

Wilderness Activities :
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“Wilderness” :

large areas without human structures...ecosystems relatively unaffected by human activity....visitors are temporary and leave small footprints

- *paradigms of “what wilderness is” vary from person to person...your own experiences, culture, family interests, and where you live will shape YOUR paradigm*

What is it we get from wilderness ? What do we value about it ?

- stress reduction
- physical exercise
- creates jobs, new businesses
- contributes to Provincial economy through taxes, licence fees, and tourism
- connecting with friends
- cultural awareness and practice
- promotes awareness of issues
- quiet settings..inspirational and renewing
- learn how much we've changed other places by comparison

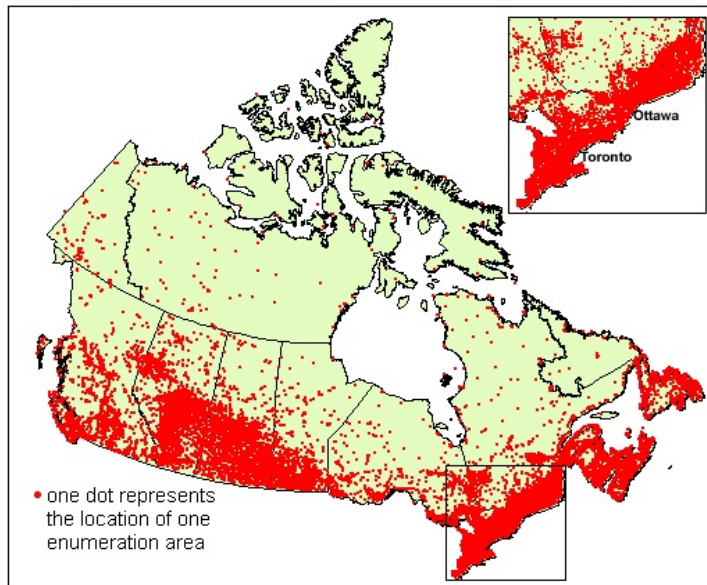
Changes in the way we use NL wilderness :

Early wilderness use was for survival / subsistence... hunting and fishing for food, forestry for construction, drinking water, etc...and people HAD to have a well developed set of outdoor skills. Remoteness and difficulty of travel made it a necessity.

Modern wilderness use sees these survival skills as being less important...hunting and fishing are considered recreational activities now. People are generally less aware of their wild surroundings.

Access to remote areas is now relatively easy. Communications have advanced to the point where it is possible to communicate from just about anywhere with the right tools. The shift to urbanization in Canada also means people are less connected to wilderness areas. Green zones and parks are more familiar than the wilds of Canada's north.

We've always had easy access to wilderness in NL.



1. Traditional activities are still popular (fishing, hunting, wood cutting, berry picking, birdwatching, camping, hiking), practiced mostly by aging residents....but new activities evolved too, practiced more by a younger clientele :

(sea kayaking, whale watching, iceberg and wildlife photography, snowboarding, base jumping, skiing, Xtreme sports, snowmobiling)

2. Shift from “subsistence” to “recreation” uses...we don’t **DEPEND** on wilderness for our survival like we used too, its now for the enjoyment of doing something in it.

3. We now make money off it in new sustainable ways....ecotourism....instead of just harvesting and / or selling resources.

What Brought on These Changes ?

Easier access and new transportation with new technology...An ever expanding system of highways and access roads, better air travel, with ATV's, 4x4 vehicles, boats, 4 stroke motors, planes, choppers, skidoos....plus G.P.S., satellite imaging, precise maps, and satellite / cell phone systems.

All that means we can cover a greater area with greater security in less time. We can also offer more choices to residents or visitors of varying ages and interests.

Technology also exposes us to new wilderness ideas from around the globe...some are suited to our geography and climate.

Wilderness Recreation :

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- about half of NL participates in outdoor activities in wilderness settings regularly
- residents and tourists combined contribute more than 200 million dollars / year

138 000 anglers

78 000 wildlife viewing

68 000 hunters

The highest per capita gun ownership rate in Canada

Rec activities can be divided into “**consumptive**” and “**nonconsumptive**”....*(class lists)*

Consumptive activities TAKE something from the wild environment....like....

Nonconsumptive activities include.....

Check out participation rates for Canadians...page 168

Consumptive activities have a bigger footprint, so they require more intensive management and enforcement.

Management has to consider issues around access, noise, human footprints, commercial vs individual use, negative side effects (unintended), the scale of participation, conflict between stakeholders, and the personal / economic benefits that could come from it.

Ex. Hunting....

- populations need to be managed
- seasons set, with daily and / or seasonal bag limits
- prerequisite courses and licencing
- wildlife harassment
- littering, pollution, biomagnification

ATV use...

Camping...

Wood cutting....

Residents participating in wilderness activities generally means we need places to stay.....

Cabins and their Impacts :

Road access..development of a road

Disposing of wastes (varying types)

Heating....wood demand

Noise

Vehicle use

New cabin owners have to have cabins that meet environmental requirements the same as any house that isn't connected to a towns water / sewer system...

There are regulations about how close one can build a cabin next to water, and DFO sets guidelines that protect water systems from materials that may leach or run off from a cabin site. Sewage systems must be installed and inspected before they are buried. Out houses are now illegal. New access roads cannot be constructed without permits and inspections....and special steps (like properly

installed road culverts) must be taken as not to disturb natural water runoff. The cabin site and the cabin itself must be surveyed to ensure it is located where it should be, and all guidelines are followed. If a cabin is illegal or does not meet guidelines, a notice to change or remove the cabin may be issued and the owner will have 60 - 90 days to make changes or remove the structure.