scoping issues and opportunities to be addressed through future planning processes.

One of Kejimikujik's key partners is the Friends of Keji Cooperating Association (Friends of Keji) – a member of the Canadian Parks Partnership. Their mission is to support Parks Canada's mandate for the protection, preservation, promotion, and interpretation of all resources in Kejimikujik. The Friends of Keji operate the gift shops at the inland Visitor Centre and at the Kejimikujik Seaside kiosk, the firewood sales in Jeremy's Bay Campground, and the canteen at Merrymakedge. Parks Canada benefits from the leadership of the Friends of Keji and looks forward to working with local people and interested stakeholders in the possible development of a cooperative association for Kejimikujik Seaside.

Parks Canada also benefits from the involvement of the dedicated volunteers who commit their time and energy to Kejimikujik through different programs, including the

Kejimikujik Naturalist Club, the Campground Host program, species at risk recovery initiatives, Jeremy's Bay Campground rehabilitation, and various special events. These programs enhance resource protection and help facilitate meaningful educational and recreational experiences. Kejimikujik is committed to involving people directly in projects and recognizing their efforts, thereby encouraging stewardship of natural and cultural heritage.

Many visitors have been camping in Kejimikujik for decades and return with successive generations. These dedicated visitors are part of what makes Kejimikujik special and Parks Canada recognizes the importance of their ongoing commitment. Kejimikujik hopes to strengthen collaboration with these dedicated visitors and increase opportunities for their involvement in various projects.

Kejimikujik works closely with the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association, the Mersey Tobeatic Research

The Campground Host Program



Duncan Smith

The campground hosts are the welcome wagon of Jeremy's Bay Campground. For a week or two at a time, these friendly, outgoing, helpful volunteers answer questions, provide general information, and share their expertise and love of Kejimikujik with campers. Campground hosts have great

enthusiasm and enjoy the social setting created by being a host in the campground. They act as role models with their camping ethics and often assist with special events. Experienced campers talking to campers – they speak the same language and enhance the camping experience at Kejimikujik.

Institute,⁵ academic institutions, other government and non-governmental organizations on various research, monitoring, and stewardship initiatives. Collaboration fosters discussion and promotes a balance of natural and cultural heritage protection with sustainable resource development in the region.

Parks Canada also collaborates with local and regional partners to help promote and facilitate tourism in southwest Nova Scotia, focusing on marketing initiatives to increase visitation to the region. Parks Canada is interested in working more closely with Destination Southwest Nova Tourism Association, the provincial Department of Tourism, Culture, and Heritage, and local tour, service, and accommodation providers. Parks Canada also works closely with educational institutions to develop curriculum programs for local school children.

Increasing collaboration and opportunities for involvement in Kejimikujik's natural and cultural resource management initiatives were identified as key themes during consultations for this management plan. Suggestions included strengthening existing partnerships and building stronger relationships with other government departments and agencies, non-governmental organizations and educational groups, and developing programs to better involve local and regional communities and youth.

5.3 STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Goal:

Kejimikujik's strong relationships with the Mi'kmaq, visitors, partners, and stakeholders enhance Parks Canada's resource protection, visitor experience, and education mandate.

Actions:

1. Establish a Kejimikujik advisory board with broad partner, stakeholder, and visitor representation to foster ongoing dialogue and review progress towards management plan goals.

2. Increase collaboration with the Mi'kmaq regarding the protection of natural and cultural heritage, facilitating visitor experience in Kejimikujik and in the greater region, and in delivering public outreach education programs.
3. Work with representatives of the Mi'kmaq communities to identify opportunities for Mi'kmaq involvement in a Mi'kmaq Advisory Committee and other advisory committees to provide input on matters related to national parks and national historic sites.
4. Work with representatives of the Mi'kmaq communities to identify and carry out Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge studies as considered mutually appropriate.
5. Work with the Mi'kmaq communities to find a mutually acceptable solution for the application of admission fees to Kejimikujik for the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia.
6. Explore future cooperative association options for Kejimikujik Seaside with local communities, partners, and stakeholders.
7. Support and contribute to the development and growth of the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association and the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute.
8. Increase collaboration with regional municipalities and the provincial Department of Environment and Labour on land use and protected area planning initiatives.
9. Build mechanisms that promote dialogue with and support the involvement of the Mi'kmaq, local communities, youth, and visitors in natural and cultural resource protection initiatives, visitor experience, and public outreach education initiatives.
10. In collaboration with the tourism industry, develop and implement visitor experience opportunities.

⁵The Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute is a non-profit co-operative – made up of the general public, landowners, industry, educators, and three levels of government – whose mission is to advance collaborative research, monitoring, and biodiversity conservation in the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve.

6.0 Maintaining Ecological Integrity



Visitors help park staff carry out important monitoring of the movements and habitat use of the Blanding's turtle. Duncan Smith

Kejimikujik works with the Mi'kmaq, academia, governmental, and non-governmental partners, local communities, volunteers, and youth in the surrounding region to ensure the conservation of the physical features, biodiversity, and ecological processes that are characteristic of the Atlantic Coastal Uplands Natural Region. Ecological integrity at Kejimikujik was first defined through the development of an Ecological Integrity Statement, prepared in 2003. The goals and objectives from this statement have been further refined and integrated into this management plan. Future tracking and reporting on ecological integrity will be done through State of the Park and Site Reports, which will be produced in 2010 and again prior to the next management plan review. The State of the Park and Site Reports will focus on key indicators for investments and on tracking and reporting on management actions.

6.1 CURRENT SITUATION

6.1.1 Ecosystem Descriptions

Kejimikujik has a large diversity of habitats due to the convergence of climate, bedrock, soil, and major floral elements in southwestern Nova Scotia and can be divided into four basic ecosystem types based on terrestrial and aquatic features: forest, freshwater, wetlands, and coastal.

Forest Ecosystems

The forests of inland Kejimikujik are a representative portion of the Acadian Forest Region, a transition zone between southern (*Alleghenian*) deciduous forests and northern (*Boreal*) coniferous forests. These forests contain old-growth stands of Eastern hemlock, red spruce, and sugar maple. Red maple floodplains flank river systems and wetter areas. Large white and red pines occur in older mixed-wood stands while younger stands

contain American beech, ironwood, and red oak. The forest stands at Kejimikujik Seaside are characterized by stunted, dense-growing conifers, including white and black spruce and balsam fir. The fire barrens at Kejimikujik Seaside contain an unusual stand of red oak.

Kejimikujik's forest ecosystems have complex age distributions and have been influenced in the past by fire, logging, agriculture, windstorms, insect outbreaks, and other small-scale disturbances. Kejimikujik has suppressed wildfires since the park was acquired from the province in 1967. Logging and active agriculture ceased at this time as well. In the last few decades, insect outbreaks and wind have had little effect on stand compositions. Recent outbreaks of the pale-winged grey moth continue to affect park resources; however, the impacts to date have been less severe than anticipated. Kejimikujik is working to better understand natural disturbance patterns and how to maintain them, including the restoration of natural fire cycles.

Kejimikujik's forests support a diverse fauna with a large variety of bird and mammal species. More than 160 different species of birds occur in the inland portion of Kejimikujik while Kejimikujik Seaside has more than 190 species. Some mammal species, such as the Southern flying squirrel, American marten, and fisher, occur in relatively low numbers while the larger mammals such as white-tailed deer and black bear are more common. Most of these bird and animal species range beyond park boundaries within the greater region.

Freshwater Ecosystems

Kejimikujik inland's aquatic ecosystems contain 46 lakes and ponds and more than 30 streams and rivers, most of which are part of the Mersey River watershed. This watershed originates north of the park on provincial and private lands and is the largest in Nova Scotia. Most lakes have shallow, dark brown, acidic, seasonally warm water, with intervening rivers, still waters, and meandering streams. Clear-water lakes occur less frequently and are less acidic. The Mersey system exhibits significant seasonal water level changes, and is isolated from the Atlantic Ocean by six hydro dams below Lake Rossignol. Kejimikujik Seaside's

freshwater ecosystems include small, shallow, nutrient-poor ponds with low productivity and two brackish head ponds that are part of the St. Catherine's River watershed.

Atlantic Coastal Plan flora (which includes threatened water-pennywort), threatened Eastern ribbonsnake, and endangered Blanding's turtles are found along the shorelines of Kejimikujik inland's freshwater ecosystems. Warm-water fish species such as yellow perch, white perch, and brown bullhead are distributed throughout, while brook trout, which prefer colder water, seek spring up-wellings and deeper lakes to escape high summer water temperatures. Common loons nest on the shorelines of many of the larger lakes.

Wetland Ecosystems

Wetland ecosystems at Kejimikujik are comprised mostly of peatlands, including both bogs and fens. Wetlands have a significant influence on the water chemistry, level and colour of freshwater ecosystems, and provide habitat for many of the species at risk in the park, including Blanding's turtle, Eastern ribbonsnake, and Atlantic Coastal Plan flora. A proliferation of different orchid species occur on bogs at Kejimikujik Seaside.

Coastal Ecosystems

Kejimikujik Seaside's coastal ecosystems feature two highly productive lagoons, extensive headlands, tidal flats, salt marshes, and magnificent sand beaches. These ecosystems are dynamic due to shifting sand, storms, sea-level rise, and shoreline erosion.

Both lagoons are important staging areas for many migratory waterfowl and contain soft-shell clams and other bivalves in the rich sediment deposits. St. Catherine's River Beach supports a nesting population of the endangered piping plover; St. Catherine's River Lagoon provides an important feeding area for fledging chicks.

Headland shrub and tree species include speckled alder, grey birch, wild raisin, red maple, and a variety of plants associated with wet, acidic conditions. Harbour seals and grey seals are found on the rocky islands offshore.

6.1.2 Species at Risk

Kejimikujik and its surrounding greater region is home to several species at risk listed under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). Most of these species live in wetlands or along coastlines. This includes the endangered Blanding's turtle, the threatened Eastern ribbonsnake, and the threatened water-pennywort for which Parks Canada is the lead federal agency for recovery. Kejimikujik also contributes to recovery of several other species at risk, including the endangered piping plover. Past and present water control, forestry, and cottage development appear to be the main threats to species at risk at Kejimikujik.

6.1.3 Ecosystem Stressors

While Kejimikujik and its partners strive to protect these ecosystems, a number of stressors affect ecological integrity in the region and in Kejimikujik. These include:

Habitat disturbance and fragmentation

Habitat disturbance and fragmentation within and beyond Kejimikujik has affected forest, wetland, coastal, and freshwater systems. Forestry is an important economic driver in the region and occurs as small woodlot operations as well as large-scale commercial operations. Through the analysis of satellite imagery for the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve it has been determined that significant changes in forest cover, composition, and road densities have occurred. Other changes in the region which are being monitored for effects on Kejimikujik's ecosystems include forest conversion, habitat loss, water quality, and hydrological changes.

The gradual and cumulative fragmentation of the landscape due to incremental development can reduce available habitat and restrict plant and animal dispersal. Species in Kejimikujik such as flying squirrels, American marten, forest birds, and the Nova Scotia Mainland moose require landscape connectivity to maintain viable populations.

Watershed development and land use in coastal and freshwater ecosystems outside the park and site have resulted in habitat loss and disturbance of aquatic species such as brook trout that occur in Kejimikujik but that also require movement outside the park to meet

habitat requirements. Development and land use are also influencing Kejimikujik's hydrology. Effects on Kejimikujik's water quality are being investigated.

Hydro dams outside the park prevent the migration of large numbers of gaspereaux and American eel which affects freshwater biodiversity at Kejimikujik. Within Kejimikujik, dams (constructed to facilitate logging operations prior to Kejimikujik's establishment as a national park) and road culverts act as barriers and cause artificial water levels that may not support ecological integrity objectives. In addition, some species in Kejimikujik, such as common loons and piping plovers are particularly sensitive and alter their natural behaviour in response to disturbance.

Invasive species

Kejimikujik faces increasing stress in all of its ecosystems from a broad range of invasive plants and animals that can displace, out-compete, or prey upon sensitive native species. Recent investigations at Kejimikujik Seaside have detected a hyper-abundant population of the invasive European green crab that is influencing eelgrass beds and the young-age classes of soft-shell clams, requiring active management to restore ecological integrity. Other invasive species that may require active management to control their spread are purple loosestrife and glossy buckthorn. In terms of Kejimikujik's freshwater ecosystem, data indicates that two invasive species, the smallmouth bass and chain pickerel, are occurring in the same watershed as the park and site. In addition, exotic insects and diseases such as the gypsy moth and beech canker disease have had harmful effects on tree species in Kejimikujik. Kejimikujik is monitoring for the presence of these and other exotic insects and diseases.

Long-range transport of acid rain and air pollutants

Air-borne pollutants from North America and Asia are carried to and deposited in Kejimikujik through continental air masses. Kejimikujik is one of the most studied areas in North America for air pollution effects and has one of five primary Canadian Acid Precipitation Monitoring Network sites. Air-borne

pollutants can have significant detrimental impacts on both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Research demonstrates that the aquatic ecosystems at Kejimikujik have experienced acidification over the past several decades, which is correlated to mercury uptake by biota. Concerns about high levels of mercury in gamefish have led to health advisories on fish consumption at Kejimikujik. Atmospheric concerns also include the effects of ground-level ozone, ultra-violet radiation, and other heavy metals on ecosystem biodiversity and processes. Impacts to Kejimikujik's forest ecosystems from air-borne pollution include acidification of soils and stress to trees.

Influence of climate change and sea-level rise

Biodiversity and ecological processes representative of the region are being influenced by climate change and sea-level rise. Parks Canada continues to research and monitor these influences. In particular, the impacts of coastal shoreline erosion or flooding (caused by rising sea levels and continental subsidence) on vulnerable species (such as endangered piping plovers) and habitats (such as salt marsh) are currently being investigated.

6.1.4 Collaboration with the Mi'kmaq, Partners, Visitors, and Volunteers

Kejimikujik collaborates with the Mi'kmaq and many other partners and stakeholders to protect and sustain the full range of native biodiversity and ecological processes characteristic of the Atlantic Coastal Uplands Natural Region. Parks Canada participates in discussion, inventory, monitoring and research, species at risk recovery, restoration projects, and other activities aimed at advancing landscape conservation in the greater region. This includes involvement in the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association and the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute.

In partnership with local environmental and community groups, Parks Canada also directly involves people from all walks of life in conservation action at Kejimikujik, including local landowners and businesses, academic institutions, visitors, volunteers, and others. Through active involvement in hands-on recovery actions, visitors and volunteers have

contributed significantly to the recovery of species at risk. Visitors are first introduced to and engaged in recovery efforts through interpretation programs. They are then invited to participate directly in field work in the park. Many times, these visitors come back and get involved in the park's volunteer program.

Kejimikujik now has one of the most successful volunteer programs in the Parks Canada system, with volunteers contributing thousands of hours annually towards park conservation. Park visitors, volunteers, and local community members will continue to be engaged in conservation and the recovery of species at risk.

6.2 ECOSYSTEM SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT

6.2.1 Overview

The ecosystem science program at Kejimikujik involves conducting inventories, research, and ongoing monitoring and reporting to provide essential information on the state of ecological integrity and how it is changing over time. Research, monitoring, and other information, such as indigenous knowledge, are essential tools to assess the state of ecosystems and track progress in achieving conservation objectives within Kejimikujik and the surrounding region. Kejimikujik's ecosystem science program also includes active management aimed at ecological restoration of ecosystems and species at risk.

Inventory

An important element of Kejimikujik's ecosystem science program is to identify the components of ecosystems. Some of Kejimikujik's ecosystems have not been fully inventoried; however, inventory work is on-going. In recent years Parks Canada has completed inventories for exotic plants and Atlantic Coastal Plain flora.

Monitoring

Kejimikujik has recently developed and is implementing a monitoring and reporting program that provides useful and relevant information for decision-making. This monitoring program measures and reports on changes in ecosystems. Assessments of

biodiversity, processes, and stressors are made for each ecosystem using a variety of biological, chemical, and physical measures. Current measures for Kejimikujik's ecosystems are presented in Appendix D.

Over the next several years Kejimikujik will involve the Mi'kmaq and other partners in reviewing and implementing the monitoring program, and will work to increase coordination, cooperation, and support within the surrounding region.

The results of Kejimikujik's monitoring program will be used to report on the condition of ecological integrity and how it may be changing over time. These conditions and trends will be communicated in State of the Park and Site Reports that will be prepared on a five-year cycle and will inform the next management plan review and will also be used in the preparation of national-level State of Protected Heritage Area Reports. Results from the monitoring program have been used to identify priority actions for research and restoration in forests, freshwater, wetlands, and coastal ecosystems. Further details on monitoring priorities for each ecosystem are outlined in section 6.2.2.

Research

Kejimikujik serves as an important benchmark for scientific research and monitoring of natural ecosystems, biodiversity, and ecological processes. Research determines the measures best suited for monitoring and provides more in-depth information when monitoring systems indicate that thresholds of acceptable change have been exceeded. Research also provides necessary information to allow Parks Canada to react to specific management concerns. Kejimikujik's research priorities for each ecosystem are outlined in section 6.2.2.

Ecological Restoration

Parks Canada aims to restore ecosystems and their constituent communities so that natural species compositions are intact and the processes that maintain them are functioning. Ecological restoration, often referred to as "active management" by Parks Canada, includes activities such as restoring disturbed sites, removing exotic invasive species, and the

captive rearing and release of species at risk. These initiatives are supported by research and on-going monitoring to ensure their effectiveness.

Kejimikujik has completed a number of disturbed site restoration projects since the 1995 management plan, including restoring the natural water levels of Grafton and Cobrielle Lakes, which improved both fish and Eastern ribbonsnake habitat. The Hemlocks and Hardwoods area was improved by the construction of a raised boardwalk and the sewage lagoons in Jeremy's Bay Campground were upgraded so that they no longer discharge treated effluent into Kejimikujik Lake.

Kejimikujik's ecological restoration priorities for the forest (including Jeremy's Bay Campground), freshwater, and coastal ecosystems are outlined in section 6.2.2.

6.2.2 Monitoring, Research, and Restoration in each of Kejimikujik's Ecosystems

Forest Ecosystem

Over the next several years, Parks Canada will work collaboratively with other organizations, including the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute, the Mi'kmaq, local communities, industry, academic institutions, and environmental NGOs, to strengthen our understanding of forest dynamics and landscape connectivity in the greater Kejimikujik region. A strengthened understanding of forest ecology will support the refinement and implementation of landscape-level monitoring measures as well as the identification of ecosystem and vegetation management goals for Kejimikujik's forests.

Fire management planning also involves partners, including the Mi'kmaq and the Department of Natural Resources. A fire management plan for the Mainland Nova Scotia Field Unit (the Parks Canada administrative unit of which Kejimikujik is a part) will be completed in 2010. The plan will include fire prevention and suppression strategies, management response to fire in different areas, and rationale and strategies for fuel reduction. The plan also outlines that Kejimikujik will be researching the use of fire as an ecosystem restoration tool.

Kejimikujik will be engaging in further collaborative work in the area of active forest management research. A ten year research project will be implemented in collaboration with the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, and others to study active forest management techniques, such as tree thinning, mammal exclosures, and prescribed burns, which can influence vegetation dynamics in mixed Acadian forest. Tree thinning will mimic natural processes and all trees will be left on site. The results of these techniques will be monitored long term.

Parks Canada will also continue to remove invasive exotic plants in the forest ecosystem, such as glossy buckthorn and purple loosestrife, to control their spread.

At Jeremy's Bay Campground, Parks Canada will be working to ensure a healthy natural environment and improve visitor experience by increasing the diversity of native plant species and restoring sites in select areas. This restoration work is an integral part of a visitor experience plan for the redevelopment of Jeremy's Bay Campground discussed in detail in chapter 8, section 8.2.1.

Freshwater Ecosystem

Sport fishing is a long-standing activity in Kejimikujik and is still a popular visitor experience today. A Fish Management Plan, which is an operational plan with regards to sport fish management and sustainability, will be completed by 2012. The development, implementation, and ongoing review of this plan will involve other government agencies, the Mi'kmaq, anglers, local landowners, and other stakeholders. Volunteers will continue to play key roles in monitoring fish populations and angling pressures. By working together, knowledge will be shared and visitors, stakeholders, volunteers, and partners will all contribute to the conservation of Kejimikujik's fish populations.

Parks Canada will work with regional partners and stakeholders on collaborative research initiatives to better understand and restore watershed connectivity. Active management will focus on improving aquatic connectivity through restoring and replacing ineffective priority road culverts and dams that

are acting as barriers for fish passage. Additionally, opportunities will be provided for visitors and community member to be involved in hands-on restoration and monitoring. As an associated priority, Parks Canada will work with partners to prevent the introduction of exotic species to freshwater ecosystems at Kejimikujik.

Another priority is continuing to conduct research into mercury levels and acidification in freshwater ecosystems in collaboration with academic partners.

Wetland Ecosystem

Wetland ecological monitoring measures will be refined and implemented over the next couple of years. Active species at risk management to recover Blanding's turtle, Eastern ribbonsnake, and water-pennywort is ongoing. See species at risk section (6.2.3) for further details.

Coastal Ecosystem

The former harvest of soft-shelled clams in the St. Catherine's River and Port Joli lagoons has been discontinued due to the potential for human health hazards. Fecal coliform contamination (from high numbers of waterfowl) and the threat of paralytic shellfish poisoning led to the fishery closure. The St. Catherine's River and Little Port Joli estuaries are highly productive and contain a large diversity of organisms, including an immense variety of shorebirds, many of which depend on healthy shellfish populations. Parks Canada will permanently close these lagoons to shellfish harvesting and will create Zone 1 special preservation areas (see Chapter 10) to afford them greater protection. These lagoons will function as benchmark areas for future research and monitoring, which is required to better understand shellfish population dynamics and stressors in these areas.

The active management priority for the coastal ecosystem is to reduce the hyper-abundant invasive European green crab and restore eelgrass beds and the young-age classes of soft-shell clams. Coastal monitoring will focus on reporting the condition of and changes in the coastal ecosystem as well as the effectiveness of active management strategies to improve coastal ecological integrity. Research

will concentrate on understanding coastal dynamics and the impacts of marine exotic species, and attempts to control them, on the coastal ecosystem.

Irish moss and bloodworm harvesting occasionally occurs below the high tide mark, beyond the boundaries of Kejimikujik Seaside. Parks Canada will work with partners to understand the potential impacts that this commercial activity has on natural resources within Kejimikujik Seaside ecosystems.

6.2.3 Species at Risk Recovery

Parks Canada is committed to helping the recovery of the species at risk and other rare

species that are found in Kejimikujik, including the Blanding's turtle, the Eastern ribbonsnake, the water-pennywort, and the piping plover, by clearly defining and mitigating the root causes of decline, enhancing populations through active management (such as captive rearing and release), identifying and enhancing critical habitat, and implementing education and monitoring initiatives. This involves working closely with recovery teams, collecting knowledge, conducting research, and working with visitors, the Mi'kmaq, local communities, and others in recovery and stewardship. Park visitors and members of the local communities

Visitor and Volunteer Involvement with Species at Risk at Kejimikujik



Duncan Smith

Kejimikujik has established a strong volunteer stewardship program to involve visitors, local community members, and the local Mi'kmaq in recovery activities. Keji's work in this area has focused primarily on Blanding's turtles. Volunteers are involved in a combination of nest screening to protect eggs from predators and increasing protection from road-edge nesting turtles.

In an amazing encounter in 2007, long-time Keji volunteers discovered a new population of turtles in an area adjacent to the park and historic site – only the fourth such population in the province. On an annual basis, over 300 volunteers contribute 10,000 hours of time to conservation and presentation programs in and around Kejimikujik.

are engaged in hands-on recovery of these species.

6.3 STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Goal:

The native biodiversity and processes of Kejimikujik's forest, wetland, freshwater, and coastal ecosystems are maintained and/or restored with the involvement of the Mi'kmaq, local communities, visitors, youth, and stakeholders. Stressors are minimized and/or mitigated.

Actions:

Collaboration

1. Increase opportunities for involving the Mi'kmaq, local communities, academia, governmental and non-governmental partners, visitors, and volunteers in Kejimikujik's ecosystem science and management program, with particular emphasis on involving youth.
2. To work with representatives of the Mi'kmaq communities to identify and carry out Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge studies as considered mutually appropriate.
3. Work with partners to develop and implement standardized protocols that contribute to a regionally integrated monitoring initiative by 2010. Continue to refine and implement a sustainable ecological monitoring program thereafter.
4. Work with the Mi'kmaq and other institutions and organizations to produce and circulate research and monitoring results and host research and resource management events.
5. Work with resource-based businesses, local landowners, and communities to mitigate stressors to ecological integrity in the park and site as well as in the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve.
6. Collaborate with stakeholders, partners, and adjacent landowners to determine forest ecosystem management objectives for Kejimikujik in support of ecological and commemorative integrity and to enhance visitor experience by 2012.
7. Work with partners to monitor and maintain landscape connectivity in the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve.
8. Implement prevention programs aimed at protecting resources and ensuring a quality visitor experience in collaboration with park visitors with particular emphasis on Jeremy's Bay Campground, wilderness campsites, and Kejimikujik Seaside.
9. Continue to collaborate with the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on prevention and enforcement strategies. Continue to collaborate with these departments and others, including the Nova Scotia Emergency Measures Organization, the Coast Guard, Search and Rescue, and volunteer fire departments for fire and environmental emergency responses.

Forest Ecosystem

10. Complete the Fire Management Plan by 2010 and work with partners to execute a 10-year research study on active management of the Acadian mixed-wood forest, including assessing the effects of prescribed burns, mammal exclosures, and thinning, and facilitating opportunities for visitors to learn about these research activities.
11. Remove glossy buckthorn and other invasive plants to control population levels and restore affected species and habitats. Continue monitoring and research to understand trends in invasive plants at Kejimikujik and the effectiveness of management actions.
12. Develop a vegetation restoration plan by 2011 for Jeremy's Bay Campground as an integrated component of the larger campground redevelopment plan (see Section 8.3.1).
13. Complete a prioritized plan for restoring disturbed sites by 2012 and implement where feasible.

Freshwater Ecosystem

14. Continue to collaborate with government and academic partners to research mercury, water quality, and acid rain.
15. Complete and implement the Fish Management Plan by 2012.
16. Improve aquatic connectivity in watersheds at Kejimikujik through restoring and replacing road culverts and dams that are acting as barriers to fish movement.

Wetland Ecosystem

17. Continue to refine and implement an effective and sustainable ecological monitoring program for the wetland ecosystem.

Coastal Ecosystem

18. Improve coastal ecological integrity by reducing the European green crab and then restoring eelgrass beds and young-age classes of soft-shell clams.
19. Add the Crown land on the Port Mouton side of Kejimikujik Seaside to the description of Kejimikujik National Park in Schedule I of the Canada National Parks Act and better delineate park boundaries by 2011.

Species at Risk

20. Work with recovery teams, the Mi'kmaq, youth, other partners, and volunteers, to develop proactive recovery strategies and implement actions (including active management) for several species at risk, including Blanding's turtle, piping plover, Atlantic Coastal Plain flora, and Eastern ribbonsnake. Recovery strategies will be developed by 2011.

Reporting

21. Report on the condition and trends of Kejimikujik's ecosystems and on natural resource management effectiveness in the 2010 State of the Park and Site Report and in the next "State of" report to be completed prior to the next management plan review.

7.0 Maintaining Commemorative Integrity and Protecting Cultural Resources



Continuing an ancient Mi'kmaq tradition – launching a birch bark canoe. Jean Augustine-McIsaac

The cultural landscape of the inland portion of Kejimikujik was designated a national historic site because it attests to Mi'kmaq occupancy of this area since time immemorial. The resources related to the historic site include petroglyph sites, habitation sites, fishing sites, hunting territories, travel routes, and burials. The wilderness character of Kejimikujik is an integral part of this landscape.

Parks Canada works with the Mi'kmaq and others to ensure that the resources and values associated with the Mi'kmaq cultural landscape and Kejimikujik's later history are protected and that the public has opportunities to experience, appreciate, and understand the significance of the historic site. Resources are considered protected when they are stable and surrounding developments are sensitive to and compatible with their values and character, and when they are understood and appreciated

by all of those whose decisions and actions affect their management.

7.1 COMMEMORATION

Parks Canada began consultations with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia in 1993 regarding the designation of Kejimikujik as a landscape of national historic significance. The designation was recommended by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board in November 1994, and approved by the Minister responsible for Parks Canada in the spring of 1995. The designation recognizes the historical value of specific locations in Kejimikujik, including camps, villages and portages, while also recognizing the role that river systems and plant and animal habitats played in the daily life of Mi'kmaq people. Spiritual and cultural connections to the land

are evident in the presence of the petroglyph sites and burial ground.

Kejimkujik's cultural resources are generally located along rivers and lakes, reflecting the importance of fish resources and the transportation network along water courses. The close relationship to water systems extends beyond the pre-contact period of seasonal migration and was essential to the success of Mi'kmaw hunting and fishing guides in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Parks Canada partnered with Mi'kmaw organizations to develop a Commemorative Integrity Statement (CIS) for Kejimkujik (approved in 2000). The CIS identifies the designated place as the boundaries of the inland portion of Kejimkujik;⁶ however, the true boundaries of a cultural landscape of this type are less easily defined. Kejimkujik lies at the hub of a network of rivers that connected people to the Atlantic and Fundy coasts of southwestern Nova Scotia, when hunting and fishing territories were not confined by legal boundaries as they are today. Kejimkujik is a protected area that represents a broader landscape at the centre of *Kespukwitk*, one of the seven traditional districts of the Mi'kmaq. While the boundaries of Kejimkujik are not inclusive of the entire cultural landscape of the Mi'kmaq, they do provide an excellent representation of this environment.

7.2 CURRENT SITUATION

7.2.1 Collaboration

Parks Canada aims to maintain and strengthen partnerships for cultural resource protection in order to promote sound cultural resource management practices, meet common research and monitoring objectives, and enhance stewardship. Kejimkujik is committed to increasing collaboration with many groups that share similar cultural resource protection and presentation objectives, and is particularly interested in building relationships with local and regional Mi'kmaw communities and organizations (including the Mi'kmaq Association for Cultural Studies), the Nova Scotia Department

of Tourism, Culture and Heritage, museums, local communities, and heritage organizations.

7.2.2 Kejimkujik Inland

Resources Related to the National Historic Site's Designation

These resources include the designated place, several pre-contact habitation sites (including the Eel Weir and Merrymakedge), several post-contact reserve sites (including the remains of the home of famous guide Jim Charles), the petroglyphs found at Fairy Bay, Mill Bay, Peter Point, and George Lake, the Merrymakedge burial ground, portage routes and trails throughout the front and backcountry, several fishing weirs, and a number of archaeological and historical objects (including 7 sketches of Kejimkujik landscapes from 1869). The heritage values associated with these resources are many, and include their role as physical evidence of the Mi'kmaq's continuous connection to Kejimkujik's landscape, their diversity, their rarity, and their uniqueness.

Petroglyphs – Mi'kmaw petroglyphs are found along the shorelines of Kejimkujik and George lakes. These faint images are inscribed in soft slate and are fading due to natural erosion. Over the years, graffiti and other vandalism have damaged these resources. In response, Parks Canada has created restricted zones and only allows visitors access to these important, sacred areas when accompanied by a Mi'kmaw interpreter guardian. Signage and surveillance also provide an additional level of protection.

Due to natural causes, these resources will disappear in the future. This approach is consistent with the wishes of the local Mi'kmaq. Kejimkujik and its Mi'kmaw partners have made special efforts to record images of the petroglyphs, and have created moulds and copper plate etchings and are exploring options for digital imagery. Having detailed, stored information on these resources will allow Parks Canada and others to continue to present the petroglyphs and their associated values once the physical resources disappear.

⁶ Kejimkujik Seaside was not considered during national historic site designation discussions.

Fishing Weirs – Analysis from Parks Canada’s archaeology staff and external academic research indicates that Kejimikujik’s fishing weirs are considered stable.

Mi’kmaw Archaeological Resources –The pre-contact village sites in the vicinity of Merrymakedge and the Eel Weir and Kejimikujik’s many portages and trails are considered stable. The condition of post-contact reserve site resources is unknown, as full inventories have not been completed.

Merrymakedge Burial Ground – The burial ground at Merrymakedge is considered stable. At the request of the Mi’kmaq, a surrounding fence was removed and trails have been re-routed to respect privacy wishes. Access to this area is restricted for Mi’kmaw spiritual purposes.⁷

Archaeological and Historical Objects – All of the archaeological and historical objects related to the national historic site’s designation have been fully inventoried and recorded and are in stable condition. They are housed in a Parks Canada storage facility in Halifax. As such, these resources are not currently available for public presentation purposes.

Locally and Regionally Significant Resources These resources include other historical petroglyphs (such as settlers’ names and dates), stone cairns marking the route of historical log runs through Kejimikujik, a memorial stone in the burial ground (erected in 1931), traces of commercial fisheries (such as the fish hatchery), remnants of farms, gold mines, saw mills, and recreation facilities (such as the Rod and Gun club and the Minard cabins), archaeological objects (including lumbering and gold mining items), and historical objects (including original George Creed drawing sets from 1887 and 1888).

Archaeological Resources – A comprehensive survey of locally and regionally significant archaeological resources has not been completed. Although all major sites are likely

known, their locations have not been recorded. Some known sites are being impacted by natural forest regeneration. Kejimikujik will work with the Mi’kmaq to identify research gaps and carry out additional archaeological surveys, as considered mutually appropriate.

Archaeological and Historical Objects – All of the locally and regionally significant archaeological and historical objects are considered stable and are mostly stored and presented at Kejimikujik. A small number of objects are stored in Halifax.

7.2.3 Kejimikujik Seaside

There are a number of regionally and locally significant cultural resources at Kejimikujik Seaside that have historical and cultural importance. These include an 18th century Loyalist homestead, several 19th-century fishers’ homesteads, the mid-19th-century family homestead of African-Nova Scotian Jeremiah Downey, and the 19th- and 20th-century Kinney farm development which includes the St. Catherine’s River Lagoon canal drainage, evidence of sheep ranching on Port Joli Head, and the remains of the Kinney family homestead on Black Point.

Cultural resources at Kejimikujik Seaside have been inventoried and their condition is generally stable. The development of a Cultural Resource Value Statement to define heritage values associated with these cultural resources has been identified as a long-term goal for Kejimikujik Seaside.

7.2.4 Messages

Kejimikujik’s CIS identifies a number of messages of national, regional, and local significance that are related to Kejimikujik’s cultural resources. These messages are communicated to the public through interpretation and public outreach education initiatives and speak to both the cultural landscape as well as the individual resources within it. Interpretation at Kejimikujik Seaside also incorporates human history themes.

⁷ Direction concerning activity in the vicinity of the Merrymakedge burial ground will be developed collaboratively with the Mi’kmaq and will be subject to the Parks Canada Directive on Human Remains and Funerary Objects.

Kejimkujik delivers these messages through various programs, described in detail in chapter eight. Communicating these messages is a priority, as commemorative integrity requires not just the protection of resources, but public awareness and understanding of their values. Enhancing communication of messages relating to cultural heritage also presents a significant opportunity to enhance and enrich visitor experience.

7.2.5 Inventory, Research, and Monitoring
Parks Canada aims to better understand its cultural resources and their related values in order to achieve resource protection objectives, enhance visitor experience opportunities, and support public outreach education programs. Kejimkujik has completed inventories and undertaken research initiatives in both the inland portion and Kejimkujik Seaside. Future efforts will improve the understanding of

Kejimkujik – A Place Where Nature and Culture are Respected, Intertwined, and Inseparable



Andrea Drake, Friends of Keji Cooperating Association

In 1993, Parks Canada staff initiated consultations with the Mi'kmaq regarding the possible designation of the Kejimkujik petroglyphs as being of national historic significance. Through discussions with Mi'kmaw leaders, it became clear that the importance of Kejimkujik to Mi'kmaw history and culture extended well beyond the petroglyphs and designation of the area as a whole should be considered. In 1995, thanks largely to Mi'kmaw input, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada recommended the designation of Kejimkujik as a cultural landscape. Through their ongoing involvement in many of Kejimkujik's activ-

ities and programs, the Mi'kmaq continue to broaden staff and visitors' understanding of the interrelationship between nature and culture. For many Mi'kmaq, ecological integrity and commemorative integrity at Kejimkujik National Park and National Historic Site are not just integrated – they are one and the same. As we move forward, Parks Canada will strive to work closely with the Mi'kmaq to deepen our understanding and respect of Mi'kmaw perspectives and to facilitate new and enhanced opportunities for visitors to discover the many ways that nature and culture at Kejimkujik are intertwined and inseparable.

resources and values related to the following priority areas: backcountry canoe and portage routes, traditional-use plants (including black ash), reserve site genealogies, and the stories associated with the people who lived in Kejimikujik inland, Kejimikujik Seaside, and the surrounding area.

Parks Canada will conduct a Commemorative Integrity Evaluation to assess the condition of cultural resources, the effectiveness of cultural resource management practices, and the presentation of key messages at Kejimikujik. An interim assessment of the state of the cultural resources will be conducted for the State of the Park and Site Report by 2010.

7.3 STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Goal

The cultural resources that attest to Kejimikujik's rich history are not impaired or under threat and their values are respected, understood, celebrated, and communicated.

Actions:

1. Build relationships with organizations and institutions that share Parks Canada's cultural resource protection and presentation mandate, including Mi'kmaq organizations, academic institutions, the provincial Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage, museums, local communities, and heritage organizations.
2. To work with representatives of the Mi'kmaq communities to identify and carry out Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge studies as considered mutually appropriate.
3. Complete cultural resource inventories and evaluations at Kejimikujik inland and Kejimikujik Seaside.
4. Conduct research in identified priority areas (see section 7.2.5).
5. Evaluate cultural resource condition and the effectiveness of cultural resource management at Kejimikujik in the 2010 State of the Park and Site Report and by completing a Commemorative Integrity Evaluation for the national historic site by 2011.
6. Work with the Mi'kmaq and other partners to complete a comprehensive cultural resource management plan (for both the inland portion of Kejimikujik and Kejimikujik Seaside), which will include strategies for conservation, maintenance, record keeping, storage, and monitoring by 2012.
7. Explore options for permanently documenting, recording, and presenting the petroglyphs.
8. Share archaeological information with the Mi'kmaq, identify research gaps, and carry out additional archaeological surveys, as considered mutually appropriate.
9. Explore infrastructure options for on-site presentation of archaeological and historical objects by 2012 and explore options for visitors to learn about and discover these objects.

8.0 Visitor Experience



Dale Wilson

Parks Canada is committed to facilitating opportunities for meaningful and enjoyable visitor experiences at Kejimikujik, whether they involve a walk along the coastal shores of Kejimikujik Seaside or a backcountry canoe trip along historical Mi'kmaw travel routes. These visitor experiences facilitate opportunities for visitors to create a personal connection to the physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual aspects of Kejimikujik.

8.1 CURRENT SITUATION

8.1.1 Collaboration

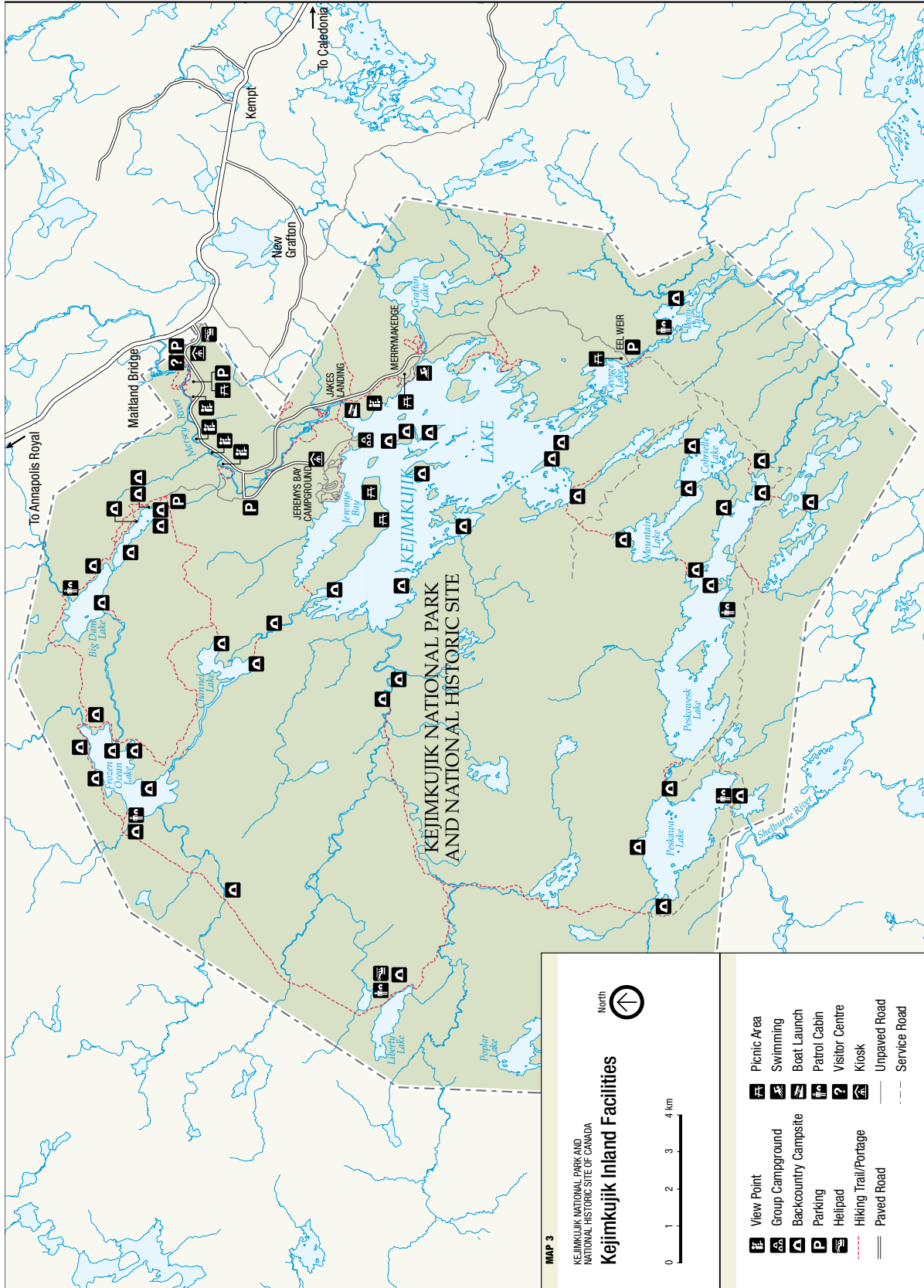
Parks Canada collaborates with local and regional partners to help promote and facilitate tourism in southwest Nova Scotia. Parks Canada is interested in working more closely with Destination Southwest Nova Tourism

Association, the provincial Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage, local tour, service and accommodation providers, and Kejimikujik's dedicated repeat campers. Collaboration efforts will focus on social science research, product development, and promotion.

8.1.2 Kejimikujik Inland

Kejimikujik is a place where turtles bask along slow-moving rivers and white-tailed deer slip silently through tranquil forests; a place where friends and family meet to spend time with each other, explore nature, and learn about the land and its people.

Kejimikujik inland is a year-round destination for overnight campers and day-use visitors alike. It features abundant lakes and rivers, lush woodlands, gentle rolling landscapes, Mi'kmaw heritage canoe routes, an elaborate



system of backcountry campsites, beautiful front-country campgrounds, and exceptional hiking trails (see Map 3: Kejimikujik Inland Facilities).

Visitor Centre

The Visitor Centre welcomes visitors and is the ideal place to discover Kejimikujik through a variety of interpretive displays, games, pamphlets, and an audiovisual program. It is also a great place to learn about opportunities to experience the park and site. All backcountry campers are required to register here, where they receive important weather and safety information. The Visitor Centre includes a Friends of Keji gift shop that sells unique items, many of which offer further opportunities to learn about Kejimikujik.

Frontcountry Camping

Kejimikujik is a favourite spot for frontcountry camping. Jeremy's Bay Campground provides wooded, lakeshore camping on Kejimikujik Lake and has 360 non-serviced campsites and a number of other facilities, including trails, playgrounds, washrooms, and showers. The majority of Kejimikujik visitors camp here and use it as a base for their activities, including recreational and social opportunities and the chance to participate in learning programs and events. Group camping opportunities are offered in Jim Charles Point Group Campground.

Backcountry Canoeing and Camping

Kejimikujik is well known as an ideal place for canoeing. By using the craft of the early Mi'kmaq, visitors enjoy an unfolding natural and cultural landscape as they travel along gentle rivers to small lakes and across the island-studded expanse of Kejimikujik Lake. Kejimikujik has one of the largest systems of backcountry trails, portages and backcountry campsites (46 in total) of all national parks in Canada – providing exceptional opportunities for visitors to camp in unspoiled, peaceful wilderness. Most backcountry campers travel by canoe and kayak but some also hike, bike, ski, and snowshoe.

Kejimikujik's backcountry is linked with the adjacent provincial Tobeatic Wilderness Area

and the Shelburne River. Some hikers and paddlers enjoy regional experiences that combine elements in both protected areas.

Recreational Activities

Kejimikujik provides a diverse range of recreational opportunities supported by well developed trail and road networks and infrastructure. Some of these trails and facilities were upgraded in the early 1990s to better suit visitors with special needs. Every season has its allure, with a menu of opportunities that include swimming during the heat of summer, biking amidst the brilliant colours of autumn, photographing the first blossoming of spring, and snowshoeing on clear bright winter days. Many local visitors come to fish, predominantly in the spring.

Opportunities for Discovery and Learning

Parks Canada strives to facilitate opportunities of learning and discovery that meet the needs and interests of visitors so that they may create a strong connection to Kejimikujik. Opportunities for adults and children to discover and learn about Kejimikujik's special natural and cultural heritage include guided walks, hikes, paddles, and bike rides, daytime and evening outdoor theatre presentations, an encampment program, and special events. There are also numerous opportunities for visitors to engage in Kejimikujik's ecosystem management program through "citizen science" activities, including contributions to monitoring, research, and species at risk recovery (see page 25). In 2009, 970 visitors engaged in citizen science activities at Kejimikujik.

Visitors also enjoy cultural experiences at Kejimikujik. Mi'kmaw guardian interpreters lead tours to the petroglyphs and the encampment site, which offer visitors unique opportunities to experience the Mi'kmaw cultural landscape. Merrymakedge has a restricted area that is an important place for Mi'kmaw ceremonies and spiritual gatherings associated with their special relationship with Kejimikujik's natural and cultural resources. A Mi'kmaw interpreter guardian must accompany visitors wishing to access this area.

Parks Canada and partners facilitate further opportunities for enjoyment and discovery

by hosting a variety of special events, including Park Day, Kejimikujik's birthday, Canada Day celebrations, and other ceremonies.

8.1.3 Kejimikujik Seaside

Kejimikujik Seaside is a coastal paradise where visitors experience the wonder of nature. The glacier-carved headlands, expansive white-sand beaches, and secluded rocky coves set the stage for visitors to explore, breathe in the salty ocean air, and watch the seals play in the distance.

Kejimikujik Seaside is an ideal day-hiking destination to experience a wild and isolated stretch of Nova Scotia's Atlantic Coast. Kejimikujik Seaside is operated seasonally from mid-May through October. Services and infrastructure are minimal and include an administration office and entrance kiosk, washrooms, and hardened trails. (see Map 4: Kejimikujik Seaside Facilities).

Opportunities for Enjoyment, Learning, and Discovery

Parks Canada aims to facilitate opportunities for visitors to enjoy, discover, and learn about this coastal wilderness. A key visitor opportunity is the walk along the coastal headland trail,⁸ which routes through a variety of different ecosystems containing unique natural resources. Visitors also enjoy walking along the beaches, wildlife viewing (particularly seals), bird watching, wild flower identification, picnicking, and photography. Interpretation at Kejimikujik Seaside includes signage and telescopes along trails, panels, and brochures (available at the entrance kiosk). Parks Canada has provided intermittent personal programming at Kejimikujik Seaside including guided walks which have been well received by visitors.

Visitors Experience Mi'kmaw Petroglyphs

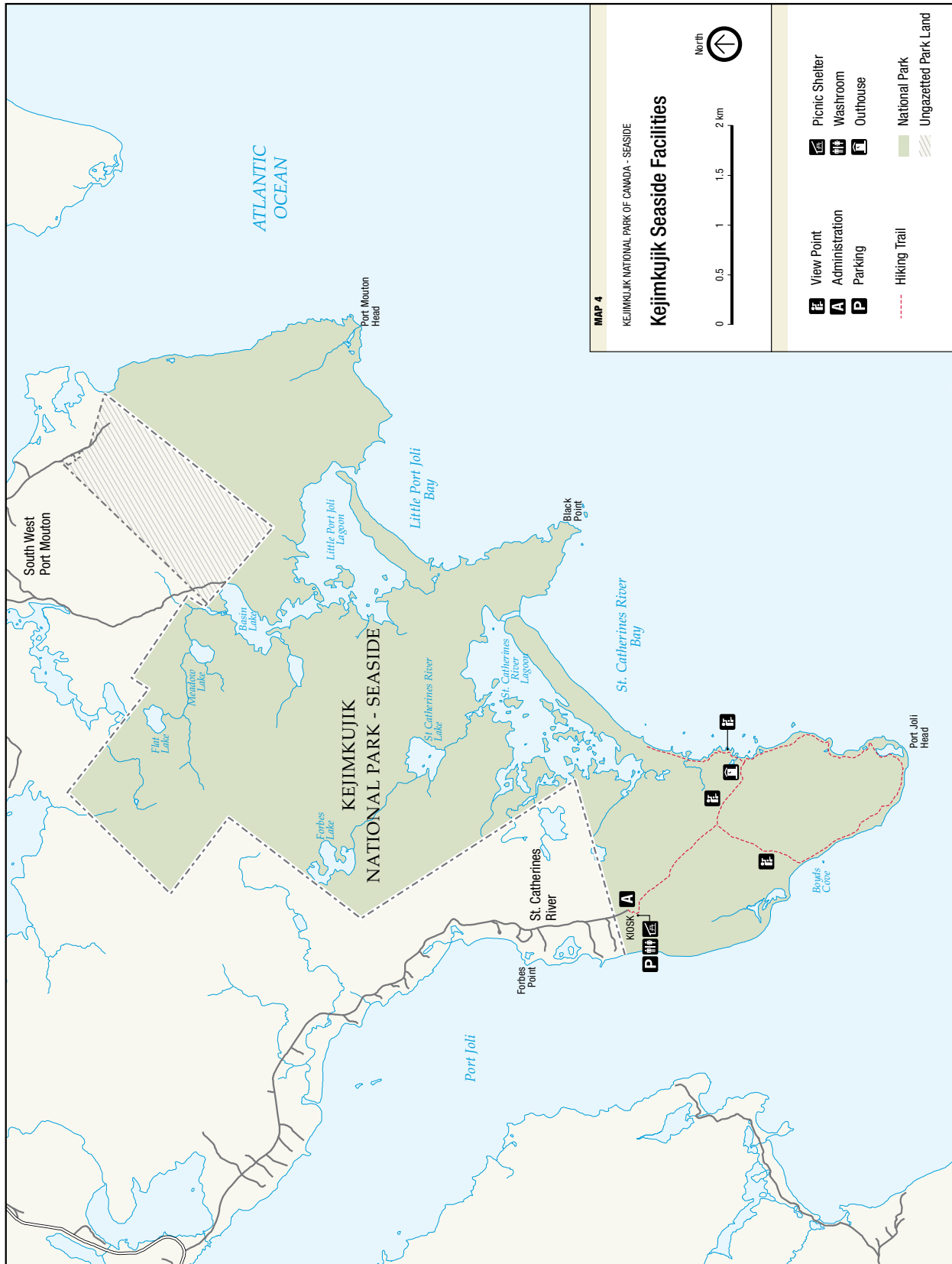


Jean Augustine-McIsaac

During the summer season, Mi'kmaw interpreters conduct a variety of regularly scheduled guided programs which provide visitors with exciting opportunities to learn about Mi'kmaw history and culture. The most popular of these, the petroglyph tour,

takes visitors on a journey back through time to experience pictorial etchings found on the slate outcrops along the lake shore. Kejimikujik is home to over 500 images, one of the largest collections in eastern North America.

⁸ A portion of the trail on St. Catherine's River beach is closed during the nesting season of endangered piping plover.



8.2 VISITOR EXPERIENCE TRENDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Visitation at Kejimikujik – including the number of visitors who come, the composition of their parties, and their needs and preferences while at the park and site – is largely shaped by demographics, tourism trends, and visitors’ personal values and travel motivations. Current trends of particular significance include Canada’s increasingly urbanized and aging population, as well as the decrease in American tourism to Canada. Social science research and input from visitors and stakeholders provides insight into the trends and the changing motivations, interests, and expectations of visitors, which, in turn, helps guide decision-making.

8.2.1 Visitor Experience Research, Monitoring, and Reporting

Parks Canada is developing a comprehensive research strategy to understand and respond to visitation trends, to monitor and report on visitor experience, and to guide management direction. This includes utilizing external information and social science research to understand visitors’ motivations and preferences, to assess satisfaction with existing products, and explore future opportunities.

Recent research that supports the facilitation of visitor experience at Kejimikujik includes:

- Visitation statistics (on-going).
- 2005 Jeremy’s Bay Campground survey which provided in-depth information on Kejimikujik’s front-country campers.
- 2006 Visitor Information Program (VIP) – a survey that provided information on visitor demographics, assesses visitor satisfaction levels with facilities, services, and programs, and is conducted every 5 years.

- 2006-07 Patterns of Use Study which analyzed visitor travel patterns while at Kejimikujik.
- 2008 Visitor Experience Assessment which explored the state of visitor experience through a multi-disciplinary analysis process.
- 2008 Accommodation Pilot Project which included two surveys. One of the surveys assessed visitor satisfaction with existing campground amenities and identified the types of services that might better meet their needs. The other assessed visitor satisfaction with a pilot “Internet Café”, which continues to provide internet services to visitors at Kejimikujik inland.

Highlights of existing research are found in the following section of this plan (8.2.2).

Research priorities in the coming years will be on developing a greater understanding of changing tourism and demographic trends as well as understanding the needs, interests, and expectations of current and potential visitors based on their personal values and travel motivations. Kejimikujik will also develop baselines relative to Parks Canada’s performance expectations for visitor experience (that are found in the Agency’s corporate plan), such as the percentage of visitors who enjoyed their visit and the percentage who consider Kejimikujik to be meaningful to them. Once baselines are established, Kejimikujik will strive to improve upon them and meet or exceed corporate targets.

Results of this research, an assessment of the condition and trends of visitor experience, and an assessment of the effectiveness of visitor experience activities and programs will be presented in the 2010 State of the Park and Site Report and subsequent State of the Park and Site Reports produced every five years.

8.2.2 Visitation Trends

Kejimikujik Inland

In recent years, Kejimikujik inland has been hosting an average of approximately 44,000 person-visits per year,⁹ or approximately 136,000 person-days of use.¹⁰ In 2006, the year of the last Visitor Information Program (VIP), approximately two-thirds of visitors to Kejimikujik Inland (68%) were repeat users from Nova Scotia, with the remaining visitors coming from overseas (13%), the U.S. (9%), and other Canadian provinces (10%).

The majority of visitors (63% in 2006) camp inside the park and over half of the groups who camp include children.¹¹ Many campers have been coming for generations and return frequently throughout the summer. This segment of Kejimikujik's visitor audience – referred to as the "Habitual Camping" segment – spend most of their time socializing, relaxing, biking and/or canoeing or kayaking, and participating in camping-related activities.

The other main segment of Kejimikujik inland's audience consists primarily of visitors who come for the sites and experiences afforded by a day trip. The most popular activities they engage in include walking or hiking, stopping at the Visitor Center, and picnicking. This segment includes both local and international visitors and most are first-time visitors.

Visitation at Kejimikujik has been declining over the last decade, with approximately 52,000 visitors in the late 1990s, and a low of 41,204 in 2008/09. Decreased use is chiefly associated with a decline in visitation amongst Nova Scotians who camp in the park – Kejimikujik inland's largest visitor group. Between 2002 and 2006 the percentage of campers who were Nova Scotian fell from 90% to 68%. A number of actions identified in this management plan are designed to address the challenges of declining visitation. Parks



Peter Hope

Canada will work towards increasing visitation by at least 10% by 2015.

In 2006, 16% of visitors to Kejimikujik inland were 60 or older. The percentage of the Canadian population of people 50 and over is projected to increase from 32% to 42% by 2026. Increase in this group and associated demand for preferred services like electrified RV campsites is anticipated.

As a national historic site that commemorates a significant Mi'kmaq cultural landscape, Parks Canada is endeavouring to support increased use of Kejimikujik by the Mi'kmaq. Due to special events and use by schools and community groups, the numbers of Mi'kmaq who come to Kejimikujik is increasing, but still represent less than three percent of total inland use.

During consultation for this management plan, many partners, stakeholders, and repeat visitors/campers expressed concern regarding Kejimikujik's decreased visitation and provided suggestions for improving the visitor experience offer and increasing promotional efforts (discussed in section 8.2.3).

Kejimikujik Seaside

Kejimikujik Seaside is also facing a downward trend in visitation, receiving an average of approximately 14,000 in the last few years, compared to approximately 18,000 in the early

⁹ This is the approximate average of 2004/05 to 2008/09 visitation numbers. Each time a person passes through the Kejimikujik entrance kiosk they are recorded as a person-visit. Same-day re-entries and re-entries by visitors staying over-night do not constitute a new person-visit.

¹⁰ "Person-days" are essentially "person-visits" multiplied by the average length of stay expressed in days. As such, the average length of stay at Kejimikujik is 3.09 days per person.

¹¹ Approximately 19,000 Jeremy's Bay site-nights are booked each year, corresponding to approximately 67,000 annual person-nights. Approximately 2,700 back-country site-nights are booked each year, which corresponds to 8,000 annual backcountry person-nights.

2000s. At the Seaside, where 70% of use is from outside Nova Scotia, American users have decreased from 36% in 2003 to 19.5% in 2009. Use by European visitors and those from other parts of Canada have remained fairly stable at approximately 20% for both.

The vast majority of visitors are adults and seniors (85% in 2006) with only 15% of visitors being families with children under 16. Sixty-eight percent are first-time visitors to Kejimikujik Seaside and 65% also visit the inland portion of Kejimikujik.

8.2.3 Trends and Opportunities Associated with Kejimikujik's Visitor Experience Offer

Following are the results of social science research and public, visitor, and stakeholder input on specific aspects of Kejimikujik's visitor experience offer:

Camping

Jeremy's Bay and backcountry camping numbers have decreased in recent years. Group camping was down 16% in 2008, compared to the 1997-2007 average and the number of person-nights spent in the backcountry has dropped an average of 2.7% annually since 2000.

Parks Canada has conducted significant research to assess camping trends and the needs and expectations of current campers at Kejimikujik. The 2005 Jeremy's Bay Campground Survey (2005) identified the characteristics of camping that are most important to Kejimikujik's campers. These include peace and quiet, a safe and protected natural environment, opportunities for recreation and socializing, and learning about nature. The study also identified factors that have negatively impacted visitors' experiences, which include noise from other campers and campsites being too close.

The 2008 Accommodation Pilot Project study revealed that there is substantial visitor interest in sites with electrical hook ups (47% of those surveyed). In addition, 48% of those surveyed expressed interest in alternative campground equipment provided by the park, with respondents most interested in rustic cabins with minimal services. The same 2008 study determined that 88% of visitors who util-

ized Kejimikujik's pilot Internet Café found the service enhanced their camping experience.

The topic of Kejimikujik's camping offer generated significant discussion during consultation for this management plan. Visitors (particularly campers during camping meetings), partners, and stakeholders expressed discontent with the current entrance and camping fees and what they perceive as insufficient services for the price. Many have called for updated camping infrastructure to meet the needs of existing and potential markets, especially electrical services, and larger, leveled sites to accommodate recreational vehicles, larger tents, and/or other recreational equipment (such as bikes, canoes, and kayaks). Campers have also expressed support for increased enforcement of regulations (particularly those related to natural resource protection and noise) when rules and guidelines have been well communicated but not adhered to.

There has been mixed response to Parks Canada decision to close the Peskowsk road past the Eel Weir. This decision was made as major modifications to the road, which would be required to meet safety standards, are neither affordable nor compatible with the wilderness character of the area. While the intent of the decision was not to limit backcountry access, some backcountry users oppose the closure as it reduces the access they previously had to some of the backcountry. Other campers support the road closure, feeling that the backcountry should only be accessed by human-powered means.

Learning and Discovery

Opportunities for visitors to learn about the natural and cultural heritage of Kejimikujik has been identified as a priority for many of Kejimikujik's stakeholders and visitors, particularly Keji's repeat campers, with many stressing the importance of providing a wide range of effective interpretive programs and activities for a variety of audiences. Approximately one third of all visitors to Kejimikujik inland partake in experiences that involve interpretive programming and indicate nearly 100% satisfaction ratings for most programs. However, the 2008 Visitor Experience Assessment concluded that the non-personal media (including panels and

other interpretive materials) at Kejimikujik inland is dated and there is currently no interpretation plan for the national historic site.

Although visitor satisfaction with specific aspects of the interpretive offer at Kejimikujik Seaside received high satisfaction ratings, visitor satisfaction with the overall interpretive offer at Kejimikujik Seaside is about 70% (2006 survey) – a figure that does not meet Parks Canada’s satisfaction benchmark of 85%. Partners, stakeholders, and visitors have expressed a keen interest in collaborating with Parks Canada to increase the interpretation offer at Kejimikujik Seaside, including exploring options for personal interpretation and updating exhibits and other media.

Recreation

In 2006, 98% of visitors were either satisfied or very satisfied with their visit to Kejimikujik inland as a recreational experience. At Kejimikujik Seaside, the satisfaction rating for this category was 97%. There have been significant changes in recent years, however, in visitors’ requests and demand for recreational activities. Biking is increasingly popular at Kejimikujik inland which has led to requests for greater trail safety (on trails that combine biking and walking), improved biking trails, and enhanced opportunities for this activity. Since the last management plan review, kayaking and snow-shoeing have emerged as important recreational activities at Kejimikujik. In addition, many visitors have expressed interest in longer, looped hiking trails that are better suited to day-long experiences. Visitors also support the improvement of sightseeing opportunities along existing frontcountry roads and trails. In particular, users of the trail system at Kejimikujik Seaside have suggested that benches be installed at rest stops to enhance opportunities for viewing the ocean scenery.

The use of motorboats, which are permitted on Kejimikujik Lake, generates mixed views; some visitors enjoy using them for fishing while others feel that they impact on the tranquil nature of their experiences.

Safety and Accessibility

Both local stakeholders and visitors have expressed safety concerns with road access (including signage) to Kejimikujik Seaside. In

particular, signage directing visitors to the developed Port Joli end of the park was felt to be inadequate and the intersection at the highway and St. Catherine’s River Road is considered by many to be unsafe.

There is an on-going need to ensure that standards for accessibility are fully considered and implemented in facility/service designs and upgrade. It is necessary to re-engage the organizations which represent people with disabilities to identify needs and opportunities for further improvements.

Sections of the trails at Kejimikujik Seaside are being eroded by wave action from storms. Redirecting small sections of trail to locations further back from the beach is required in some locations.

The West Portion of Kejimikujik Seaside

The subject of the west portion of Kejimikujik Seaside on the Port Mouton side continues to generate dialogue among local communities and stakeholders. Initially, development at Kejimikujik Seaside was planned for the Port Mouton end; however, a high level of use on the Port Joli side, before visitor facilities were established, was resulting in impacts to natural resources. Through consultation with local communities and stakeholders, Parks Canada decided to reverse the order of development to ensure that ecological integrity was not compromised. Some of Parks Canada’s partners, stakeholders, and visitors have communicated that they wish to see the Port Mouton side remain undeveloped while others hope for further infrastructure and facilities. Parks Canada will reserve decision-making regarding the Port Mouton side of Kejimikujik Seaside and will continue to consult and collaborate with interested parties regarding this issue.

8.3 ENHANCING THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE OFFER

In response to public consultation and social science research, Kejimikujik is working with partners to enhance existing programs and services and develop new products, including special events that increase visitation, engage new audiences, and enhance experiences.

8.3.1 Enhancing the Camping Offer

An important service improvement will be undertaken through the development of a visitor experience plan to guide redevelopment of Jeremy's Bay Campground. The plan seeks to better meet the needs and expectations of existing visitors and attract new ones while restoring impacted campground vegetation. The plan will address service enhancements such as electrical hook-ups at some sites and improvements to service buildings, showers, and roads. Other objectives include facilitating new opportunities for youth to enjoy their visit, such as through enhanced bicycling opportunities, and furthering the development of Internet access already piloted through the successful Internet Café. Environmental leadership will be a guiding principle of the redevelopment – with efforts to utilize green products and technology wherever possible. Restoring vegetation and enhancing the resiliency of existing stands will ensure a healthy natural environment while improving visitor experience through planting to improve screening between campsites. Given that the campground will need to continue to be operational and the scope and scale of the project, the plan will be implemented in stages over several years.

8.3.2 Enhancing Learning and Discovery

Parks Canada aims to facilitate a range of engaging and enjoyable learning opportunities that enhance experiences, inspire discovery, instill a sense of pride and respect, and promote natural and cultural resource stewardship. Based on visitor feedback and social science research, Kejimikujik will upgrade and update natural and cultural interpretive media, including panels and other materials for both Kejimikujik inland and Kejimikujik Seaside. Parks Canada will also work with partners in an effort to establish a regularly scheduled personal interpretation program at Kejimikujik Seaside.

Interpretive Planning

Another priority is to develop an interpretive plan for the national historic site that will enhance opportunities for visitors to learn about and discover Mi'kmaw cultural heritage at Kejimikujik. This plan will be based upon

messages relating to the Mi'kmaw cultural landscape that are found in Kejimikujik's CIS that have been developed into themes in collaboration with the Mi'kmaw Network (Table 1, following page). These themes centre around the reason Kejimikujik was designed as a national historic site:

The cultural landscape of Kejimikujik attests to Mi'kmaw occupancy of this area since time immemorial, and includes petroglyph sites, habitation sites, fishing sites, hunting territories, travel routes, and burials.

A number of principles will guide the development of this interpretation plan, including:

- All interpretation will be developed collaboratively with the Mi'kmaq;
- Mi'kmaw heritage information will not be simply added on to national park messaging; rather, it will be woven into existing programming;
- The story of the Mi'kmaw cultural landscape, including present day, will be told from a Mi'kmaw perspective; and
- Mi'kmaw staff will deliver all personal programming that interprets the Mi'kmaw cultural landscape.

The collaborative development of an accurate and authentic interpretation plan for the Mi'kmaw cultural landscape will take time. Once complete, Kejimikujik will implement the national historic site interpretation plan with the existing national park interpretation plan (1996) (see Appendix D), resulting in programs that present both natural and cultural perspectives while highlighting what is unique and important about each.

8.3.3 Enhancing Recreation

In response to visitor feedback and social science research, Parks Canada will strive to meet visitors' changing needs and expectations with regard to recreational opportunities. Parks Canada will be responsive to emerging recreation trends, particularly a growing interest in cycling, as well as increasing interest in hiking, snow-shoeing, and kayaking, by providing a wider range of opportunities throughout the year. Detailed actions regarding enhancing

Table 1 Kejimikujik National Historic Site Interpretation Themes

Kepmite'tmnej ta'n wtapeksulti'kw... Let us honour where we come from	The geographical and historical context of <i>Kespukwitk</i> and its relationship to Kejimikujik's cultural landscape.
Walking in the Footprints of the Ancestors	Establishment and use of waterways, portages, and trails both by the <i>Ancestors</i> and by people today.
Wsitqamu'k "Pieces from Our World – 4000 years"	Information gathered throughout archaeological sites within a 4000-year span that includes pre-contact period along with the various objects recovered.
Relationships with the Land	How the Mi'kmaq learn about and interact with their environment.
Post-Contact Changes	Changes that took place in the lives of the Mi'kmaw people with the arrival of the Europeans 500 years ago.
Mi'kmaw Story – Written in Stone	The stories and information that can be derived from the petroglyph images.
Spiritual Connections	The connection between the Kejimikujik landscape and the spiritual beliefs of the Mi'kmaw people.

recreation at Kejimikujik are outlined in Section 8.5.

8.4 MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Pre-trip and On-site Communications

Parks Canada aims to provide visitors with accurate and timely information in order for them to make knowledgeable and safe decisions regarding opportunities to experience Kejimikujik. Each year, Kejimikujik produces a Visitors' Guide that contains information on a range of topics including camping, recreational, cultural, and learning activities, safety, and available services in the local community. This guide is available, free of charge, to all visitors. Pre-trip planning tools include the vacation planner and the Kejimikujik Web site, which currently contains limited information for potential visitors. The Web site will be updated, modernized and consistently refreshed in the coming years to meet trip-planning needs.

Promotion

Parks Canada will develop promotion opportunities with partners to increase visitation and camping at Kejimikujik inland and day-use at Kejimikujik Seaside.

Based on internal social science research and analysis of tourism and demographic trends, Kejimikujik inland promotion efforts will target the following markets: Mi'kmaw communities in Atlantic Canada, Nova Scotia residents (with emphasis on local communities, metro Halifax residents, new Canadians, retirees, and youth), residents of other Atlantic provinces, Europeans, visitors staying with local accommodation operators, and new and existing repeat campers. Kejimikujik Seaside target markets will include: Nova Scotia residents (with emphasis on local communities, metro Halifax residents, new Canadians, retirees, and youth), visitors staying with local accommodation operators, and Quebec and New England residents.

Kejimikujik's marketing and communication efforts to date have focused on its recreational opportunities. Future marketing will highlight the breadth and depth of

Kejimikujik's visitor experience offer, including cultural opportunities and historic site themes. Efforts will also be made to improve cross-promotion of Kejimikujik inland, Kejimikujik Seaside, Tobetic Wilderness Area, and Thomas H. Raddall Provincial Park opportunities.

The results of research will inform how promotion efforts will be targeted to specific markets. For instance, fall promotion will target European audiences, as Europeans tend to visit Nova Scotia during the shoulder season. Parks Canada will also enhance communications with visitors post-visit to keep them informed about different opportunities and encourage repeat visitation.

8.5 STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Goal:

Visitors have multiple opportunities to enjoy and discover Kejimikujik's diverse natural systems and rich cultural landscape. Through meaningful experiences, visitors develop a sense of connection to Kejimikujik.

Actions:

Research, Monitoring, and Reporting

1. Conduct research to better understand Kejimikujik's target markets' motivations, needs, interests, and preferences and attract new markets. Develop and adjust Kejimikujik's offer accordingly.
2. Conduct research to evaluate the state of visitor experience and management effectiveness in facilitating visitor experience. Report on findings in the 2010 State of the Park and Site Report and in the next "State of" report to be completed prior to the next management plan review.
3. Using the 2009-10 baseline of 42,500, increase visitation by at least 10% to achieve a target of approximately 46,750 visitors by 2015.

Enhancing the Visitor Experience Offer

4. With partners (including the Destination Southwest Tourism Association, Aboriginal tourism, local tourism operators, recreational equipment retailers, and long-term campers) explore opportunities for enhanced experiential and learning opportunities to meet the needs of current and potential visitors as well as partner-initiated special events.
5. Continue to upgrade and update natural and cultural non-personal media (including panels and other materials) for both Kejimikujik inland and Kejimikujik Seaside.
6. Improve on-site communications of the full-range of programs and activities available to visitors.

Enhancing the Visitor Experience Offer:

Kejimikujik Inland

7. Based on extensive social science research and input from visitors and stakeholders, prepare a visitor experience plan to guide the redevelopment of Jeremy's Bay Campground by 2011 to meet current and future visitor needs and expectations.¹² Given the scope and scale of the project, implementation will be phased over several years.
8. Work with the Mi'kmaq, other partners and stakeholders to complete and implement interpretation plans in an integrated manner.
9. Assess and improve recreational opportunities according to visitor input and social science research. This will involve:
 - Improving select frontcountry trails to better accommodate multiple uses by 2011;
 - Reviewing both front and backcountry biking experiences and increasing opportunities where feasible by 2011;
 - Improving looped, backcountry hiking opportunities on existing trails and roads by 2012;

¹² The campground plan will evaluate and include recommendations for sites, facilities, trails, services, and improvements for operational efficiencies.

- Investigating opportunities to better facilitate backcountry experiences that include Kejimikujik, the provincial Tobeatic Wilderness Area, and the Shelburne River; and
 - Continuing to manage vegetation to ensure viewpoints are maintained.
10. Review the shoulder and winter season service and facility offer¹³ with the aim to improve opportunities and encourage use.
 11. Explore infrastructure options for on-site presentation of archaeological and historical objects by 2012 and options for visitors to learn about and discover these objects.
 12. Explore the feasibility of a low-cost alternative for visitors to access the Peskowek road past the Eel Weir.
 13. Discontinue the use of two-cycle outboard motors on Kejimikujik Lake by 2012 and encourage the use of electric motors.

***Enhancing the Visitor Experience Offer:
Kejimikujik Seaside***

14. Based on social science data, offer a minimum of one guided event per week at Kejimikujik Seaside during the peak operations season and explore options for other programming.
15. Install benches at resting and at viewpoints that visitor input and patterns of use studies indicate will enhance visitor experience.

Prevention, Safety, and Accessibility

16. Implement prevention programs aimed at protecting resources and ensuring a quality visitor experience in collaboration with park visitors with particular emphasis on Jeremy's Bay Campground, wilderness campsites, and Kejimikujik Seaside. Complete a visitor risk management plan by 2010.
17. Work with accessibility stakeholders to improve service and infrastructure for visitors with special needs.
18. By 2010, re-align eroded areas of the trail at Kejimikujik Seaside.
19. Work with provincial government partners to improve the St. Catherine's road intersection design, roadside clearing, and signage.
20. Enhance public safety through pre-trip planning and on-site communications.

Pre-trip Planning and Promotions

21. Increase targeted promotional efforts for priority audiences with partners to position Kejimikujik inland and Kejimikujik Seaside as "must see" destinations in southwestern Nova Scotia.
22. Improve Web site promotional and pre-trip planning capacities and explore the potential to host a web-based backcountry campsite reservation system.

¹³ Including road clearing, grooming, cabins, warming huts, Visitor Centre services, etc.

9.0 Public Outreach Education



Every autumn, Kejimikujik interpreters go out and visit schools near the park and site. Jonathan Sheppard

Parks Canada aims to reach out to Canadians through communication and public outreach education opportunities designed to increase awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the significance of Parks Canada's heritage places and the importance of protecting and presenting them. This includes reaching out to Canadians so they may discover, learn about, and create a personal sense of connection to Kejimikujik. Outreach programs foster an awareness and understanding of the natural and cultural values of Kejimikujik and aim to encourage shared leadership and active participation in supporting this special heritage place. Parks Canada's efforts to engage stakeholders and partners in the protection and presentation of Kejimikujik are outlined in the Collaboration and Shared Leadership Chapter (5.0) and throughout the plan.

9.1 CURRENT SITUATION

Parks Canada collaborates with numerous individuals, organizations, and institutions that share our public outreach education mandate including the Mi'kmaq, local communities, academic institutions, teachers and students in local schools, and non-governmental organizations. One of Kejimikujik's public outreach education priorities has been to develop and deliver programs to local and regional elementary and middle schools.

Parks Canada partners with local elementary schools to deliver both in-school programming and on-site activities. These programs are linked to curriculum and facilitate opportunities for students to be active stewards of Kejimikujik, including contributing to Kejimikujik's monitoring and research programs. Kejimikujik has also developed cultural heritage outreach programs that are delivered to middle schools located in local and regional Mi'kmaq communities as well

as other schools that have high Aboriginal student enrolment. In 2009, 20 schools were involved with Kejimkujik's outreach education programming, reaching approximately 650 children. One of Kejimkujik's main outreach programs for youth – Keji Quest (see below) – is supported by a Web site that is hosted by the Friends of Keji Cooperating Association. The Web site provides information, activities, games, photos, and videos for students, as well as activities, workbooks, and tool kits for teachers, parents, and chaperones. Response

to Kejimkujik's outreach education programs among teachers, parents, and students has been overwhelmingly positive.

In addition to reaching out to children at school, Parks Canada seeks to engage Canadians with Kejimkujik at home, at leisure, and in their communities. Extensive outreach is conducted with local communities, particularly by encouraging and supporting local peoples' substantial volunteer contributions to Kejimkujik and the greater Kejimkujik ecosystem of southwest Nova Scotia. Volunteer

Reaching out to Youth: the Keji Quest Program



Andrea Drake, Friends of Keji Cooperating Association

A great example of Kejimkujik's public outreach education programs is the Keji Quest, which provides Grade 4 students with curriculum-linked nature activities or programs while involving them in the Kejimkujik's ecological monitoring and reporting program. Following extensive development work and pilot testing, the park focused the program on two field measures – salamander abundance and the rate of soil decay. Keji Quest includes pre-visits to participating schools, onsite

activities at Kejimkujik and monitoring plots, and post-visit follow up. Teachers are encouraged to have students continue monitoring changes in their environment through activities such as Leaf Watch and Ice Watch, which collect vital data for the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Network's (EMAN) Nature Watch program. Results from this program are integrated in the Parks Canada's ecological integrity monitoring and reporting program.

programs such as the piping plover guardians' program, Blanding's turtle nest protection, loon watch, monitoring and beach cleanup, and the campground host program constitute outreach success stories at Kejimikujik. For example, a more detailed description of visitor and volunteer involvement with species at risk can be found on page 25.

Communication tools, such as the Kejimikujik Web site, are also critical to reaching out to Canadians. Although the Web site currently provides information on the natural and cultural heritage of the park and site, visitor experience opportunities, and pre-trip planning, it requires improvement to further engage and be relevant to Canadians. Other important communication tools include publications, such as newsletters, and other media. For example, Kejimikujik partners with the Friends of Keji, the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute, Bear River First Nation, Bird Studies Canada, and Acadia University to produce the "Volunteers News" – a newsletter that is distributed annually throughout the region, providing updates on volunteer contributions and opportunities that are happening in and around Kejimikujik and the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve. Kejimikujik staff also conducts regular feature interviews on local radio, discussing a range of activities at the site and park, including natural and cultural interpretation, citizen science, and special events.

9.2 ENHANCING PUBLIC OUTREACH EDUCATION

Parks Canada has recently reasserted its commitment to public outreach education and has conducted an internal reorganization to more effectively deliver this priority. Increasing educational outreach efforts was also identified as a key opportunity by a majority of the partners, stakeholders, and visitors involved in this management planning process.

Kejimikujik will work to strengthen relationships with the Mi'kmaq, local communities, academic institutions, local elementary, middle, and high schools, and non-governmental organizations to build upon existing and create new public outreach education and external communications programs and products.

Parks Canada is also committed to furthering opportunities for Canadians to discover Kejimikujik wherever they may be. To this end, Parks Canada has dedicated resources to enhance and continuously refresh the Kejimikujik Web site to inspire discovery of the park and site. Parks Canada will also proactively strengthen relationships with local and regional media to raise the profile of Kejimikujik and explore opportunities to utilize a variety of social media to reach Canadians who cannot personally visit the park and site. Parks Canada will also be assessing and identifying opportunities for outreach products and opportunities that are relevant to and will reach urban audiences.

Identified priority audiences include Mi'kmaq communities and organizations in Atlantic Canada, local communities, local and urban youth, university research groups, and volunteer groups. In the coming years, Kejimikujik will also be putting greater emphasis on reaching out to urban and new Canadians, especially those in metro Halifax.

9.3 MONITORING AND REPORTING

Parks Canada is in the process of developing a national program that will measure Canadians' level of awareness and understanding of Parks Canada's administered places. Kejimikujik is developing and implementing activities and programs to help achieve the national objectives and contribute to the national outcome. Kejimikujik will also measure the effectiveness of its activities and programs in reaching targeted outreach audiences. This information will be presented in State of the Park and Site Reports.

9.4 STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Goals

Public outreach education programs enhance opportunities for Canadians to enjoy, discover, and learn about Kejimikujik's diverse natural systems and rich cultural landscape at home, at leisure, at school, and in their communities. These programs encourage natural and cultural heritage stewardship, relate to individuals' personal lives, and provide an opportunity to create a connection to Kejimikujik.

Actions:

1. Conduct social science research to monitor, report, and guide management decisions on Canadians' sense of connection to Kejimikujik.
2. Evaluate the state of public outreach education and management effectiveness in achieving public outreach education goals. Report on findings in the 2010 State of the Park and Site Report and in the next "State of" report to be completed prior to the next management plan review.
3. Based on social science research, continue to create and deliver learning opportunities for youth (including the curriculum program) in collaboration with educational partners (including Mi'kmaw and provincial school boards, non-governmental organizations, and teachers).
4. Refresh and consistently update the Kejimikujik Web site to facilitate inspiring discovery of Kejimikujik for Canadians at home, at leisure, at school, and in their communities.
5. Continue to support and enhance volunteer programs.
6. Work with local and provincial media to increase the profile of Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site and enhance appreciation for the Parks Canada brand.
7. Develop a strategy to reach out to urban audiences, particularly youth and new Canadians.

10.0 Zoning and Declared Wilderness Areas

Zoning is an integrated approach by which land and water areas are classified according to ecosystem and cultural resource protection requirements and their capability to provide opportunities for visitor experiences. Zoning is also an important tool for ensuring that rare and/or sensitive ecological and cultural resources have strong protection.

Kejimikujik's zoning system is complex, due in part to the area's role in protecting its large concentration of species at risk (see Map 5: Kejimikujik Inland Zoning Plan and Map 6: Kejimikujik Seaside Zoning Plan). The critical habitat of several species at risk includes large areas of Kejimikujik inland's frontcountry, including areas immediately adjacent to existing facilities and infrastructure. For example, endangered Blanding's turtles use infrastructure areas opportunistically, including roadsides for nesting habitat. Special management actions (such as speed bumps during nesting and hatchling seasons) are implemented to protect important ecological values during specific seasons when most required.

Zoning plans are based on the best available natural and cultural resource and visitor experience information and are modified if necessary. They are reviewed every five years (at a minimum) as part of the management plan review process.

10.1 ZONE I – SPECIAL PRESERVATION

Zone I areas provide an increased level of protection for the most sensitive or representative natural features and threatened cultural resources. Public motorized access (including

both vehicles and motorized boat use) is not permitted. Opportunities are provided for visitors to experience and learn about these unique areas in a manner that does not threaten their values.

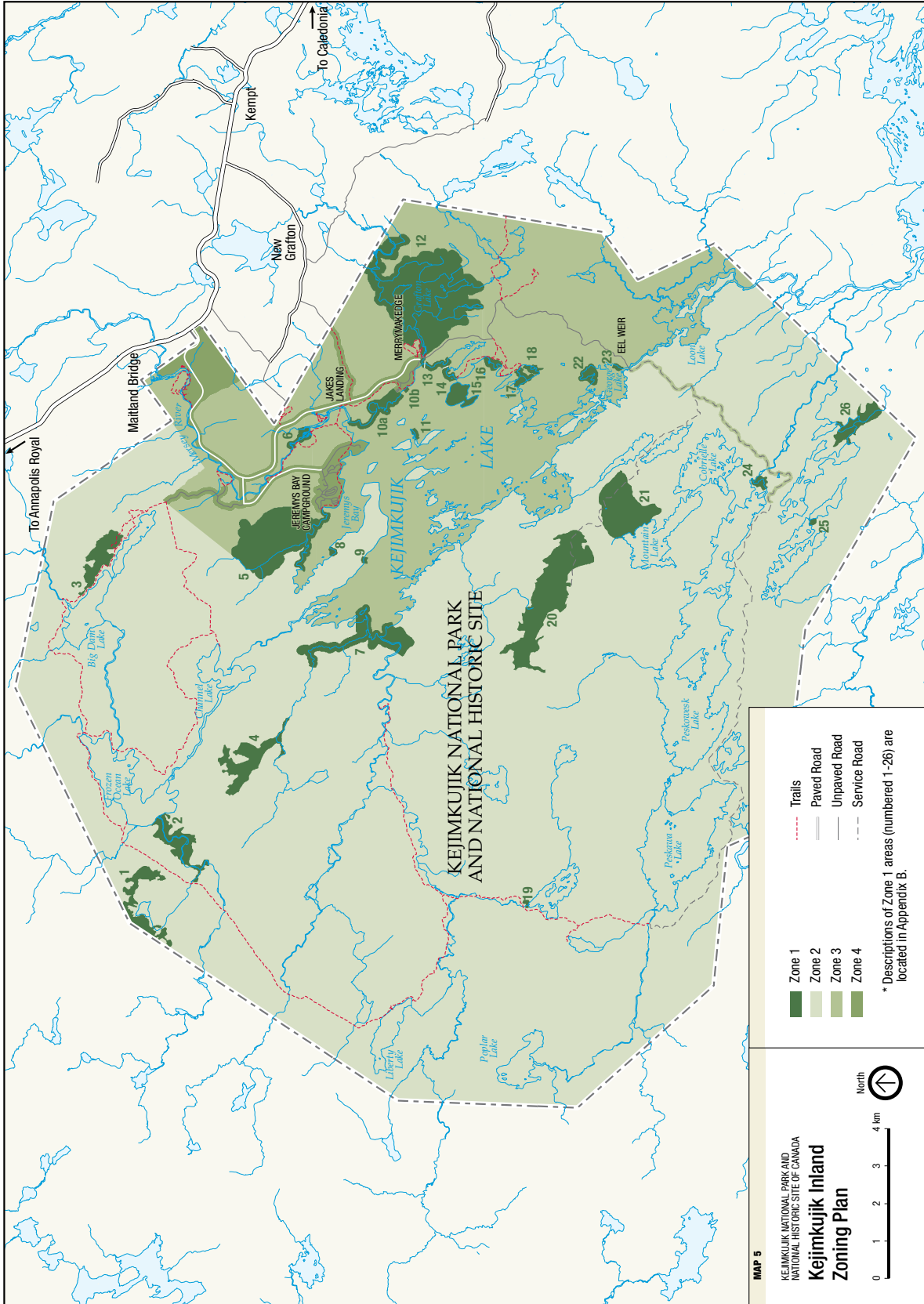
There are 26 Zone I areas in the inland portion of Kejimikujik and 3 at Kejimikujik Seaside,¹⁴ representing 5% and 15% of their total respective areas.¹⁵ These areas include (but are not limited to) critical habitat for species at risk, unique stands of old-growth forests, and sensitive Mi'kmaw petroglyphs. Additional Zone I areas for cultural resource protection will be identified as a result of future research.

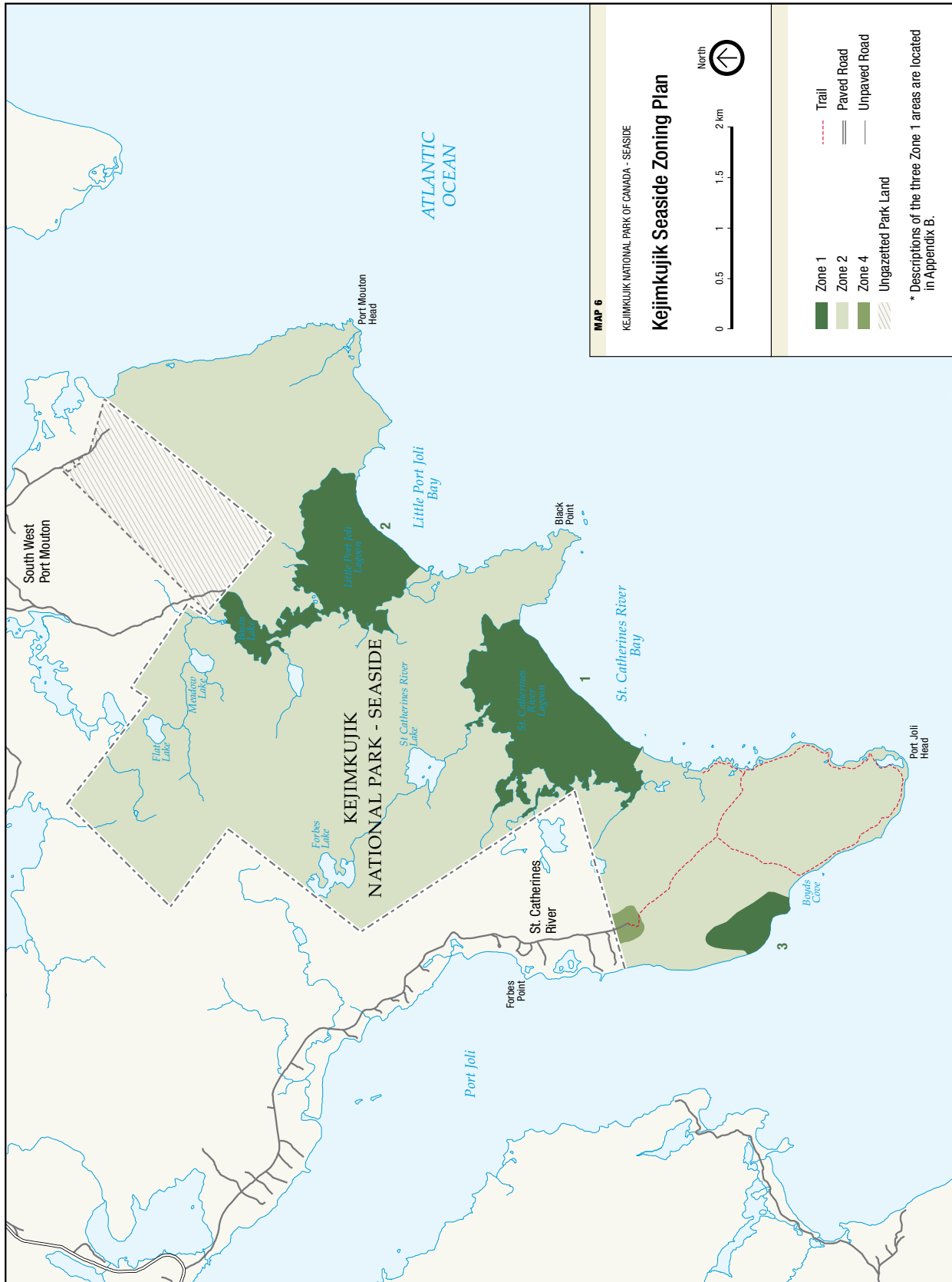
Most Zone I area boundaries have been modified from the 1995 plan to better reflect their associated values. In particular, Zone I areas at Grafton Lake, Heber Meadow, West River, and Atkins Brook were expanded to better reflect species at risk critical habitat. Zone I areas in Peskawa, Cobrielle, and Kejimikujik lakes, established to protect waterbird habitat, were re-designated as Zone IIs. Their values will continue to be well protected by this designation.

A new Zone I area was established in Boyd's Cove at Kejimikujik Seaside to protect unique flora. Zone I areas at St. Catherine's River and Little Port Joli barrier beaches and lagoons were expanded to better reflect potential piping plover feeding habitat and to protect the large diversity of estuarine organisms that occur there. These Zone I areas will be permanently closed to shellfish harvesting. During piping plover nesting season, public access to beaches where plovers are nesting will continue to be restricted.

¹⁴ Zone I descriptions are provided in Appendix A.

¹⁵ Figures represent all gazetted lands of Kejimikujik Seaside. The Crown lands on the Port Mouton side of the park will be zoned during the next management plan review.





10.2 ZONE II – WILDERNESS

Zone II areas are conserved in a wilderness condition with minimal interference. They provide high-quality backcountry opportunities for visitors to experience wilderness, including remoteness and solitude, with a high degree of visitor self-reliance and minimal built structures. Public motorized access is not permitted.

Zone II areas represent 75% of the total area of the inland portion of Kejimikujik and encompass most of the area west of Kejimikujik Lake and the Mersey River, separating what is traditionally thought of as Kejimikujik's front and backcountry.

Most of Kejimikujik Seaside is designated as Zone II, representing 84.5% of the total area.

10.2.1 Declared Wilderness Areas

Any area of a national park that exists in a natural state or that is capable of returning to a natural state may be declared, by regulation, as a wilderness area under section 14 of the *Canada National Parks Act*. Unlike the zoning plan, which is based on policy, a declared wilderness area is established through the regulatory process by amending the *National Parks of Canada Wilderness Areas Declaration Regulations*. Once established, no activity that would compromise the wilderness character of these areas can be authorized.

As stated in the *Canada National Parks Act*, infrastructure within a declared wilderness area is of a rudimentary nature, such as hiking trails, boardwalks, and backcountry campsites. Public motorized access is not permitted.

The proposed declared wilderness areas will provide protection for the wilderness character of both the inland portion of Kejimikujik and Kejimikujik Seaside (see Map 7: Kejimikujik Inland Declared Wilderness Area and Map 8: Kejimikujik Seaside Declared Wilderness Area) and were considered during consultations regarding this management plan. Parks Canada will work towards the declaration of Kejimikujik's wilderness areas upon completion of this management plan.

The proposed declared wilderness areas represent 77% of the total area of Kejimikujik inland and 99.5% of the Kejimikujik Seaside and include most of the Zone II and many of the Zone I areas. Existing activities such as canoeing, hiking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, swimming, and interpretive programming will be encouraged and supported.

The Peskowsk Road past the Eel Weir is not included in the declared wilderness area so that options for controlled motorized access to this area of the backcountry can be explored.

10.3 ZONE III – NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Zone III areas are managed as natural areas where impacts are minimized and mitigated to the extent possible/feasible. Zone III areas provide high-quality frontcountry opportunities to experience and learn about the natural and cultural environment and are supported by minimal facilities of a rustic nature. While public motorized access is permitted in Zone III areas, public transportation is encouraged.¹⁶

Zone III areas represent 18% of the total area of Kejimikujik inland. There are no Zone III areas at Kejimikujik Seaside.

10.4 ZONE IV – OUTDOOR RECREATION

Zone IV areas are small areas that support intensive visitor use and infrastructure such as campgrounds, beach facilities, roads, and parking areas. Zone IV areas offer high-quality frontcountry recreational and learning opportunities with an emphasis on accessibility and safety.

Zone IV areas encompass 2% of the total area of the inland portion of Kejimikujik and 0.5% of Kejimikujik Seaside.

The Zone IV area near the Grafton Road in the inland portion of Kejimikujik has been reduced. The Zone IV area on the Port Mouton side of Kejimikujik Seaside was re-zoned as a Zone II area. The remaining area of Crown land on the Port Mouton side will be added

¹⁶ The Peskowsk Road past the Eel Weir will remain a Zone III corridor; however, it will remain closed to unrestricted private vehicular traffic.

to the description of Kejimikujik in Schedule 1 of the *Canada National Parks Act* and will be zoned during the next management plan review process.

10.5 ECOLOGICALLY AND CULTURALLY SENSITIVE SITES

Ecologically and Culturally Sensitive Sites are small sites that require special protection but are not captured in the zoning system. This situation usually arises because the sites are either too small to be effectively designated as discrete Zone I areas, they are on or immediately adjacent to existing infrastructure, or because the sites themselves may be variable from one year to the next. There are 14 new ecologically sensitive sites and 5 new culturally sensitive sites in the inland portion of Kejimikujik.¹⁷

10.6 STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Actions

1. Continue to review and, if necessary, update the zoning plan to reflect new information and/or changes in ecological and cultural values and in visitor trends.
2. Initiate the process to declare wilderness areas for Kejimikujik inland and Kejimikujik Seaside.

¹⁷ Ecologically and Culturally Sensitive Site descriptions are provided in Appendix C.

11.0 Administration and Operations

Kejmkujik National Park and National Historic Site is administered under the provisions of the *Canada National Parks Act* and the *Parks Canada Agency Act* and in accordance with the *Parks Canada Guiding Principles and Operational Policies*. Within this legislative and policy framework, Parks Canada strives to deliver the mandate of resource protection, visitor experience, and education while demonstrating sound environmental stewardship and prudent fiscal management.

11.1 CURRENT SITUATION

11.1.1 Infrastructure

Kejmkujik's existing assets (including roads, buildings, and other infrastructure) are generally in good physical condition. However, due to their increasing age, they are requiring higher levels of maintenance and, where necessary, upgrades, or replacement. Parks Canada recognizes the role that infrastructure plays in facilitating visitors' experiences and is committed to keeping assets in the best possible repair. Infrastructure that public input and/or research demonstrates is no longer required for operations will be decommissioned and removed. Infrastructure improvements or recapitalization will be done while minimizing potential impacts on the environment.

A number of infrastructure challenges currently limit administrative and operational efficiency and effectiveness. Kejmkujik's administration and office space is spread over several buildings and multiple locations. This format decreases energy efficiency (i.e. increased heating and driving requirements) and limits collaboration. Current phone capacity and computer connectivity needs are not being met. Seasonal staff and researcher accommodations do not meet peak season

space requirements and existing signage does not meet current national standards.

11.1.2 Employment

Kejmkujik has a special relationship with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and aims to increase their involvement in various aspects of management and operations. Parks Canada is committed to fostering this relationship and will continue to seek opportunities to increase the proportion of Mi'kmaq employees at Kejmkujik and their representation in various roles and capacities.

11.1.3 Information Management

Kejmkujik is in the process of creating a digital geographical information system atlas. This tool will include information on both ecological and cultural resources as well as visitor experience opportunities and infrastructure. The atlas will allow Parks Canada staff and partners to access information and create new maps to suit individual project and presentation needs.

11.1.4 Environmental Management

Parks Canada is committed to minimizing the aspects of its operations that have an actual or potential impact on the environment. Parks Canada has made a number of environmental management improvements since the last management plan, including the installation of solar showers in Jeremy's Bay Campground and the construction of the Kejmkujik Seaside operations building, which includes composting toilets and uses rain-water run-off.

Kejmkujik has prepared an Environmental Management System Plan to identify opportunities to improve green procurement and water conservation and reduce impacts on particular environmental aspects including greenhouse gas emissions, petroleum storage, halocarbons, polychlorinated biphenyls, contaminated sites, hazardous material

management, wastewater management, pesticides, and solid waste management.

Further efficiencies and environmental impact reductions could be achieved at Kejimikujik. Changes in consumption and upgrades in systems aim to reduce usage of electricity, fuel oil, and water. As well, renewal of the vehicle fleet may offer opportunities to reduce greenhouse gases through the purchase of hybrid vehicles.

11.2 STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Goal

Kejimikujik is operated in an efficient, fiscally responsible, and environmentally sound manner in order to achieve Parks Canada program objectives.

Actions:

1. Remove decommissioned infrastructure at Grafton Lake and Canning Field by 2013.
2. Review the operational use of the Fire Tower road and reduce administrative motor vehicle use where feasible by 2011.
3. Complete the sign replacement plan by 2010.
4. Explore options and develop building concepts for a new administration and operations building to better meet office space and Internet technology needs in the future by 2010.
5. Explore options and develop building concepts for seasonal staff accommodations by 2010.
6. Develop updated architectural motif and colour scheme guidelines to guide infrastructure improvements and replacement by 2011.
7. Create a digital geographical information system atlas by 2014.
8. Establish an internal "Green Committee" to promote awareness and understanding of the Kejimikujik Environmental Management System Plan priorities, targets, and operational solutions by 2010.
9. Update and implement the Kejimikujik Environmental Management System Plan so that it is in accordance with the *Parks Canada Environmental Management Directive (2009)* by 2013.

12.0 Strategic Environmental Assessment

Parks Canada is responsible for assessing and mitigating the impact of its actions on ecosystems and cultural resources. The *Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan and Program Proposals* prepared by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, requires an environmental assessment of all plans and policies submitted to the federal Cabinet or to a Minister for approval, including management plans for national parks and historic sites.

Accordingly, a strategic environmental assessment of the objectives, programs, and management actions outlined in this management plan was carried out. The objectives of the environmental assessment were:

- to ensure that the strategic directions and specific proposals contained within the plan respect and support the ecological integrity goals for the national park and the commemorative integrity goals for the national historic site;
- to ensure that the plan adequately addresses potential conflicts that could arise between management for commemorative and ecological integrity; and
- to assess the implications of proposals alternatives considered in the plan, to enhance positive environmental effects, and avoid or mitigate potential negative effects.

The assessment included evaluation of cumulative environmental effects from all proposals. It also considered the full range of potential impacts on the natural and cultural resources of the national park and national historic site, both from ongoing operations and from proposed projects.

Relevant federal environmental policies, including those of Parks Canada, were considered in a policy review. The proposed strategic directions outlined in the management plan are consistent with these policies. Implementation of the management direction and the specific actions that are proposed should contribute to maintaining ecological and commemorative integrity of Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site of Canada.

The environmental challenges facing Kejimikujik are recognized in the direction and initiatives outlined in the plan. Opportunities for stakeholder and public review were provided throughout the planning process. Public views and comments, including environmental concerns, are reflected in the management plan.

A few management actions could result in some adverse environmental impacts. However, it is expected that these impacts can be mitigated once they are examined more closely during project-specific environmental assessments required under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. The following initiatives may be subject to project-specific environmental assessments:

- Infrastructure recapitalization and/or development (including trails, buildings, and other facilities);
- Jeremy's Bay Campground re-development;
- Vegetation management;
- Removal of decommissioned infrastructure;
- Removing European green crab and restoring eel grass beds;

- Restoring and replacing road culverts and dams to restore fish movement; and
- Active forest management research.

In addition, the following initiatives may be subject to strategic environmental assessments:

- Fire Management Plan;
- Fish Management Plan;
- Cultural Resource Management Plan;
- Species at Risk recovery strategies; and
- Ecosystem recovery and invasive species control strategies.

Collectively, the strategic direction and management actions outlined in the management plan will contribute to an overall improvement in the ecological and commemorative integrity of Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site of Canada.

13.0 Implementation Strategy



Dale Wilson

Implementation of this management plan is the responsibility of the Mainland Nova Scotia Field Unit Superintendent. The actions proposed in this management plan for Kejimikujik are implemented through the Field Unit's sustainable business plan. While the management plan is a strategic guide with a ten-to-fifteen year lifespan (reviewed every five years), the biennial sustainable business plan offers a picture of five years at a time. The sustainable business plan identifies those actions of the management plan that will be realized within the next five years, their timing, and their cost.

Any changes to the five-year forecast are captured by the annual review and update of the sustainable business plan.

The timeline for the implementation of actions identified in this management plan can be found in the table on the following page. Implementation of these actions depends on the availability of financial resources.

Progress on the implementation of the management plan will include an annual implementation report with Kejimikujik's newly established advisory boards.

Table 2 Implementation timeline			
Action	Immediate: 2010-2011	First Planning Cycle: 2010-2015	Longer Term: 2015-2020
Collaboration and Shared Leadership			
Establish a Kejimikujik advisory board with broad partner, stakeholder, and visitor representation to foster ongoing dialogue and review progress towards management plan goals.	•		
Increase collaboration with the Mi'kmaq regarding the protection of natural and cultural heritage, facilitating visitor experience in Kejimikujik and in the greater region, and in delivering public outreach education programs.	•	•	•
Work with representatives of the Mi'kmaw communities to identify opportunities for Mi'kmaw involvement in a Mi'kmaq Advisory Committee and other advisory committees to provide input on matters related to national parks and national historic sites.	•	•	•
Work with representatives of the Mi'kmaw communities to identify and carry out Mi'kmaw Ecological Knowledge studies as considered mutually appropriate.	•	•	•
Work with the Mi'kmaw communities to find a mutually acceptable solution for the application of admission fees to Kejimikujik for the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia.	•	•	•
Explore future cooperative association options for Kejimikujik Seaside with local communities, partners, and stakeholders.	•	•	•
Support and contribute to the development and growth of the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association and the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute.	•	•	•
Increase collaboration with regional municipalities and the provincial Department of Environment and Labour on land use and protected area planning initiatives.	•	•	•
Build mechanisms that promote dialogue with and support the involvement of the Mi'kmaq, local communities, youth, and visitors in natural and cultural resource protection initiatives, visitor experience, and public education initiatives.	•	•	•
In collaboration with the tourism industry, develop and implement visitor experience opportunities.	•	•	•

Action	Immediate: 2010-2011	First Planning Cycle: 2010-2015	Longer Term: 2015-2020
Maintaining Ecological Integrity			
Increase opportunities for involving the Mi'kmaq, local communities, environmental non-government organizations, visitors, and volunteers in Kejimikujik's ecosystem science and management program, with particular emphasis on involving youth.	•	•	•
Parks Canada will seek to obtain Mi'kmaw ecological knowledge and any information shared with Parks Canada will be integrated within natural resource management.	•	•	•
Work with partners to develop and implement standardized protocols that contribute to a regionally integrated monitoring initiative by 2010. Continue to refine and implement a sustainable ecological monitoring program thereafter.	•	•	•
Work with the Mi'kmaq and other institutions and organizations to produce and circulate research and monitoring results and host research and resource management events.	•	•	•
Work with resource-based businesses, local landowners, and communities to mitigate stressors to ecological integrity in the park and site as well as in the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve.	•	•	•
Collaborate with stakeholders, partners, and adjacent landowners to determine forest ecosystem management objectives for Kejimikujik in support of ecological and commemorative integrity, and to enhance visitor experience by 2012.	•	•	•
Work with partners to monitor and maintain landscape connectivity in the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve.	•	•	•
Implement prevention programs aimed at protecting resources and ensuring a quality visitor experience in collaboration with park visitors with particular emphasis on Jeremy's Bay Campground, wilderness campsites, and the Kejimikujik Seaside.	•	•	•
Continue to collaborate with the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on prevention and enforcement and strategies. Continue to collaborate with these departments and others, including the Nova Scotia Emergency Measures Organization, the Coast Guard, Search and Rescue, and volunteer fire departments for fire and environmental emergency responses.	•	•	•
Complete the Fire Management Plan by 2010 and work with partners to execute a 10-year research study on active management of the Acadian mixed wood forest, including assessing the effects of prescribed burns, mammal exclosures, and thinning, and facilitating opportunities for visitors to learn about these research activities.	•	•	•

Action	Immediate: 2010-2011	First Planning Cycle: 2010-2015	Longer Term: 2015-2020
Maintaining Ecological Integrity			
Remove glossy buckthorn and other invasive plants to control population levels and restore affected species and habitats. Continue monitoring and research to understand trends in invasive plants at Kejimkujik and the effectiveness of management actions.	•	•	•
Develop a vegetation restoration plan by 2011 for Jeremy's Bay Campground as an integrated component of the larger campground redevelopment plan.	•		
Complete a prioritized plan for restoring disturbed sites by 2012 and implement where feasible.		•	
Continue to collaborate with government and academic partners to research mercury, water quality, and acid rain.	•	•	•
Complete the Fish Management Plan by 2012.		•	
Improve aquatic connectivity in watersheds at Kejimkujik through restoring and replacing road culverts and dams that are acting as barriers to fish movement.	•	•	•
Continue to refine and implement an effective and sustainable ecological monitoring program for the wetland ecosystems.	•	•	•
Improve coastal ecological integrity by reducing the European green crab and then restoring eelgrass beds and the young-age classes of soft-shell clams.	•	•	•
Add the Crown land on the Port Mouton side of Kejimkujik Seaside to the description of Kejimkujik National Park in Schedule I of the Canada National Parks Act and better delineate park boundaries by 2011.	•		
Work with recovery teams, the Mi'kmaq, youth, and other partners to develop and implement proactive recovery strategies and implement actions (including active management) for several species at risk, including Blanding's turtle, piping plover, Atlantic coastal plain flora, and Eastern ribbonsnake. Recovery strategies will be developed by 2011.	•	•	•
Report on the condition and trends of Kejimkujik's ecosystems and on natural resource management effectiveness in the 2010 State of the Park and Site Report and in the next "State of" report to be completed prior to the next management plan review.	•	•	•

Action	Immediate: 2010-2011	First Planning Cycle: 2010-2015	Longer Term: 2015-2020
Maintaining Commemorative Integrity and Protecting Cultural Resources			
Build relationships with organizations and institutions that share Parks Canada's cultural resource protection and presentation mandate, including Mi'kmaw organizations, academic institutions, the provincial Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage, museums, local communities, and heritage organizations.	•	•	•
Parks Canada will seek to obtain Mi'kmaw ecological knowledge and any of the information shared with Parks Canada will be integrated within natural cultural resource management.	•	•	•
Complete cultural resource inventories and evaluations at Kejimikujik inland and Kejimikujik Seaside.	•	•	•
Conduct research in identified priority areas (see Section 7.2.5).	•	•	•
Evaluate cultural resource condition and the effectiveness of cultural resource management at Kejimikujik in the 2010 State of the Park and Site Report and by completing a Commemorative Integrity Evaluation for the national historic site by 2011.	•		
Work with the Mi'kmaq and other partners to complete a comprehensive cultural resource management plan (for both the inland portion of Kejimikujik and Kejimikujik Seaside), which will include strategies for conservation, maintenance, record keeping, storage, and monitoring by 2012.		•	
Explore options for permanently documenting, recording, and presenting the petroglyphs.		•	
Share archaeological information with the Mi'kmaq, identify research gaps, and carry out additional archaeological surveys, as considered mutually appropriate.	•	•	•
Explore infrastructure options for on-site presentation of archaeological and historical objects by 2012 and explore options for visitors to learn about and discover these objects.		•	

Action	Immediate: 2010-2011	First Planning Cycle: 2010-2015	Longer Term: 2015-2020
Visitor Experience			
Conduct research to better understand target markets' motivations, needs, interests, and preferences and attract new markets. Develop and adjust Kejimikujik's offer accordingly.	•	•	•
Conduct research to evaluate the state of visitor experience and management effectiveness in facilitating visitor experience. Report on findings in the 2010 State of the Park and Site Report and in the next "State of" report to be completed prior to the next management plan review.	•	•	•
Using the 2009-10 baseline of 42,500, increase visitation by at least 10% to achieve a target of approximately 46,750 visitors by 2015.	•	•	•
With partners (including the Destination Southwest Nova Tourism Association, Aboriginal tourism, local tourism operators, recreational equipment retailers, and long-term campers), explore opportunities for enhanced experiential and learning opportunities to meet the needs of current and potential visitors as well as partner-initiated special events.	•	•	•
Continue to upgrade and update natural and cultural non-personal media (including panels and other materials) for both Kejimikujik inland and Kejimikujik Seaside.	•	•	•
Improve on-site communications of the full-range of programs and activities available to visitors.	•	•	•
Based on extensive social science research and input from visitors and stakeholders, prepare a visitor experience plan to guide the redevelopment of Jeremy's Bay Campground by 2011 to meet current and future visitor needs and expectations. Given the scope and scale of the project, implementation will be phased over several years.	•	•	•
Work with the Mi'kmaq and other partners and stakeholders to complete and implement interpretation plans in an integrated manner.	•	•	
Assess and improve recreational opportunities. This will involve:			
Improving select frontcountry trails to better accommodate multiple uses by 2011;	•		
Reviewing both front and backcountry biking experiences, and increasing opportunities where feasible by 2011;	•		
Improving looped, backcountry hiking opportunities on existing trails and roads by 2012;		•	
Investigating opportunities to better facilitate backcountry experiences that include Kejimikujik, the provincial Tobeatic Wilderness Area, and the Shelburne River; and	•	•	•
Continue managing vegetation to ensure viewpoints are maintained.	•	•	•

Action	Immediate: 2010-2011	First Planning Cycle: 2010-2015	Longer Term: 2015-2020
Visitor Experience			
Review the shoulder and winter season service and facility offer with the aim to improve opportunities and encourage use.	•	•	•
Explore infrastructure options for on-site presentation of archaeological and historical objects by 2012 and explore options for visitors to learn about and discover these objects.		•	
Explore the feasibility of a low-cost alternative for visitors to access the Peskowsk road past the Eel Weir.		•	
Discontinue the use of two-cycle outboard motors on Kejimikujik Lake by 2012 and encourage the use of electric motors.		•	
Based on social science data, offer a minimum of one guided event per week at Kejimikujik Seaside during the peak operations season and explore options for other programming.		•	
Install benches at resting and at view-points that visitor input and patterns of use studies indicate will enhance visitor experience.	•		
Implement prevention programs aimed at protecting resources and ensuring a quality visitor experience in collaboration with park visitors with particular emphasis on Jeremy's Bay Campground, wilderness campsites, and the Kejimikujik Seaside. Complete a visitor risk management plan by 2010.	•	•	•
Work with accessibility stakeholders to improve service and infrastructure for visitors with special needs.	•	•	•
By 2010, re-align eroded areas of the trail at Kejimikujik Seaside.	•		
Work with provincial government partners to improve the St. Catherine's road intersection design, roadside clearing, and signage.	•	•	•
Enhance public safety through pre-trip planning and on-site communications.	•	•	•
Increase target audience promotional efforts with partners to position Kejimikujik inland and Kejimikujik Seaside as "must see" destinations in south western Nova Scotia.	•	•	•
Improve Web site promotional and pre-trip planning capacities and explore the potential to host a web-based backcountry campsite reservation system.	•	•	•

Action	Immediate: 2010-2011	First Planning Cycle: 2010-2015	Longer Term: 2015-2020
Public Outreach Education			
Conduct social science research to monitor, report, and guide management decisions on Canadians' sense of connection to Kejimikujik.	•	•	•
Evaluate the state of public outreach education and management effectiveness in achieving public outreach education goals. Report on findings in the 2010 State of the Park and Site Report and in the next "State of" report to be completed prior to the next management plan review.	•	•	•
Based on social science research, continue to create and deliver learning opportunities for youth (including the curriculum program) in collaboration with educational partners (including Mi'kmaw and provincial school boards, non-governmental organizations, and teachers).	•	•	•
Refresh and consistently update the Kejimikujik Web site to facilitate inspiring discovery of Kejimikujik for Canadians at home, at leisure, at school, and in their communities.	•	•	•
Continue to support and enhance volunteer programs.	•	•	•
Work with local and provincial media to increase the profile of Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site and enhance appreciation for the Parks Canada brand.	•	•	•
Develop a strategy to reach out to urban audiences, particularly youth and new Canadians.	•	•	•
Zoning and Declared Wilderness Areas			
Continue to review and, if necessary, update the zoning plan to reflect new information and/or changes in ecological and cultural values.	•	•	•
Initiate the process to declare wilderness areas for Kejimikujik inland and Kejimikujik Seaside.	•		

Action	Immediate: 2010-2011	First Planning Cycle: 2010-2015	Longer Term: 2015-2020
Administration and Operations			
Remove decommissioned infrastructure at Grafton Lake and Canning Field by 2013.		•	
Review the administrative and operational use of the Fire Tower road and reduce administrative motor vehicle use where feasible by 2011.	•		
Complete the sign replacement plan by 2010.	•		
Explore options and develop building concepts for a new administration and operations building to better meet office space and Internet technology needs in the future by 2010.	•		
Explore options and develop building concepts for seasonal staff accommodations by 2010.	•		
Develop updated architectural motif and colour scheme guidelines to guide infrastructure improvements and replacement by 2011.	•		
Create a digital geographical information system atlas by 2014.		•	
Establish an internal “Green Committee” to promote awareness and understanding of environmental management plan priorities, targets and operational solutions by 2010.	•		
Update and implement the Kejimikujik Environmental Management System Plan to be in accordance with the Parks Canada Environmental Management Directive (2009) by 2013.		•	

APPENDIX A

Summary of Public and Aboriginal Involvement

Many interested individuals, groups, and organizations were involved in the review of the management plan for Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site of Canada. Two visioning sessions were held in early 2005. Twelve people attended the first session; the second involved Mi'kmaw elders. A draft vision was sent out to local communities and stakeholders in the form of a newsletter in early 2006, which asked interested parties to provide comment and suggestions regarding the future of Kejimikujik. A public notice announcing the newsletter ran in local and regional newspapers.

Two workshops were held in the spring of 2006 and were attended by approximately 85 people representing a wide variety of different views and perspectives. The first session focused on Kejimikujik Seaside while the second addressed the inland portion of Kejimikujik. Input from the visioning sessions, the workshops, and ongoing meetings with the Mi'kmaw Network were incorporated into a draft summary of management direction, which was sent to all individuals and organizations that provided comment or indicated interest in being further involved. Approximately 100 visitors and other stakeholders provided additional input during an open house, held in Kejimikujik in August of 2006.

Much of the valuable operational input provided by partners, stakeholders, and visitors will be considered in operational planning for different aspects of Kejimikujik. Operational items do not appear in this strategic management plan.

In general, people expressed support for the draft vision, and indicated that they were pleased with the presentation of protection, experience, education, and collaboration elements. Many suggestions were put forward as to how Parks Canada could improve relations with a wide variety of stakeholders. Local communities were identified as priorities for collaboration and relationship building; however, a number of other groups, including non-governmental organizations, other levels of government, educators, youth groups, and repeat visitors, were also mentioned.

Many interested parties indicated that Kejimikujik was doing a good job of protecting natural resources, and expressed support for efforts to increase regional collaboration as well as finding additional ways to involve more people in stewardship. There is limited awareness among interested parties about the abundance and richness of Kejimikujik's cultural resources. Almost all individuals and organizations expressed interest in having more opportunities to learn about Kejimikujik's rich history and expressed concern that many of the cultural objects were stored in Halifax and were not available for the public to appreciate.

Kejimikujik's visitor experience offer generated the most discussion during consultations. Partners, stakeholders, and repeat visitors expressed strong concern for Kejimikujik's decreased visitation and were keen to see increased promotional efforts. Many individuals expressed an interest in seeing existing facilities (including camping infrastructure) upgraded to meet new and existing market needs and in exploring new hiking and biking opportunities. In general, most parties communicated strong support for expanding educational opportunities and options for visitors to become involved in projects and were particularly interested in initiatives targeted towards youth.

Parks Canada will continue to engage the Mi'kmaq, visitors, partners, and stakeholders in the implementation of this plan, through an annual implementation reporting process, and as outlined in detail in Chapter 5.

Aboriginal Consultation

Parks Canada has a duty to consult with Aboriginal peoples regarding activities that may adversely affect asserted Aboriginal or Treaty rights. Parks Canada also places a high priority on developing mutually beneficial relationships with Aboriginal peoples. To these ends, Parks Canada entered into a process of consultation on this management plan with representatives of the thirteen Mi'kmaq First Nations in Nova Scotia through the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs and with the Native Council of Nova Scotia. These consultations provided a good opportunity to share information and build on the collaborative relationship that exists between Parks Canada and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. For more information on the main issues raised, please see section 5.1 of this plan.

APPENDIX B

Zone I Descriptions

Kejimikujik Inland

There are 26 Zone I areas within the inland portion of Kejimikujik:

1. The hemlock stand near Dennis Boot Lake features some of the largest old-growth Hemlock trees in Kejimikujik. Also present are areas where large hemlocks have been blown down by high winds, illustrating the effects of powerful natural forces.
2. The Innis Brook floodplain is a fragile area containing one of the best examples of an old-growth red maple floodplain.
3. The significant stand of old-growth hemlock located along the north side of Big Dam Lake has been identified as an International Biomonitoring Program study area, featuring trees more than 300 years old.
4. Atkins Meadow bog (to the west of Channel Lake) features stands of curlygrass fern, which is uncommon to inland Nova Scotia. The bog also serves as a research site for measuring the influence of natural versus human-caused aquatic acidification.
5. The shoreline of Heber Meadow features important endangered Blanding's turtle nesting habitat and rare coastal plain bladderwort species. This area also includes threatened water-pennywort habitat immediately adjacent Meadow Beach.
6. The Mersey River and braided islands in this area display examples of swamp milkweed and provide important winter habitat for the endangered Blanding's turtle.
7. Glode Island and nearby Glode Point are important nesting habitat for the endangered Blanding's turtle population found in the vicinity of West River.
8. The deeply notched cove on the northeastern shoreline of Indian Point is excellent aquatic plant habitat and includes a large colony of threatened water-pennywort.
9. The west side of Indian Point has both sand and cobble beaches as well as muddy flats – ideal habitat for coastal plain plants. This particular area supports a concentration of meadow beauty (rare in Canada), subulate bladderwort, and panic grass.
10. This area contains important Mi'kmaw cultural features, including petroglyphs and a 19th -century burial ground. The Fairy Bay shoreline area supports a rich diversity of plants, including a rare coastal plain panic grass species, button bush, catbrier, and water-pennywort.
11. Ell Island provides excellent habitat for water-pennywort and a variety of rare species, including bladderwort and panic grass.
12. Grafton Lake, the associated Minard Brook and Sweeney Brook drainage basins and the adjacent perimeter of Kejimikujik Lake combine to create an important area for a number of elements. The watershed features lower acidity levels and serves as a refuge for pioneer and sensitive aquatic species. The area provides important habitat for endangered Blanding's turtles, threatened Eastern ribbonsnake, and rare coastal plain flora. A Zone III corridor accommodates the presence of the Eel Weir Road.
13. The area north of Mill Bay protects Mi'kmaw petroglyphs.
14. The tip of Peter Point protects Mi'kmaw petroglyphs and water-pennywort.
15. Peale Island contains a unique climax sugar maple/white ash stand (the only such stand in Kejimikujik). The shoreline is habitat for threatened Eastern ribbonsnake.
16. A high-quality stand of long-leaved panic grass (largely unknown in the rest of Canada) occurs here and at George Lake. This area is also nesting habitat for endangered Blanding's turtle.

17. The land between the base of Peter Point and Snake Lake is excellent habitat for coastal plain plants, including uncommon buttonbush and swamp loosestrife.
18. An assemblage of rare plants occurs south-east of Snake Lake, including smooth alder, panic grass, beaked rush, catbrier, and obtuse manna grass.
19. The stream at the north end of Big Red Lake contains the only known community of netted chain fern in Kejimikujik.
20. This area contains an old-growth sugar maple-yellow birch forest. It is contiguous with the bog/fen wetland area north of Mountain Lake but on a higher elevation, and is an important component of Kejimikujik's old-growth forests.
21. The wetland bog-fen area between Mountain Lake and North Cranberry Lake features exceptional examples of the rare scheuchzeria-sphagnum association, bog fern, and swamp loosestrife.
22. The small cove on George Lake contains threatened water-pennywort, rare giant reed grass, screw-stem (*Bartonia*), and three species of bladderwort.
23. The southern shore of George Lake protects Mi'kmaw petroglyphs and a small population of water-pennywort.
24. The extreme southeast end of Peskowesk Lake contains a significant variety of rare and uncommon plant species including stands of inkberry, bog fern, meadow beauty, slender-leaved goldenrod, beak rush, swamp St. John's-wort, catbrier, and subulate bladderwort. Areas further up the south shore of Peskowesk Lake contain galingale and the rare grass *Muhlenbergia uniflora*.
25. The shallow-water area near the end of the canoe portage between Upper and Lower Silver Lakes contains the only community of spike-rush in Kejimikujik.
26. Mud Lake is a shallow, moderated acid water body in the southern portion of Kejimikujik. It is an excellent example of lake succession and features a variety of significant plant species, including humped bladderwort, swamp loostripe, quillwort, and bog fern. High concentrations of rare floating aquatic vegetation also occur within the lake.

Kejimikujik Seaside

There are three Zone I areas within Kejimikujik Seaside:

1. St. Catherine's River Beach and Lagoon is primary nesting habitat for the piping plover. This area will continue to be restricted to visitors during the nesting season.
2. Little Port Joli Beach and Lagoon is nesting habitat for the piping plover. This area will continue to be restricted to visitors during the nesting season.
3. Boyd's Cove contains a spectacular display of orchids and pitcher plants susceptible to trampling (including rare white arethusa, calopogan, lady's slipper, clavellate orchis and rattlesnake plantain), upright common juniper, and krummholtz black spruce.

APPENDIX C

Ecologically and Culturally Sensitive Site Descriptions

Ecologically Sensitive Sites

There are fourteen Ecologically Sensitive Sites within the inland portion of Kejimikujik.

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| <p>ESS1 This site protects a stand of <i>Goodyera pubescens</i>, an exceedingly rare rattlesnake plantain in Nova Scotia.</p> <p>ESS2 This small rocky island in Channel Lake supports nesting barn swallows.</p> <p>ESS3 The gravel shoulders of the main parkway, the J-Line road leading to the campground and a pit near the beginning of the Big Dam road are used by a number of nesting endangered Blanding's turtles in the spring and emerging hatchlings in the fall.</p> <p>ESS4 The main parkway crossing at Rogers Brook, a portion of Rogers Brook, and parts of the Mersey River north of the Braided Islands support endangered Blanding's turtles throughout the year and include overwintering and summer feeding sites.</p> <p>ESS5 A smaller satellite stand of threatened water-pennywort occurs on the eastern side of Indian Point, northwest of the Zone 1 designation.</p> <p>ESS6 The eastern shore of Meadow Beach adjacent to the swimming area includes a colony of threatened water-pennywort.</p> | <p>ESS7 The beach where the Jim Charles Loop of Jeremy's Bay Campground approaches Kejimikujik Lake includes a colony of threatened water-pennywort.</p> <p>ESS8 The Merrymakedge area roadsides are used by a number of endangered Blanding's turtles.</p> <p>ESS9 The Sisters islands (south of Ell Island in Kejimikujik Lake) are significant waterbird habitat. A number of species, including common terns, nest on these islands.</p> <p>ESS10 The area between Peter Point and the Gold Mines trail is used by a number of nesting endangered Blanding's turtles in the spring and emerging hatchlings in the fall.</p> <p>ESS11 A roadside area on the Peskowsk road south of the gold mines trail is used by Blanding's turtles in the spring and emerging hatchlings in the fall.</p> <p>ESS12 This site protects a stand of <i>Goodyera pubescens</i>, an exceedingly rare rattlesnake plantain in Nova Scotia.</p> <p>ESS13 This site protects a stand of <i>Goodyera pubescens</i>, an exceedingly rare rattlesnake plantain in Nova Scotia.</p> <p>ESS14 The red maple stand east of the Peskowsk Brook Bridge protects a community of rare chain fern and white water smartweed.</p> |
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Culturally Sensitive Sites

There are five Culturally Sensitive Sites within the inland portion of Kejimikujik.

- CSS1** A multi-component campsite of the Late Archaic to Historic era is located at the end of the Little River portage at Frozen Ocean Lake. It contains extensive undisturbed deposits.
- CSS2** The Pine Tree site, at the tip of Indian Point, was in use during the Woodland period. The site may have been used as a workshop for the production of tools from quartz quarried nearby. Archaeological objects, including knives, scrapers, a hammerstone, projectile points, and a large quantity of discarded stone flakes have been found here.
- CSS3** The site of Jim Charles' cabin is of particular significance to the 19th-century history of the area. It was part of the first grant of reserves along the lake-shore. Joseph Howe first authorized its transfer to John Jeremy in 1842. Later it became the home of Jim Charles, a well-known Mi'kmaw guide. Remains of the house, an outbuilding, and a well are still visible.
- CSS4** A former campsite of the Woodland period (with a possible 17th-century Historic era component) is located at White Beach.
- CSS5** The Eel Weir and its vicinity is one of the more important cultural sites in Kejimikujik and includes the remains of V-shaped rock walls (former eel weirs) in the Mersey River. Projectile points, scrapers, ceramic pots, and animal remains indicate a period of previous occupation of approximately 4000 years. Petroglyphs are located nearby.

APPENDIX D

Ecological Integrity Indicators and Measures

Indicators	Measures		
	Biodiversity	Processes	Stressors
Forest Ecosystems	Forest birds Salamanders Lichens White-tailed deer Old forest distribution	Tree growth and recruitment Decomposition Forest disturbance Forest age-class distribution	Invasive plants Infrastructure footprint Landscape connectivity
Freshwater Ecosystems	Benthic invertebrates Common loons Brook trout	Water quality Stream flow Chlorophyll-a Ice phenology	Aquatic connectivity Mercury concentration
Wetland Ecosystems	Blanding's turtle Vascular plants & bryophytes	Water quality Water quantity	Wetland surface area
Coastal Ecosystems	Piping plover Salt marsh vegetation Eelgrass extent	Barrier beach stability Soft-shell clams Estuarine water quality	Invasive species Abundance (green crab)

APPENDIX E

Interpretation Themes and Messages

Kejimikujik has an interpretation program that presents both natural and cultural themes. These themes can be divided into three categories: Parks Canada Agency, national park, and national historic site.

Parks Canada Agency

Opportunities for visitors to develop understanding and awareness of the Parks Canada Agency messages are provided at both Kejimikujik inland and Kejimikujik Seaside. They focus on Kejimikujik’s role within the Agency’s family of national parks, historic sites, and marine conservation areas, and explain Parks Canada’s mandate for protection, experience, and education. Kejimikujik’s role as both a national park (to represent the Atlantic Coastal Uplands natural region) and

national historic site (to commemorate its representation as a Mi’kmaw cultural landscape) is highlighted. Other national parks and national historic sites in Nova Scotia and Canada are identified.

National Park

National park messages in the inland portion of Kejimikujik focus on the biodiversity, species at risk, processes and stressors found within Kejimikujik’s forest, freshwater, and wetland ecosystems. Kejimikujik’s later history (which includes messages pertaining to Kejimikujik’s mining and logging history that are identified in the CIS) is also part of national park message delivery. Surveys have indicated a high level of understanding of these key messages. Themes include:

Kejimikujik Inland National Park Interpretation Themes

Geological and landscape features	How geology created the landscape.
Forest ecosystems	Forest processes, history, and forest plants and animals.
Freshwater ecosystems	Water quality and seasonal fluctuations and interactions with plants, animals, and the landscape.
Wetland ecosystems	Floodplains, meadows, bogs, and their reptiles and amphibians.
Special plants and animals	Species at risk, including Blanding’s turtle, Eastern ribbonsnake, Water pennywort, and Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora.
Post-contact human history	Genealogy, logging, farming, and mining.

National park messages at Kejimikujik Seaside focus on the biodiversity, processes, and stressors found within the area's coastal ecosystems. Themes include:

National Historic Site
See Section 8.3.2 of this plan.

Kejimikujik Seaside Interpretation Themes	
Heathland ecosystems	Ecological processes, orchids, and other plants of the coastal barrens.
Coastal ecosystems	The ever-changing coastline and its interactions with marine plants and animals.
Special plants and animals	Species at risk: piping plover.

APPENDIX F

Glossary

Commemorative Integrity: A historic place may be said to possess commemorative integrity when the resources that symbolize or represent its importance are not impaired or under threat, when the reasons for its significance are effectively communicated to the public, and when the heritage value of the place is respected.

Cultural Resource: A human work or place that gives evidence of human activity or has spiritual or cultural meaning, and which has been determined to have historic value.

Cultural Resource Management: Generally accepted practices for the conservation and presentation of cultural resources, founded on principles and carried out in a practice that integrates professional, technical and administrative activities so that the historic value of cultural resources is taken into account in actions that might affect them. In Parks Canada, Cultural Resource Management encompasses the presentation and use, as well as the conservation of cultural resources.

Cultural Resource Value Statement: A strategic document that identifies cultural resources and values for places, other than national historic sites, which are under the responsibility of Parks Canada. It identifies historic and other heritage values and their character-defining elements (both tangible and intangible) associated with a national park or national marine conservation area as a whole, as well as the range of cultural resources that contribute to these values.

Ecological Integrity: With respect to a park, a condition that is determined to be characteristic of its natural region and likely to persist, including abiotic components and the composition and abundance of native species and biological communities, rates of change and supporting processes.

Ecosystem: An ecosystem is a community of organisms, including humans, and its non-living environment interacting with one another and intimately linked by a variety of biological, chemical and physical processes. Ecosystems are often embedded within other, larger ecosystems.

Field Unit: An administrative division developed by Parks Canada combining the management and administration of one or more national park(s), national historic site(s), marine conservation area(s) or historic canal(s). There are 32 Field Units across Canada.

Historic Value: Historic value is a value or values assigned to a resource, whereby it is recognized as a cultural resource. These values can be physical and/or associative.

Invasive Species: Introduced, non-indigenous species that can establish and proliferate within natural or semi-natural habitats, successfully competing with and displacing at least some of the native flora and fauna, impacting biodiversity and altering the natural structure and function of the ecosystem.

National Historic Site: Any place declared to be of national historic interest or significance by the Minister responsible for Parks Canada.

Non-personal Interpretation: These are programs that do not involve Parks Canada interpreters (guides) or volunteers directly. Rather, a variety of media is made available to visitors, such as films/videos, audio recordings, exhibits, interpretation panels, among others.

Personal Interpretation: These are programs that are offered by Parks Canada interpreters (guides) and volunteers. They include guided nature walks, outdoor theatre presentations, historic re-enactments, talks on specific topics, guided site tours, hands-on activities, among others.

Restoration: The process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed (Canadian Parks Council 2008: 8, 15).

SARA: The Species at Risk Act is a key federal government commitment to prevent wildlife species from becoming extinct and secure the necessary actions for their recovery. It provides for the legal protection of wildlife species and the conservation of their biological diversity.

Species at Risk: Extirpated, endangered or threatened species or a species of special concern. "Extirpated species" means a species that no longer exists in the wild in Canada, but exists elsewhere in the wild. "Endangered species" means a wildlife species that is facing imminent extirpation or extinction. "Threatened species" means a wildlife species that is likely to become an endangered species if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its population decline. "Species of special concern" means a wildlife species that may become a threatened or an endangered species because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.

Stakeholder: A person or organization with an interest in Kejimikujik National Park of Canada. Organizations may include both government and non-government organizations, commercial, and for profit and non-profit organizations.

State of the Park Report: This report provides a synopsis of the current condition of a national park, national historic site, or national marine conservation area, and assesses performance in meeting established goals and objectives for indicators associated with the Agency's mandate. These reports are produced on a five-year cycle, and are the basis for the five-year management plan review.

APPENDIX G

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Kejimikujik Mi'kmaw Network

Dr. Elsie Charles Basque, *Elder*

Chief Shirley Clarke, *Glooscap First Nation*

Murray Coleman, *Annapolis Valley First Nation*

Lisa Francis, *Acadia First Nation*

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Sherry Pictou, *Bear River First Nation*

Joan Prosper, *Mi'kmaq Association for Cultural Studies*

Chief Debbie Robinson, *Acadia First Nation, Union of Nova Scotia Indians*

Lorraine Whitman, *Glooscap First Nation*

Parks Canada Management Planning Team

Dave Algar

Manager, Resource Conservation, Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site of Canada

Harry Delong

Superintendent, Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site of Canada

Linda Frank

Field Unit Superintendent, Mainland Nova Scotia Field Unit

Stephen Hopper

Asset Officer, Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site of Canada

Susan Mather

Management Planner, Atlantic Service Centre

Chris McCarthy

Ecologist, Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site of Canada

Bob Thexton

Former Chief Park Warden, Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site of Canada

Julie Tompa

Manager of Planning, Social Sciences, and Aboriginal Initiatives, Atlantic Service Centre

Diane Wilson

Former Management Planner, Atlantic Service Centre

With additional support from:

Suzanne Bagnell

Debra Betts

Yves Bossé

Richard Brunt

Theresa Bunbury

Gary Corbett

Rob Ferguson

Marie Fernandes

Stephen Flemming

Philip Greyson

John Johnston

Jackie Jorissen

Paul Lalonde

Jean Augustine-McIsaac

Ian Morrison

Paul Olshefsky

Sally O'Grady

Alexi Payzant

Jim Rossiter

Jonathan Sheppard

Duncan Smith

Rick Smith

Darien Ure

