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# *Integrating Ecological and Cultural Values:*

## *The Evolution of Mallorytown Landing*

St. Lawrence Islands National Park of Canada

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## Present SLINP Description

- St. Lawrence Islands National Park was created in 1904 and was the first National Park east of the Rockies
- Park property consists of over 20 islands within the St. Lawrence River from Brockville to Kingston, as well as approximately 700 hectares of main land holdings and growing...



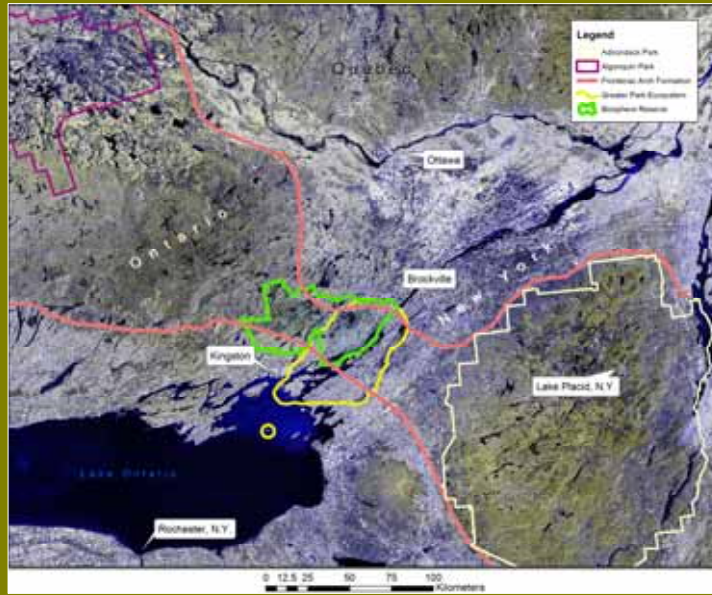
## Present SLINP Description...



- Located in a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve
- Located in the Frontenac Arch



## The Big Picture



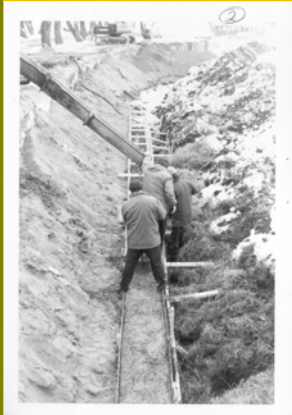
## A Brief History of the Landing



1924



## 1971 Hardened Shoreline





1971

1924





## Mallorytown Landing Day-Use Area



- 4 acres in size/ 1.6 hectares
- Boat launch
- Visitor Centre
- Constructed beach & Hardened Shoreline
- Gunboat exhibit
- Historic picnic shelter
- Parking lot
- Monocultures of lawn and Black Willow

## A New Direction for the Landing



### 1998 Management Plan

“Mallorytown Landing Day-Use Area will be transformed in to ‘the Mallorytown Landing Environmental Centre’ and will be the key platform in the region for education, public information and orientation, as well as a model for ecological stewardship”.



## Setting an example for stewardship:

- Shoreline Project
- Naturalization of the Day-Use Parking Lot
- Picnic Shelter Rehabilitation

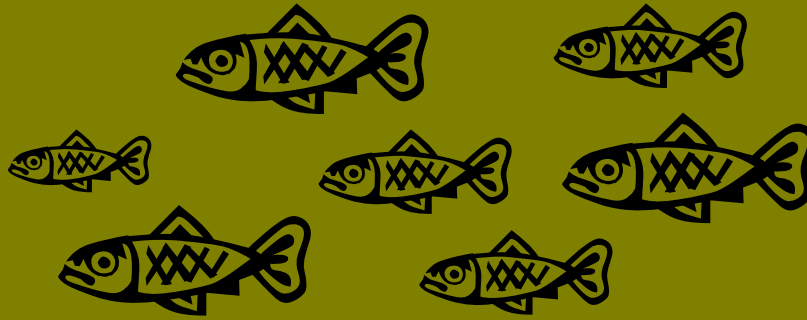


# New Concept for the Landing



# Shoreline Rehabilitation Project

2003-2007



## Why Naturalize the Shoreline?

“90% of all life in the lake is born, raised and/or fed in the shallow water and first 10-15m of shoreland. This highly valuable ecosystem is also the area found most charming by the human population who are apt to damage what most attracts them.”

-Great Canadian Parks, 2004



## Goals for the Project

<b>Create Riparian Habitat</b> 	<b>Safety</b>	<b>Aesthetics</b> Viewsheds Seasonal interest	<b>Improve/ Create Fish Habitat</b> 
<b>Goose Control</b> 	<b>More Native Vegetation/ Tree Succession</b>	<b>Get People out Of their cars to Explore</b> 	<b>Demonstration Project</b>

## The Team

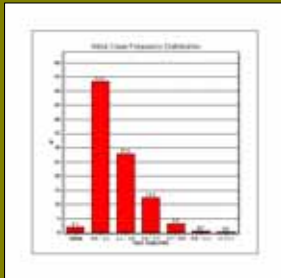
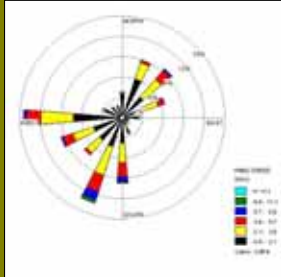
### Multi-disciplinary team gathered in 2003

- Park Staff
- Public Works and Government Services (PWGSC) Landscape Architects
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)
- Queen's University

Mandate: not to lose any shoreline, concern for buildings on the property- helped to define the approach taken for the project



## Research



- History of the Shoreline
- Archaeology
- Condition and construction of the existing hardened shoreline
- Bioengineering techniques
- Native plants
- Species at risk in the area
- Environmental factors- wind, waves & water levels, soils

## Assessing the Condition of the Existing Shoreline







## Beach







## East Side before and after





## Parking Lot Naturalization and Wildflower Plantings



## Naturalization Goals

- Create habitat using native plants
- Seasonal interest- flowers, berries, fruit, fall colour, interesting bark
- Create shade
- Block noise and view of parkway
- Break up expanse of parking lot
- Create interest
- Vegetation that is more representative of Thousand Islands Area
- National Park vs. Municipal park look



## Before and After



## Before and After



## Before and After





## Historic Pavilion Restoration



1904



1972



1976



1984



2003

## Architectural Concept



2003



3-D Concept



## Viewsheds from Picnic Shelter







## Lessons Learned at SLINP



- ✓ Trial and Error involved
- ✓ Not all things listed as wildlife friendly are wildlife friendly

## Lessons Learned at SLINP



- ✓ Need somebody on site to guide shoreline work
- ✓ Communication is key when naturalizing area
  - ✓ Local community buy-in
  - ✓ Staff Buy-in

## Success at SLINP



- ✓ Shoreline growing and naturalized
- ✓ Thousands of wildflowers, trees and shrubs planted
- ✓ Workshops- getting the message out there
- ✓ People are asking questions about what they can do with their hardened shorelines
- ✓ Over 800 volunteer hours & \$15,000 contributions
- ✓ Visitor numbers are increasing, 3x's last summer's numbers

## Success at SLINP



- ✓ More species diversity
  - ✓ Birds and butterflies
- ✓ Stinkpot turtle visiting
- ✓ Mink now on site
- ✓ Marked decrease in Geese
- ✓ Rehabilitation of the Gates property increased Black Rat Snake Habitat
- ✓ Increased awareness of the Day- Use area naturalization initiatives

## Ecological/ Visitor Balance Continues...

- New trail system
- Wildflower and Native tree and shrub plantings continue
- Species at Risk Program
- New partnership with Awkwesasne for propagation of medicinal species
- Hyperabundant species on Hill Island
- Potential controlled burn on Gordon Island
- Composting Toilets replace pit toilets
- Hybrid Vehicles and Electric Vehicles
- Alternative Energies
- Floating Docks
- Outreach/ Education







The End