

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE KINGSTON MAP SHEET AREA, 31C

The Kingston map sheet area is situated in southeastern Ontario and includes the northern half of the Prince Edward County, and the land between Peterborough County and Smith Falls. The northern limit follows the 45th parallel, which passes just north of Mazinaw Lake.

Geologically, the area is bisected in an east-west direction. The northern half of the area is predominantly in the Canadian Shield, with a limestone portion in the extreme east. To the south, limestone is dominant and is interspersed with clay plains and till moraines. Soils are generally shallow, except in the river valleys where some deeper deposits are found. In the south, the soils are clay or till over bedrock and the best soils are located in the southwest corner of Hastings County and along the north shore of Prince Edward County. The Shield is typified by frequently exposed bedrock and soil cover that consists of thin sandy loams.

Two main types of shoreland are found in the Kingston vicinity. To the south, Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River, and the waters of the Bay of Quinte offer large reaches of open water with harbors available in many of the nearby urban centers. Inland, a myriad of lakes and rivers can be found; the largest concentration is in the eastern half of the area. Here are located the Rideau lakes and the Rideau Canal System, one of the main recreation waterways in Ontario. In the west, part of the Trent-Severn Waterway offers a balance in recreational waters to the area.

The area contains many varieties of trees. South of the Shield, however, most of the original tree cover has been removed through clearing for farming and lumbering. Of the remaining trees, silver maple, red maple, and beech dominate the well-drained sites, and white elm and white cedar grow on the more poorly drained soils. The limestone plains in the southeast are mostly covered by red and white cedar and black locust. On the Shield, sugar maple, white and yellow birch, and white and red pine are the commonly found species.

CLIMATE

Temperatures are fairly uniform throughout the area; the variation between the northern and southern limits is less than 5°F. The January average is about 18°F and the July mean is 69°F. Precipitation also shows little variance within the area, with about 28 inches of rainfall and 70 inches of snow annually.

FISH AND WILDLIFE

Fish are plentiful and are present in many varieties. The waters centering on the Bay of Quinte contain walleye, pike, bass, and panfish. Some of the finest maskinonge water is found in the Thousand Islands portion of the St. Lawrence River, part of which appears in the eastern part of the area. Inland, pike, walleye, bass, and maskinonge are plentiful and in the Shield portion, most lakes abound with speckled, rainbow, and lake trouts.

Deer are found throughout the area, with increasing frequency as one moves north. In addition, bears are present in the northern part of the area. Small game, such as grouse, pheasant, fox, racoon, and rabbit, is common in the agricultural lands of the south. Ducks and geese are plentiful where water and marshes provide suitable food and habitat.

SETTLEMENT AND LAND USE

The first European settlement was the establishment of Fort Frontenac, now Kingston, by the French in 1673. British influence in the area began with the capture of the Fort in 1758. These holdings were soon expanded by the purchase of lands from the Mississauga Indians. As a result of the American Revolution, the United Empire Loyalists came to the area in the early 1780's, and received free land grants for settlement. By the middle of the nineteenth century, most of the arable land had been cleared and timbering and mining had become main economic activities. The nineteenth century was a time of great activity within the area, and created some of the most colorful history of Upper Canada. The War of 1812 to 1814 was economically a boon to the area; the town of Kingston became the military stronghold and the shipbuilding center of Lake Ontario. The growth of Belleville and Kingston, the main urban centers within which many industries have located, compensated for the decline in agriculture.

LAND CLASSIFICATION FOR RECREATION

The area offers a variety of recreational activities. Boaters in the area have access to two of the finest inland waterways in Canada. The Trent-Severn System is partially located in the southwestern corner of the area and extends inland from Trenton, and the Rideau Waterway, originally a military project, today offers excellent boating waters between Kingston and Ottawa. In addition, the beginning of the Thousand Islands portion of the St. Lawrence River appears in the eastern part of the area.

There are only two Class 1 beaches in the area, Bon Echo Park, which is rated as Class 1BYV, and Chandos Lake, which is rated as Class 1BKC, but many attractive bathing sites can be found on the inland lakes and on the shorelands of Prince Edward County and the mainland.

Fishing is popular throughout the area and there is good potential for most of the game fish found in Ontario. Deer and bear are the most popular game, with the best hunting in the northern part of the area. Small game is present throughout the area with a good choice, including ducks and geese, in the wetlands.

Historically, the area is rich in remnants of the early settlements and offers many good routes for the traveller. Many of the abandoned mines offer grounds and buildings for exploring and samples for collecting. The historical significance of Kingston has created a complex of historic attractions focused on Fort Henry, which is rated as Class 1HZV.

At Holleford, which has been rated as Class 5X, there is a meteor crater about 1.5 miles in diameter and estimated to be at least 500 million years old. From Pea Pointe on Garden Island, which has been rated as Class 4NVX, the visitor can see the wrecks of 12 ships that have run aground on the offshore bars.

The area has always been a popular recreation site. Today, much of the attraction of the area lies in the variety of recreational pursuits available.

DESCRIPTION DU TERRITOIRE DE LA FEUILLE DE KINGSTON - 31C

Le territoire compris dans la feuille de Kingston, situé dans le sud-est ontarien, comprend la moitié nord du comté de Prince Edward et la région qui s'étend entre le comté de Peterborough et Smith Falls. La limite septentrionale du territoire suit le 45^e parallèle, passant juste au nord du lac Mazinaw.

Au point de vue géologique, le territoire se divise en deux régions; celle du nord, en majeure partie dans le Bouclier canadien, avec une zone calcaire à son extrémité orientale; celle du sud, formée de terrains calcaires principalement et parsemée de plaines argileuses et de moraines de fond. Les sols sont minces en général, sauf dans les vallées de rivières où les dépôts sont plus profonds. Dans le sud, les sols sont, ou des argiles ou des sols morainiques sur roc; les meilleurs sols se trouvent dans la partie sud-ouest du comté de Hastings et le long de la côte nord du comté de Prince Edward. De nombreux affleurements de roc et un sol loameux mince caractérisent le Bouclier.

Les deux principaux types de rivage se trouvent aux environs de Kingston. Dans le sud, le lac Ontario, le Saint-Laurent et la baie de Quinte offrent de grandes étendues d'eau; des installations portuaires dotent plusieurs des centres urbains avoisinants. Une myriade de lacs et de cours d'eau arrosent l'intérieur du territoire; ils sont toutefois plus nombreux dans sa moitié orientale. Dans cette région se situent les lacs Rideau et le réseau du canal Rideau, une des principales voies de l'Ontario pour la navigation de plaisance; une partie de la voie navigable Trent-Severn traverse l'ouest du territoire.

De nombreuses essences peuplent le territoire. Au sud du Bouclier toutefois, les exploitations agricoles et forestières ont fait disparaître la plupart des forêts indigènes. Parmi les arbres qui restent, l'érable argenté, l'érable rouge et le hêtre prédominent dans les terrains bien drainés et, dans les sols moins bien drainés, l'orme d'Amérique et le thuya de l'est. Des forêts de thuyas et de févriers couvrent en majeure partie les plaines calcaires du sud-est. Dans le Bouclier, poussent des espèces communes: érable à sucre, bouleau jaune, bouleau à papier, pin rouge et pin blanc.

CLIMAT